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November 2, 2005

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SUBJECT: Honon BERMAN Research - Report #1

Job #1047

Dear Eugene:

I have completed a good deal of work on your BERMAN family, and have a long report to make, accompanied by many documents. Because this report is so long, it would be best to review it slowly, referring to each of the enclosed documents as they are discussed in the report. While they are not numbered, they are in the order in which they appear in the report, making it easy to follow along. Once you have digested the contents of this report, we can discuss whether there is anything else you would like me to do.

Research Assignment

In my proposal of September 1, 2005, I suggested the following research on your grandfather Honon BERMAN's family.

1. Obtain a copy of your grandmother Chasia or Hasha BERMAN's death certificate.
2. Obtain photos of the graves of both your grandfather, Honon BERMAN, and your grandmother, Chasia or Hasha BERMAN.
3. Obtain the naturalization and passenger arrival records for every member of your grandfather Honon's family.
4. Apply for their Social Security Number applications of any of Honon BERMAN's children who lived into the 1940s and beyond and were gainfully employed after 1936.
5. Search World War I draft registration records for your grandfather's sons Barnett, Gustave, and Harry in New Haven.
6. Prepare a background file on the surname BERMAN, using information taken from several books on Jewish surnames.
7. Compile reference materials on both "Dolginow" and "Gluck" (which is actually a misspelling of "Glusk"), places where your family lived.
8. Review the yizkor, or memorial books, for Dolginow and Glusk to determine if there are any references to the BERMAN family in either book.
9. Search Russian business directories for information on your BERMAN families from Dolginow and Glusk.

10. Hire researchers to search for your BERMAN family in both Dolginow and Glusk.

You had already completed the first two tasks, and I did not pursue Task #4 (Social Security Applications) since they would not have provided much new information, except for confirmation of birthplace and birth date. While this is useful, the \$27 for each application takes up a lot of budget, and therefore I focused on other searches. I completed each of the other tasks except the last one. Research into sources in the archives of Belarus and Lithuania is still a possibility for further research, but was not among the things I could complete within this budget.

You authorized research on these tasks up to a total of \$500, and sent a \$300 deposit with your undated letter of authorization that was received on September 26, 2005. You sent a family history you had previously compiled, along with original copies of the death certificates of Honon and Anna BERMAN, and a photograph of their gravestones. I am returning the original copies of the two death certificates, since copies were also enclosed in the family history you sent me.

Research Results

In my previous work for Sue Geiger, I had already located the passenger arrival record of Honon BERMAN, his wife, and two of his children, as well as the arrival record of his son Benjamin BERMAN. Copies of these two passenger arrival records are enclosed. The copies I have given you are printouts from the Ellis Island database online (EIDB), and are therefore not as high resolution as copies made directly from the microfilm. It is faster to produce copies from the online images, though, and sometimes the digitized images are actually easier to read because they have been digitally enhanced. If you want clearer copies from the microfilm, we can always go back and make additional copies later.

Honon BERMAN and family arrived aboard the S.S. *Caronia* on June 13, 1906. The dates on his naturalization petition are a bit off, which is common when people applied for naturalization. (Would you be able to remember the precise date on which you took a trip many years later?) They were listed on the manifest as follows: Chonan BEHRMAN, 53; Chasse BEHRMAN, 54, wife; and sons Gdalie (or Gedalie, since it appears that someone inserted an "e") BEHRMAN, 15; and Hirsch BEHRMAN, age 8. The two sons are your father Gustave and Harry. Their last place of residence was listed as something like "Luraja Duroja," Russia, and they were bound for New Haven, Connecticut to meet a "friend," B. BERMAN at 55 Oak Street. This was Honon's son Benjamin, who had arrived before him. I can't explain the marks made on the manifest as if someone was trying to cross out the entries; this is quite unusual.

You will note that just above them is the family of Channe MISCHELOW, age 30, along with her children Moissy, 7; Gdalie, 5; Dwosee (?), age 3; and Levik, age 11 months. This is clearly Honon's daughter, Chana Esther (Misholov) BERMAN, as you have her name in your genealogy. It appears that her husband came separately from this group, since he was not on the previous page of the manifest.

The other record I had previously found was the arrival record of Honon's son Benjamin, and a copy of that record is also enclosed. He arrived aboard the *Belgravia* on May 20, 1904, having sailed from Hamburg. His last place of residence was listed as "Wilna" (more on these locations later), and he was also bound for New Haven. He was going to meet his brother-in-law, Mailach KRAWITZ. Since Benjamin didn't actually have a brother-in-law by this name (either a sister's brother or his wife's brother), the relationship doesn't seem to be precise. This was also not uncommon, and Mailach KRAWITZ was probably a relative of some other degree. Other records discussed below suggest that he was an uncle, apparently the husband of Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ that you referred to in your letter to me.

Using the naturalization information that you had previously gathered, I then located arrival records for most of the other members of the family. In order to find the married daughters of Honon BERMAN, I also had to do some extra research in census and naturalization records, since you didn't seem to have naturalization records for their husbands. I found the following additional arrival records, in order of age of Honon's children.

- The arrival records of Golda (Berman) RUSSIAN and her husband, David RUSSIAN. David arrived first as David ROSIN, 30, shoemaker, aboard the *Graf Waldersee* at the port of New York on March 16, 1904. His last residence is listed as Libau, which is today Lepaja, Latvia, and he was bound for Providence, Rhode Island to meet a brother-in-law by the name of Meier COHEN. Again, this was clearly not the name of one of his wife's brothers, but it could have been the husband of one of his sisters. Since I was working from microfilm indexes when I located this record, I have also enclosed a copy made from the microfilm. In this case, the microfilm copy is not very good because the writing was somewhat faint, and I had to make this copy on an older copy machine. Golde ROSIN, as she was listed on the manifest, arrived with her 5-year-old daughter Dweire (later Dora) aboard the *S.S. Zeeland* at the port of New York on October 17, 1905. Since the records for both husband and wife are consistent in the form of the surname, we can assume that the original surname was more like ROSIN than RUSSIAN.
- Hyman BERMAN arrived aboard the *S.S. Kroonland* on November 23, 1904 under the name Chaim BEERMAN, age 22. His last residence was listed as Minsk, and was coming to meet an uncle by the name of Morris KRAWITZ in New Haven. Remember that his brother Benjamin had been coming to meet a Meier KRAWITZ described as a brother-in-law; uncle is probably more accurate. The reference to Minsk may be either to the city of Minsk, or to Minsk gubernia (province), of which it was the capital. Immigrant Jews often referred to the gubernia they came from, rather than the city, when listing place of origin. Since Glusk was in Minsk gubernia, we cannot be sure whether this reference was to the city or province without more information.
- Barnett BERMAN arrived aboard the *S.S. Zeeland* on October 17, 1905; this was the same ship on which his sister Golde (Berman) ROSIN arrived. He arrived under the name Berko BERMANN, and his last residence was listed as Dolginow. He was going to meet an uncle name Melach KRAWITZ in New Haven. Again, we don't really know if he was living in Dolginow, or if that referred to his birthplace, since his father was born there. It is possible that he somehow ended up residing in Dolginow before coming to the United States.

- I also located the arrival of Benjamin's wife Beile and their children Chaim and Ziwie, who arrived on the *Caronia* on June 13, 1906, along with her father-in-law Honon BERMAN and sister-in-law Channe MISCHELOW. Their last place of residence is listed as "Doroya," a slightly more legible version of the place also listed for Honon and Channe.

The one record I failed to find was that of Aaron LEVITZ, but I may have located this record. Before describing this possibility, however, it is best to review the additional records I found here in this country. I searched for census records of Honon's three married daughters in order to try to clarify the arrival dates, and the naturalization dates of their husbands. Copies of these census records are enclosed, made from online images of Ancestry.com. These are rather poor quality images, but will suffice to identify the basic information needed. Again, better copies can be made from microfilm at a later date.

I located Meyer and Anna (Misholov) BERMAN in the 1910 and 1930 censuses, although I did not find them in 1920. In 1910, they lived at 224 Commerce Street in New Haven. Meyer's arrival date was listed as 1905, with Anna's as 1906. Anna's date is confirmed by the passenger list described earlier, but I haven't yet located Meyer's arrival record. By 1910, Meyer had already filed his first papers ("PA" status under naturalization, standing for "papers filed"), but had not yet become a naturalized citizen. In 1930, they lived at 45 Gilbert Avenue in New Haven, and Meyer was a citizen by this time ("NA" status, for "naturalized"). Note that two of their sons (Lewis and Morris) were living in the same or nearby buildings.

I located David and Goldie RUSSIAN in each of the censuses from 1910 through 1930 (copies are enclosed). These three records suggest that David arrived in 1904 or 1905, and that Goldie arrived in 1906 or 1907, along with their oldest daughter. This is consistent with the arrival records that I found.

I also found Aaron LEVITZ or his wife in all three censuses. His wife is listed as Belah in 1910, and Bertha in 1920 and 1930. She is listed as a widow in 1920 and 1930. His arrival date is listed as 1904, and Bertha and her first two children are listed as having arrived in 1906. It is their arrival records which I have not yet located. Based on her name in the 1910 census and in your genealogy, I believe that her Yiddish name was probably Beile, as it is usually transcribed into English.

With this information I was able to locate naturalization records for David RUSSIAN (spelled RUSSION in the naturalization index), Aaron LEVITZ, and Meyer BERMAN. I have obtained copies of the first two naturalizations, and am still waiting for copies of the naturalization papers of Meyer BERMAN. David RUSSIAN is actually referred to as David RIESSION on his naturalization papers, but he signed the petition as David RUSSIAN. The papers indicated that he arrived aboard the *Graf Waldersee* (under various misspellings) on April 1, 1905. While this date is not exactly correct, it was close enough that I could find his arrival record. The age and last place of residence on the arrival record is consistent with other information, as is his wife's arrival information, so I am pretty certain that we have the correct arrival information.

Aaron LEVITZ' naturalization record is a bit more troublesome. His papers indicate that he arrived aboard the *S.S. Kroonland* on November 21, 1904. This is the actual arrival date of the *Kroonland* in November of that year, but there is no LEVITZ aboard. I searched the passenger manifests of this ship in many ways, and found several possibilities for men whose name begins with "A" and who were from Russia. The enclosed list gives the possibilities that I found. The most likely possibility to me is the person whose name was transcribed as Aron ANTULEWIEZ, who arrived from Minsk in 1904 at the age of 28. The first name is correct, the age is about right, and Glusk was in the province of Minsk. Furthermore, if you drop the "Antu" at the beginning of the name, the end of the surname is LEWIEZ, which in Polish or other Slavic languages would be pronounced much like LEVITZ. Finally, he was going to meet a brother-in-law named David ROSCHIN in New York. David "ROSCHIN" was probably David ROSIN/RUSSIAN, his wife's brother-in-law, so I am fairly certain that this is the correct person. (David RUSSIAN lived in Providence, Rhode Island, and then in New Haven, but is possible that he first spent some time in New York before his wife arrived.) A copy of his arrival record from the EIDB is enclosed.

The problem is that I don't believe that the transcription of the name ANTULEWIEZ is correct, but I'm not sure what the correct name is. I will have to review this entry on the microfilm to try to read the name more clearly. Without a clear idea of what the surname actually was before it was apparently shortened to LEVITZ, I have not yet been able to find the arrival record of his wife, Beile, and their children.

You had mentioned the confusion over your father's naturalization status, so while I was searching census records, I also searched for him. I found him only in the 1930 census in my brief search, and that record is enclosed. He is listed as naturalized in that record. I did not find him, however, in the Connecticut naturalization index that I checked, as you previous work suggested. I do want to clarify something about "derivative citizenship," however, based on your comments in your letter to me. First, if your father was still a minor when Honon was naturalized, then your father was also considered naturalized. He did not have to "apply" or "request" or "claim" derivative citizenship; it was his automatically. As for the draft, even resident aliens had to register for the draft in World War I (see section on draft cards below), so not claiming citizenship would not have spared him from the draft.

While most of the naturalization papers indicate that Honon's children were born in Glusk (or some variation of Glusk), not all of the passenger arrival records suggested the same thing. In fact, Honon's last residence, as well as that of one of his daughters and daughters-in-law, indicated that they were from "Luroja Dorogi" or "Doroja." This seemed to be a corruption of some name to me (based on my knowledge of Slavic place names), so I examined maps of the area around Glusk for similar names. On old maps, I found a town of Staryja Dorogi or Starja Darohi on modern maps, that is just northwest of Glusk (Hlusk on modern maps). I believe that this is the place referred to on the passenger lists. It is clear that at least some of your BERMAN family lived here before coming to the United States; whether they were born there was not yet clear.

I then searched World War I draft cards, since the registrations of 1917 and the first part of 1918 included questions about an exact place of birth. Based on their ages, your father, Barnett and

Harry should have been registered in the first or second registrations, and therefore should have filled out the more detailed forms. Benjamin and Hyman should not have had to register until the third registration, when the form did not ask for a specific place of birth. I have enclosed printouts for all five brothers from Ancestry.com, which again, are of very low resolution.

For some reason, Harry managed to avoid registering until the third registration in September of 1918, and so his form is one of those that did not include a specific place of birth. Your father's form, however, was from the first registration in June of 1917, and did include a specific place of birth. Note that he is listed as an alien, but his place of birth is listed as "Stari Dorogi," Russia. Given this designation, there is no question that the place now called Starja Darohi in Belarus is the town that your family last resided in before coming to the United States. It appears that at least some of Honon's children were also born there, even though they tended to say there were born in Glusk.

Barnett BERMAN listed his birthplace as Glusk, Minsk, Russia. Benjamin and Hyman's cards are also enclosed, but they don't have the specific place of birth question. Note that the birth dates listed on these cards are not always consistent with the information you have from family members and from other sources.

With these U.S. records examined and the places your family came from clarified, I collected some information for you on these places, and also on some of the family names. You asked about the surname BERMAN, and I told you that its origin was not particularly informative. I've enclosed some pages from *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire* by Alexander Beider, which is considered the definitive work on this topic. In addition to the relevant pages for BERMAN, I've included some introductory material so that you will understand the format of his entries. The surname BERMAN appears on page 133, with a "see BER" reference. The BER entry simply notes that this is based on the given name Ber, with many variations and suffixes. So BERMAN is simply a surname adopted by someone who was probably a son or family member of someone named Ber. Most Jews generally adopted fixed, hereditary surnames in the Russian empire between 1804 and 1835. Prior to that, patronymic names were used, such as David ben Ber, or David son of Ber. This might later become David BERMAN or David BERKOVICH (a Slavic version of a patronymic).

As I noted in an earlier e-mail, Honon's name on his gravestone is actually Moshe Elkhanan ben reb Khaim Eliyahu, or Moshe Elkhanan, son of Khaim Eliyahu. Honon is a Yiddish diminutive for Elkhanan, and the "kh" is just one way of transliterating the Hebrew letter "het." It is the hard, or guttural, "h" sound. I've enclosed an entry about the name Eliyahu, or Elijah, from Rabbi Shmuel Gorr's book *Jewish Personal Names*. I've also enclosed an entry from Beider's book *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names*, but I don't believe that this book is as authoritative as his books on surnames. He implies that Eliyahu is a variant of Elye, which I don't think is the way most scholars look at these names. I've also enclosed the entry for the name Elkhonen, as Beider has it transliterated.

Following this are several entries from a variety of books about the towns of Dolginovo, Glusk, and Staryye Dorogi (to use their older Russian spellings). All three of these towns are now in

Belarus, or White Russia. Dolginovo was formerly in Vileika or Vileyka district of the province of Vilna, while the other two were in the Bobruisk district of the province of Minsk. (In Russian, a province was called a "gubernia," and a district was an "uyezd.") The selections from the gazetteer *Where Once We Walked* provide some alternate spellings of the town names, along with a Jewish population from before the Holocaust and the exact location in coordinates. They also include abbreviations for a number of other sources in which information about these towns can be found.

One of the sources in *Where Once We Walked* is the earlier gazetteer *The Shtetl Finder Gazetteer*, which was the first gazetteer specifically devoted to Jewish communities. The entries for the three towns from this book are also enclosed.

I've also enclosed articles about these three towns from numerous other encyclopedias and gazetteers. I have enclosed articles from the following specifically Jewish sources: *Encyclopaedia Judaica* on Dolginovo and Glusk (there was no article on Staryye Dorogi); *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Life Before and During the Holocaust*; and the Russian-language *Evreiskaya Entsiklopediya*, or Jewish Encyclopedia, which was published around the turn of the 20th century. The Russian entries are summarized briefly below.

- Dolginov (p. 284). Town in Vilna uyezd, Vilna gubernia. In 1847 the Dolginov Jewish community consisted of 1,194 souls; in 1897 the population was 3,551, including 2,559 Jews. In 1886, there arose here anti-Semitic riots.
- Glusk (p. 592). Town in Bobuisk uyezd, Minsk gubernia. According to the census of 1847, the Glusk Jewish community consisted of 3,148 houses; according to the census of 1897, the population was 5,328, including 3,801 Jews. In 1909 [untranslated phrase – literal meaning of words something like "one people's Jewish school from women's changing." Not sure what this means.]
- Stariya Dorogi (p. 560). Village in Minsk gubernia, Bobuisk uyezd. [Entry not understood exactly, but says something like "In exclusion from military "temporary rule" of 1882, the village was opened to Jewish settlement in 1903."]

I also enclosed entries from many general gazetteers, including the following.

- *Edinburgh Gazetteer of Geographical Dictionary*, an early English-language gazetteer from 1827. It had brief articles on Doglinovo and Glusk, but not Staryye Dorogi.
- *The Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World*, 1962 edition, which had articles on all three towns.
- *The Columbia Gazetteer of the World*, the successor to the previous entry from 1998, with articles on all three places. This is the current standard world gazetteer in English.
- *Nouveau Dictionnaire de Geographie Universelle*, a very good French gazetteer from the 1880s and 1890s. It had entries for Dolginovo and Glusk. The Dolginovo entry indicates that it was a town in Vilna gubernia, in the district of Vileika, and had 2,000 inhabitants. The entry for Glusk indicates that it was a town in Minsk gubernia, Bobruisk district, with a population of 3,300, including about 3,000 Jews.
- *Entsiklopedicheskii Slovar*, a general Russian-language dictionary from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It also had entries for Dolginovo and Glusk, but not for Staryye

Dorogi. The Dolginov entry (as spelled in the encyclopedia, p. 903 of volume 20) indicates that it was a town in Vilna gubernia, Vileika uyezd, founded in the 17th century. The also notes a population of 2,000, with a Russian Orthodox church, Catholic church, one synagogue and three Jewish "prayer-houses." The entry for Glusk (p. 903 of volume 16) notes that it was a town in Minsk gubernia, Bobruisk uyezd, with a population of 5,132, and a synagogue and 5 Jewish prayer houses.

Several maps showing the location of these towns are enclosed. From a modern travel map of Belarus, I have copied a section showing Glusk (listed as Hlusk in the transliteration from Belarussian) and Staryye Dorogi (listed as Staryja Darohi). These are between the towns of Bobruisk (Babrujsk on the map) and Slutsk (Sluck). The larger towns can be found on most atlas maps. From a similar modern travel map of parts of northern Belarus, Lithuania and Russia, I have enclosed a map showing the location of Dolginovo (shown as Dauhina on the map). It is northwest of Minsk, east of Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania (formerly Vilna), and just northeast of Vileika (Vilejka on the map).

From an older German map from the early 20th century, I have enclosed a portion of a map showing the location of Glusk and Staryja Dorogi, as they are listed on the map. This shows the other small towns in between. This map is more detailed than the modern travel maps.

From even more detailed Russian maps (although shown here with English translations of the Russian town names), there is a map showing the location of "Dolginow" and a close-up of the town of "Gluszk," showing its rough layout.

I also did a bit of research into European sources looking for the surname BERMAN in these towns, but I did not find much. This was not an extensive search, but just a brief review of some readily accessible sources. First, I examined yizkor books for Slutsk and Bobruisk, which included information on Glusk. I found nothing in the Bobruisk yizkor book (entirely in Hebrew) which I could identify as a chapter or section on Glusk or Staryye Dorogi. I did find sections on these towns (in Yiddish) from the Slutsk yizkor book, though, and these are enclosed. I am not able to translate these entries, since I am not fluent in these languages, but we may be able to get them translated later if would like to learn what they say.

I also found a memorial section in the Dolginovo yizkor book that included a number of BERMAN names. I have provided copies of these and translated the names for you. For the second BERMAN family listed (that of the comb-maker), the actual names of his family members don't seem to be included. The following two names have the surname BERKOVITZ (Nachum and Khaike), and I'm not sure if they were part of his family or not.

I also searched the 1895, 1903 and 1912 editions of the Russian business directory *Vsia Rossiia*, or "All Russia," for the surname BERMAN in Dolginovo or Glusk. I did not find this surname listed in either town in any of these three directories. Only the 1899 and 1903 editions I have access to are indexed, but the 1899 directory is arranged first by occupation, and then by location. Because of this arrangement, there are thousands of separate sections for these two towns. Since the name BERMAN is so common, it was therefore not practical to examine all the entries to determine if they were in either town. For the 1903 edition, the entries are arranged

first by location and then by occupation. All that is necessary to determine if a particular entry is in a particular town, therefore, is to determine the pages covered by that town. In the 1903 book, Vilna gubernia was on pages 74-101, and Minsk gubernia on pages 782-811. I copied the BERMAN entries from the index to this book (enclosed), and you can see that a few of them were located in Minsk gubernia. None of them, however, were in the towns of Glusk or Staryye Dorogi, and so I didn't copy any of the actual entries themselves.

Finally, I also searched databases for Lithuania and Belarus on JewishGen for BERMAN in either Dolginovo, Glusk or Staryye Dorogi, but found only a couple of possibly relevant entries. JewishGen is the primary source for Jewish genealogy on the Internet, and has a number of databases compiled from data provided by volunteers or JewishGen projects. In the "Belarus Revision Lists" database, which includes some census data from Vileika uyezd of Vilna gubernia, there are a few Bermans from Dolginovo in the 1850 census ("revision list"). Honon's father was Chaim Eliyahu BERMAN, and Honon was born about 1852. Thus, his father was probably born at least 18 years earlier (or 1834 or earlier). The 1850 census includes a "Khaim BERMAN," son of Berko BERMAN, who was six years old at the time of the previous 1833-34 revision, suggesting a birth date of about 1827-28. This Khaim BERMAN, son of Berko, was missing from Dolginovo at the time of the 1850 census, having left about 1847. He apparently had a daughter, Pesia, age 3 (born about 1847) still living in this household in Dolginovo. The head of the household was Nakhum TSIRYLUNIK, age 51 in 1833-34, but missing from Dolginovo since about 1848. This makes his birth date about 1782-83. Nakhum TSIRYLUNIK was the father of Khaim BERMAN, even though they had different surnames. (Because of how and when Jews adopted surnames in Russia, this was not really uncommon.)

This Khaim BERMAN in the Dolginovo census of 1850 could possibly be Honon's father, Chaim or Khaim Eliyahu BERMAN. If Khaim BERMAN were born about 1827-28, he would be old enough to father a child in 1852, the approximate year in which Honon was born. The fact that he was not in Dolginovo at the time of the 1850 census could also be consistent with Honon's life, since Honon moved to the Glusk area, where his wife was from and where his children were born. You mentioned that you knew of only one sibling of Honon's - a sister named Fannie KRAVITZ, whose husband was apparently Meyer. (Your letter included references to both a Meyer KRAVITZ and an Abraham KRAVITZ, both of whom were referred to as Fannie's husband. I believe that Meyer was the husband, based on the references to Meier and Mailach KRAWITZ and similar names on the passenger lists.) I thought at first that the Pesia BERMAN, daughter of Khaim BERMAN born about 1847, who appears in the 1850 Dolginovo census, might actually be Honon's sister Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ. To confirm this, however, I had to find some data on Fannie KRAVITZ that would show her age.

A brief review of online census records, however, only led me to a Michael and Fannie KRAVETS in the 1900 census in New Haven. They lived at 88 Broad Street, and both were born about 1872. If this is the correct Fannie KRAVITZ, then she would have been much younger than Honon BERMAN. I also found a Fannie KRAVITZ, widow, in New Haven in 1930, with a daughter Rose born about 1907. This Fannie KRAVITZ was born about 1868. So if either or both of these women is the sister of Honon BERMAN, then Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ was actually much younger than Honon, and could not have been the Pesia BERMAN, daughter of Khaim, in the 1850 Dolginovo census. This doesn't help us confirm whether then Khaim

BERMAN found in the 1850 Dolginovo census could be the same person as Khaim Eliyahu BERMAN, Honon's father.

At this point, I have reached the limit of the research I can perform within your \$600 authorization. I have enclosed an invoice for the work done over the \$300 initial deposit.

Additional Research

As I mentioned in my proposal, there are some surviving census records and other lists of residents for Dolginovo and Glusk that may provide some more information about your BERMAN family. I've reviewed possibilities for searching these records below. Since none of these records are available here in the U.S. (except for indexes to some of them available on JewishGen), researching them would have to be done by someone in Europe who had direct access to the records.

1. Have a researcher search census records of Dolginovo and Vileika uyezd from 1849-50 and 1858, which were the 9th and 10th revisions (tax censuses). An index to the 1850 revision lists for Vileika uyezd, including Dolginovo, is already on JewishGen, and I have included the BERMAN index entries from that town with this report. The 1858 revision was the last full tax-census taken in this format, and would be the most useful to us because Honon BERMAN was supposedly born about 1852. We might therefore be able to locate him in the 1858 revision lists, clarifying who his parents were and learning other information about the family. If the family was found definitively in these lists, it might also be possible to trace them further back in time, through earlier revision lists that have also survived.
2. Have the same researcher search later "family lists" from Dolginovo and Glusk for the family of Honon BERMAN. There are some family lists, or what are called "additional revision lists" for Glusk from 1869 and Vileika uyezd (in which Dolginovo was located) for 1875. There are also lists from Bobruisk uyezd (where Glusk was located) from 1866-1876, 1899, and 1901. It is not clear in which area Honon BERMAN would be enumerated after he moved, because we don't yet know where he was "registered." Jews were registered to a particular Jewish community, and that registration stayed with them even when they moved. They were recorded on revision lists where they were registered, not where they resided. This is why we found some references to members of the BERMAN household in the 1850 revision list of Dolginovo online, even though those family members were "missing" in 1850. This process of recording people where they were registered rather than where they lived obviously caused problems when people moved, and no longer lived in the place where they were supposed to be recorded on the census records. This is one reason why the revision lists are so incomplete and often inaccurate. It was possible, however, to request that one's registration be transferred to the new community, and some Jews did this when they moved, so in later years, it is possible that Honon BERMAN could have been registered in either Dolginovo or Glusk. (It is also possible that he was registered somewhere else entirely, if Dolginovo was not the family's original place of residence, but that just confuses the issue. We should stick to searching in the places where we know he lived, unless we find references to some other place of registration.)

3. Search other lists of residents in the area around Glusk in the Belarus State Archives. These would include voter registration lists, army draft lists and tax lists. Most of these would be from the first decade of the 20th century, and Honon BERMAN was still living there until 1906.

Some of these census records are held by the Lithuanian State Historical Archives in Vilnius (the ones for Dolginovo and Vileika uyezd), and others are held by the Belarus Central State Historical Archives in Minsk. We would therefore have to hire two researchers to complete this research. Using a researcher that I am familiar with in Vilnius, I would estimate that the research in Vilnius could probably be completed for under \$200. I would estimate that a search of these records in Minsk would cost at least \$300-\$400, and possibly more, if performed by a reliable researcher or research service there. In addition, such requests would probably require somewhere between close to eight hours of my time over a period of months to coordinate with the researchers, and to try to match the results with other information that we have already uncovered. Thus, a complete search of these resources would probably cost at least \$500 in fees to European researchers, and nearly \$300 (or more) in my time to coordinate.

As you can see, European research can be expensive when we don't have direct access to the original records here in this country. If you are interested in continuing the research on your family in European records, feel free to call me to discuss the possibilities further. We can set an appropriate limit on that research and begin to contact the researchers in Europe. You are also free to call me if you have any questions about the enclosed documents or report. While the work done so far doesn't help clarify any possible relationship between your BERMAN family and that of Sue GEIGER, it does provide more information on where your BERMAN family was from in Europe, and I hope answers some of the questions that you had.

Sincerely,

Ted Gostin

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November 8, 2005

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SUBJECT: Honon BERMAN Research - Report #2

Job #1047

Dear Eugene:

Enclosed are two additional documents on your BERMAN family. The first is the naturalization record of Meyer (Mishelow) BERMAN, which arrived today. The second is a copy of the passenger arrival record of Meyer (Mishelow) BERMAN from the Ellis Island Database. It shows that he arrived as Meier MISCOLAW, age 32, occupation joiner, on the *Noordam* at the port of New York on March 17, 1905. His last place of residence was Slutzk, which is one of the towns near Glusk and Staryye Dorogi.

I believe that these were the only records I was waiting for, and that this concludes the research under your original authorization. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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March 18, 2006

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SUBJECT: Honon BERMAN Research - Report #3

Job #1047

Dear Eugene:

I am forwarding a bit of new information on the family of Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ, which I wrote to you about in my e-mail last month. I'm assuming that you got my e-mail about the researchers in Europe, and I apologize again for the delay in getting the research set up and in answering your e-mail.

Research Assignment

Last year, we agreed that I would hire researchers in Belarus and Lithuania to pursue research into your BERMAN family in the records of Staryye Dorogi, Glusk and Dolginovo. This research has been arranged and is underway, although I do not have any results yet. I previously e-mailed you to let you know that it was not until January that I set up these research efforts, so we will probably not have any results until later this spring. The research in Lithuania (for Dolginovo) is being handled by Ruta Puisyte, who is a Yiddish teacher and former employee of the Jewish Museum in Vilnius. In Belarus, the research (for Glusk and Staryye Dorogi) is being coordinated by Franklin Swartz of the Eastern European Jewish Heritage Project in Minsk. There is a flat fee of \$95 for the research in Belarus, while Ruta Puisyte is charging \$15 per hour for her research. That research will probably cost several hundred dollars at her hourly rate, since it may take 20 or more hours.

I also noted that I would do some additional research on the family of Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ, Honon BERMAN's sister. This report therefore deals primarily with the research into her family.

Research Results

Since Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ was the only known sibling of Honon BERMAN, I wanted to see what information we could find about her. Tracing her and her family might help us learn more about Honon's family in Russia. You had indicated that she had four children: Abraham, Bertha, Rose and Rose's twin sister who died at the age of four months. You further indicated

that Bertha KRAVITZ married Louis BERMAN, your mother's brother, and that they lived in California. You thought that they had been married about 1924, and that Bertha died about 1971, possibly in San Francisco. You also thought that she may have remarried after a presumed divorce from Louis BERMAN.

I found what appear to be census entries for Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ in the 1900 through 1930 censuses, and copies of these are enclosed. I don't remember whether I sent you copies of the 1900 and 1930 entries in my first report, when they were briefly mentioned, but copies from all of the years are included with this report. In 1900, I found a Michael and Fanny KRAWETS at 88 Brand Street in New Haven, both of whom were listed as 28 years old. The names, ages and places of residence fit what you told me about them. They were listed with only one child, however - a son named Michael, listed as two years old. This does not fit the family description that you provided, and leaves some question as to whether this is the right family. Since I did not find any other family in New Haven that seems to be a match, though, I am assuming for the moment that this is the correct family, and that the child listed is just a mistake. This frequently occurred in census records, especially if information was provided by a non-family member, such as a neighbor.

In 1910, I found Michael and Fannie "CRAVITZ" with their children, Abraham, age 18; Bertha, age 14; and Rose, age 5, living at 81 Hallock Street (misspelled here). This is clearly the correct family, but with a spelling error in the surname. This also gives us an approximate age for Abraham, suggesting a birth date of about 1891 or 1892. Fannie is listed as 37 years old, fairly consistent with the 1900 census record, but Michael appears to be listed as 30 years old. I believe that this may have been 38, and that when the record was scanned by Ancestry.com, the top half of the "8" may have been obscured. Michael KRAVITZ was listed as a vegetable peddler, which is also how he was listed in city directories of 1909 and 1910.

In 1920, I found Michael, Fannie and Rose living at 24 Orchard Street in New Haven. Abraham had apparently moved out on his own, and Bertha may have already been married by then. Michael was listed as 46 and Fannie as 48, close to their ages as suggested in the other censuses. Michael was still listed as a vegetable peddler.

In 1930, I found a woman who appears to be Fannie listed as a 62-year-old widow, living with her daughter, Rose, at 119 Derby Avenue. Her age is a little older than suggested by other censuses, but this seems to be the same family. In the first three censuses, Michael and Fannie were listed as having arrived in the U.S. in 1892, but in this census, Fannie is listed as having arrived in 1903, which does raise some questions as to whether the entry is for the correct people. If this is the correct woman, then her husband, Michael, appears to have died between 1920 and 1930.

I also searched for Louis and Bertha (Kravitz) BERMAN, and for Abraham KRAVITZ. Census entries support the family story that Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ was married twice, and that Abraham BERMAN was born to the first father. They do not, however, support the family story that Michael and Fannie were married before they came to the U.S. In 1900, Michael and Fannie were listed as being married for five years, or since about 1895. Since Michael is listed as having arrived in 1892, this suggests that they were married after he arrived. In 1910, Fannie

was listed as having been married twice, but Michael KRAVITZ only once, and they were listed as having been married for 15 years. This again suggests that they were married about 1895, or after Michael, and possibly Fannie, arrived in the U.S. In the 1910 census, Abraham was listed as being 18 years old and born (about 1892) in Russia. This suggests that he was born to the first husband, although we don't know that husband's name. Bertha is listed as 14 years old, born in Connecticut, suggesting that Michael KRAVITZ was her father. If we found additional information on Abraham KRAVITZ, we might eventually learn the name of Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ's first husband.

First, though, I located what appears to be Louis and Bertha (Kravitz) BERMAN in the 1920 and 1930 censuses. In 1920, they lived at 190 Howard Avenue in New Haven, with a daughter, Minna R. BERMAN, who was born in Connecticut in 1918. Louis was listed as the stock manager of a wire company. In 1930, I found them living in Los Angeles, with Louis listed as a watchmaker in a jewelry shop. They were listed as having been married for 14 or 15 years in 1930, suggesting a marriage date of about 1915 or 1916. Since their daughter, Minna Ruth, was born in Connecticut in 1918, this certainly suggests that they were married in Connecticut, and probably New Haven, rather than in Los Angeles about 1924, as you had previously thought.

You had mentioned that Bertha died in California, possibly about 1971 in San Francisco. I couldn't find a death that matched this description. The closest death index listing I could find for Bertha was a woman whose name was Bertha KRANZBERG, and whose father's surname was "KRAVIN" and whose mother's maiden name was "BREMEN." According to the death index, she was born on April 22, 1901 outside the U.S., and died in Orange County on December 21, 1983.

Even though there are some inconsistencies between this index entry and the information you provided, I think there is a good chance that this might be Bertha KRAVITZ. First, the surnames of the parents are close to what we know of your family - KRAVIN could be KRAVITZ, and BREMAN could be BERMAN. But more than that, I couldn't find any other entry that was a good fit. You had indicated that you thought that her surname might be MOTT, but I could not find any apparent match with this surname, or variants. In the California death index from 1940 through 2000, there were sixteen women named Bertha born in Connecticut in the 1890s. None of them was named MOTT, and none had the maiden name KRAVITZ (or variants) or mother's maiden name BERMAN (or variants). One of these women had the middle initial "E," and the 1920 census entry for Louis and Bertha (Kravitz) BERMAN included the middle initial "E" for Bertha. This woman was named Bertha E. JONES, and she was born March 4, 1898 in Connecticut, according to the death index. This is close to Bertha KRAVITZ's supposed birth date of 1896. She died on February 11, 1970 in Los Angeles County, which is also close to the 1971 year of death that you suspected for Bertha (Kravitz) BERMAN. Unfortunately, her father's surname and mother's maiden name are not listed in the index, suggesting that they might not be listed on the certificate. This is the only other entry that I found which seems to match the information that you had. I have not ordered either of these death certificates. One of the additional research tasks I have suggested is to search for Bertha's birth record in Connecticut, and finding this will give us her birth date, which may help us locate her death record.

I found less information about Abraham KRAVITZ. He appears with his parents in the 1910 census, but I did not find a convincing entry for him in the 1920 census. In 1930, I found a possibility for him in New Haven (enclosed). It shows an Abraham KRAVITZ, age 37, born in Russia, who was a peddler of fruits and vegetables. Since this was also his father's occupation, this seemed to be a likely match. He was married to Betty, age 34, born in Poland, and had the following children: Benjamin, age 14; Meyer, age 13; Gladys, age 12; and Theodore, age 5. All of the children were born in Connecticut. There are two items in this entry, however, that seem inconsistent with what is known of Abraham KRAVITZ. First, he is listed in this census as having arrived in 1900, while we know that his mother was in the U.S. by at least 1895, and possibly as early as 1892. Second, he has a son named Meyer born about 1916-17. Since Ashkenazic Jews generally named their children only after deceased relatives, and Abraham's stepfather Michael (Meyer) KRAVITZ was still alive in 1916-17, this seems a little inconsistent. There are a number of possible explanations for this, however, so I did not rule out this entry.

I searched the Connecticut death index from 1949 forward for Fannie and Abraham KRAVITZ. (Michael KRAVITZ appears to have died before 1930, according to census records.) I found one possibility for each of them, based on name and age, but some of the information is inconsistent in each entry. For Fannie KRAVITZ, I found a Fanni KRAVITZ who died in New Haven on November 16, 1958 at the age of 84, suggesting a birth date of about 1872. The inconsistent information is her husband's name, truncated as "Jose," apparently for Joseph. Since we know that she was widowed from Michael/Meyer, the name Joseph would not seem to fit. If this is the correct Fannie KRAVITZ, possible explanations would be that this was the first name of her first husband, with the information provided by her son, Abraham; or that Michael/Meyer KRAVITZ's Hebrew name was something like Joseph Meyer, a common combination. I also found one possibility for Abraham KRAVITZ that matched name and age, but again, the spouse's name is not an exact match. There were three Abraham KRAVITZ deaths in Connecticut, but only one was of the correct age. That Abraham KRAVITZ died on January 21, 1981, and was born on March 2, 1893 outside the U.S. He is listed as a scrap metal dealer in New Haven, and widowed from "Rebec," truncated from Rebecca. In the 1930 census, the wife of the Abraham KRAVITZ that I found was "Betty," which isn't entirely consistent with Rebecca. Therefore, one of these records could be for someone else, or Abraham may have been married twice.

You mentioned in one of your letters or e-mails that you had traced the descendants of Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ. Do you have the death dates and burial places for Michael and Fannie KRAVITZ? Do you know who Abraham KRAVITZ married, and who their children were? Do you know when Abraham KRAVITZ died? Does any of the information I found seem to match with what you were told by family members? My goal in tracing Fannie's family was to try to locate her passenger arrival information, and by doing so, learn more about where she emigrated from, who her first husband was, etc.

I also made some initial attempts to locate the naturalization record of Michael KRAVITZ, and the arrival records of Michael KRAVITZ and his wife, Fannie, whom you indicated were married before they came to the U.S. (The census records seem to contradict this assumption, though.) The census records would suggest that Michael KRAVITZ was naturalized sometime between the time of the 1900 census (June of 1900) and the 1910 census (April of 1910). I did

find one record for a Michael KRAVITZ in the Connecticut naturalization index prior to 1906 that fits this description, and a copy of the index card is enclosed. It was for a Michael KRAVITZ, age 27, born in Russia, who was naturalized in the New Haven Court of Common Pleas on September 15, 1900 (Volume 3 of "under 18" naturalizations, page 297). The age is close to what we have seen in census records for Michael KRAVITZ, and the date is after the 1900 census. I have not yet attempted to obtain a copy of this record for two reasons. First, because of its early date, it is unlikely to have any specific information on it about where he came from or where and when he arrived in the country. Second, the "under 18" designation raises some questions. These books were kept for individuals who had arrived in the country under the age of 18. By all indications, your Michael KRAVITZ would have been over 18 when he arrived in 1892, so I'm not entirely sure that this is the same person.

Although I didn't have the naturalization record for clues, I did search the Ellis Island Database online for the arrival of Michael KRAVITZ. I have not yet searched arrival indexes at the other ports. I found one possible arrival at New York, a copy of which is enclosed. There are many inconsistencies between this record and the other information we have about Michael KRAVITZ's family, though, so I am not yet convinced that this arrival record is the correct one. The record I found was for a Meyer KRAWECES who arrived at New York on August 29, 1892 aboard the *S.S. Russia*, sailing from Hamburg. He was 22 years old, a tailor, and was accompanied by his wife, Risic, 21; daughter Basse, age 3; and son Salomon, age 11 months. They had come from "Podolsk," listed as being in Poland, but actually in Russia. Podolsk is the designation of a province of the Russian empire, and listed alone, could either represent just the province, or possibly the capital city of Kamenets Podolskiy. Certain parts of this record seem consistent with your family story (name, age and arrival date of the father, along with his wife), but others (such as the two children whose names don't match, or the name of the wife) are not consistent. Furthermore, the census records do suggest that Michael and Fannie were married after they arrived in the U.S., not before. At the moment, without further research, I can only say that this is one possibility for the arrival record of Michael and Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ, but not a completely convincing one.

Finally, I found some translations of the yizkor book sections for Staryye Dorogi from the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project. This project is using volunteers to translate sections of yizkor books from Hebrew and Yiddish, and then posting the translations to the JewishGen website. There are many translated sections from the Slutsk yizkor book, which contained the sections on Glusk and Staryye Dorogi that I previously sent to you. You can go the JewishGen website (www.jewishgen.org) yourself, and review the various sections of this yizkor book that have been translated. I have included the few pages for Staryye Dorogi that were available when I last checked the site. Since new translations continue to be completed, you can check back periodically for additional information.

Additional Research

I've suggested some additional research on the family of Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ that can be completed while we are waiting for results from the European research requests. You may have information that will make these searches easier, or make some of them unnecessary, so please let me know if you have any useful information related to the suggested additional

research. You can also opt not to have me pursue any of this additional research, if you do not want to learn more about Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ's family.

1. Search New Haven city directories from 1924-25 forward, looking for information about the deaths of Michael and Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ. New Haven directories often listed death dates for longtime residents who had died since the last directory. Michael KRAVITZ appears in the 1924-25 directory, but was apparently deceased by the time of the 1930 census, so we can search the directories for the intervening years to see when he is listed and when he disappears from the directories. We may also find a listing for him showing his death date. Similarly, we can search directories after 1930 for Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ, looking either for her disappearance from the directories, or a statement of her date of death. **Estimated time: 1 hour.**
2. Apply for the death certificate of Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ, if we can narrow down her date of death. This would hopefully provide the names of her parents, giving us something to compare to the information from Honon BERMAN's death certificate and headstone. As with previous requests, this will probably be more productive if you apply for it yourself, since you are in Connecticut. New Haven does not respond to mailed "genealogy" requests promptly, taking close to a year to issue documents. You can probably get these much faster in person. **Estimated time: 30 minutes, plus certificate fee.**
3. Contact the cemetery where Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ is buried, and obtain a photograph of her headstone. This will provide another version of her father's name, giving us something else to compare to the information about Honon. Again, this might be something you could do yourself in New Haven. **Estimated time: 15 - 30 minutes, plus photography fee.**
4. Do a complete search of New Haven city directories from the early 1890s forward looking for Michael and Fannie (Berman) KRAVITZ, and for Abraham KRAVITZ. It would be helpful to see how early Michael was listed in the directories, and when Fannie first appeared in the directories. In the few years that I did check, she was usually listed separately since she had her own business as a dressmaker. This could help us determine whether they were married when they arrived here, or afterwards, and when she arrived in the country. **Estimated time: 1-2 hours.**
5. Apply for the naturalization record of the Michael KRAVITZ that I found in the Connecticut naturalization index. **Estimated time: 15-30 minutes, plus \$10 fee.**
6. Search the Connecticut naturalization index for Abraham KRAVITZ, and if a separate naturalization for him is found, obtain copies of that naturalization. This might help us determine whether he and his mother arrived with Michael KRAVITZ, or separately. **Estimated time: 15-30 minutes, plus \$10 fee (can be combined with fee above - both records for one fee).**
7. Search New Haven birth indexes prior to 1902 for the birth of Bertha KRAVITZ about 1896. **Estimated time: 30 minutes - 1 hour, plus microfilm rental fee of \$6.05.**
8. Search New Haven marriage records prior to 1902 for the marriage of Michael KRAVITZ and Fannie, who would have been listed by her first married name. Since the census records suggest that they were married in 1895, after Michael KRAVITZ arrived, this search could tell us the surname of Fannie's first husband. That, in turn, could help us

Eugene B. Berman

March 18, 2006

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locate her arrival record. **Estimated time: 30 minutes - 1 hour, plus microfilm rental fee of \$6.05.**

The research since last Thanksgiving has taken us a little bit past the \$300 deposit for the additional work that you sent. I have therefore enclosed an invoice for the additional work. You can let me know whether you want me to pursue any of the tasks listed above. If not, I will wait for the results of the European research underway, and report back to you when I have heard from the researchers.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ted Gostin

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October 23, 2006

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SUBJECT: Honon BERMAN Research - Report #4

Job #1047

Dear Eugene:

It has been over six months since we've been in touch, and I'm sorry for the long delay. Unfortunately, that is the just the way things go with Eastern European research at times. For the past several months, I have been trying to get updates from the researchers in Lithuania and Belarus on your BERMAN research. They have accomplished very little, for different reasons. I want to review the recent correspondence I've had with them, and the request an advance payment for some of the continued work in the Lithuanian archives.

Belarus Research

After several tries, I was able to get a response from Franklin and Galina Swartz at the Eastern European Jewish Heritage Project. This is a Jewish group in Minsk that I use to arrange for research in the archives in Belarus. I had asked them to review a number of census and census-like records for Glusk and the surrounding area that might show the family of Khonon BERMAN during their residence there.

Their report was disappointing; most of the files I had asked them to review were unavailable because they are in the process of restoration. They reviewed only a couple of files, which as far as I can tell, I had not asked them to review. They did succeed in finding two of Khonon BERMAN's sons in an "additional" revision list of Vileyka Uyezd from 1905. This is the county in which Dolginovo was located, and is now in Lithuania. In that census (fond 295, opis 2, delo #50, page 1175), there was a listing for Berko BERMAN, age 20, and Gdanya BERMAN, age 14, both sons of "Khanon Khamiov" BERMAN. Based on earlier records we found (including passenger lists and naturalization records), this would appear to be Barnett BERMAN and the man I thought might be your father, Gustave BERMAN. In the Russian revision list (census), both are listed as sons of Khonon, so they would appear to be Barnett and your father. These two individuals also appear to have arrived in the U.S. aboard the *Zeeland* on October 17, 1905 (after the date of the revision list). We can be fairly sure that the two young men who arrived on that ship are the same people because they were the only members of the family who listed Dolginovo as their last residence on the manifests. This is consistent with these same two boys

being the only members of the family in the 1905 revision list. The brief, one-page summary that they sent me on this research is enclosed.

I have written back to them asking 1) if they can help us get a photocopy of this records; 2) if they can tell me exactly what files were reviewed; and 3) if they can tell me when the other files might be available again. I have not yet received a response, and it has been my experience that I have to write to them several times before getting an answer. I will keep after them and let you know what I am able to find out. This research has already been paid for, and we don't owe them any additional funds at this point. We may need to forward additional payment if they get photocopies for us.

The one record that they did find confirms an important point for us, though. Since the two sons of Khonon were listed in Dolginovo in the 1905 revision list, that means that they were registered in Dolginovo at that time. Russian revision lists enumerated people in their place of registration, rather than in their place of residence. All Russian residents were registered to a particular community. Since we find the two sons registered in Dolginovo, but not the other family members, it is possible that Khonon re-registered his family in Glusk after moving there. I was uncertain whether we would find them registered there and listed in Glusk revision lists, since it was not required to change one's registration when one changed one's residence. That is why revision lists are so incomplete; it is pretty hard to enumerate someone in a census when they aren't living in the place where the census is being taken. We still don't know where Khonon was registered, or whether he changed his registration after he moved, since we haven't found any Russian documents for him. His absence in the 1905 additional revision list could be an indication that he was registered elsewhere. It could also be an indication, however, that it was only the two sons who needed to be covered in the "additional" revision list of 1905, because their entry was incomplete or missing in a previous revision. These "additional" revision lists after the last full revision of 1858 were taken primarily for this purpose - to fill in missing information. Thus, they are incomplete by definition, and generally do not list every member of a given community.

As for the research in the Lithuania archives on the census records for Dolginovo and Vileyka Uyezd, that research has not been completed. I tried for several months to contact the researcher there, without success. She only recently responded to my most recent request. For some unexplained reason, she began but did not complete the research. I have gone back and forth with her over several communications, and while I'm still not sure what happened to prevent her from completing the research, she seems willing and available to do it now. She is asking for a deposit of \$200 at this time to allow her to complete the research.

While I am not completely comfortable with her inability or unwillingness to explain why she didn't complete the research, I would recommend sending her the deposit so that she can complete the research now. She has been a very reliable researcher for me in the past, and I'm sure that she has the ability to do the actual research. I can't explain her failure to move forward with it previously, and I don't want to try to force an explanation from her that she seems unwilling to provide. I suspect that something was going on in her life that caused her to drop the research, and that she's just not comfortable talking about it.

Eugene B. Berman

October 23, 2006

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The deposit that she is asking for, however, is quite reasonable, given the billing rate we agreed to of \$15 per hour and the number of hours the research I've requested would take. So I would suggest sending her the \$200 and asking her to complete this research as quickly as possible. She said that she could start this week, although I won't be able to get her the money that quickly. If you are willing to go along with this recommendation, I would ask you to forward the \$200 to me so that I can send it to her. She can then get started. The total amount will be higher than that, for two reasons. First, the total number of hours may be higher, and second, there will be additional charges for photocopies of any records she finds.

The goal of this research is to find the family of Khonon BERMAN in Russian censuses, both as an adult and as a boy with his parents. From these records, we may be able to verify or correct assumed ages, and get more information about his parents and possibly grandparents. Despite the glacial pace of the research so far, I think that the research in Lithuania still has great potential, and I am anxious for that research to proceed. As for the research in Belarus records, we may have to wait for a long time until the records we wanted to review are made available once again. Projects like this can take anywhere from six months to several years, so there is no telling at this point when they might be made available again.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. If you have no objections to my suggestions on how to proceed, then please send me the check for \$200 so that I can forward this amount to the Lithuanian research. I hope that this time she can complete the research quickly, and we can get some useful results from the Dolginovo records.

Sincerely,

Ted Gostin

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January 2, 2007

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SUBJECT: Honon BERMAN Research - Report #5

Job #1047

Dear Eugene:

We have now received a report and several documents from the researcher in Lithuania, and I wanted to forward these to you and bring you up to date on the what was found. While the most recent research has turned up some census records that seem like they might be for your grandfather Honon BERMAN's family, we haven't yet been able to tie them in directly to Honon and his family. Doing so will still require some additional research in Russian records, but we have had difficulty so far getting at the particular records that we need.

Research Results

The report from Ruta Puisyte, the researcher in Lithuania, shows that she found a number of BERMAN and similar surnames in the revision lists of Vileyka uyezd from the years 1834, 1850 and 1858. Vileyka uyezd was the district or county in which the town of Dolginovo was located, and revision lists were the tax censuses taken at irregular intervals in Russia. She was only able to review the full lists for 1834 and 1850; the files in the Vilnius archives for 1858, the last full revision taken, were only an alphabetical index to the original revision lists. She reported that the actual census schedules were not available in the Vilnius archives, although copies of them may be available in Minsk. A copy of her report is enclosed.

Many of the entries she found were for families residing in towns other than Dolginovo, and given how common the BERMAN surname is, I doubt that most of these are related. The entries from Dolginovo may be related to Honon BERMAN's family, though, since they are from the correct town, and because they include someone named Khaim BERMAN, which was the name of Honon's father. I therefore asked Ruta to copy only these records that seemed likely to be related to your family, and she copied three records for us.

From the documents we have of Honon, it would appear that he was born in the early 1850s. On his death certificate from 1936, he is listed as 72 years old, suggesting a birth year of about 1864. His gravestone, however, lists his age at death as 86, suggesting a birth year of about 1850. Other documents suggesting an age for him include census records from 1910 and 1920,

where he is listed as 47 and 67, respectively, suggesting birth years of 1862/63 or 1852/53; his naturalization petition, which states that he was born on April 3, 1852 in "Dolginow;" and his passenger list from 1906, on which he is listed as 53 years old, suggesting a birth date of 1852 or 1853. Thus, the earliest records we have, and the ones on which Honon himself provided the information, suggest a birth date of about 1852/1853. (The 1910 census record probably just has a miscalculated age, and should have read 57 instead of 47.)

The name of his father is available only from his death certificate, where it is listed as "Hyman," and from his gravestone, where it is listed as Khaim Eliyahu. These are not inconsistent, since the Yiddish name Hyman is associated with the Hebrew name Khaim, or Chaim. If we assume that Honon was born about 1852, and that his father was probably between 18 and 45 years old when Honon was born (a common age range in which men generally had children), then his father Khaim BERMAN would have been born sometime between 1807 and 1834.

The census records we found for Dolginovo do include a Khaim BERMAN born during this time period in Dolginovo, but unfortunately, do not provide us with any direct link to this Khaim BERMAN's children in later life, or to Honon himself. So while the records are consistent with an assumption that this Khaim BERMAN of Dolginovo may, in fact, be Honon's father, they do not provide any proof of such an assumption.

The records that the researcher found are described briefly below. I have provided you with two copies of the records: the original photocopies provided by the researcher, and prints from scans she made of the images. On the scanned copies, I have printed a translation so that you can see how the record format matches up with the translated information.

- 1834 revision list. Record Group (F.) 515, inventory (AP.) 15, file (B.) 649, page (L.) 290-291, line (§) 14. Head of household is listed as Nokhim Berkovich (son of Berko) TSYRULNIK, age 51, age at last revision 35 (at home 1818). Underneath are listed "his 1st son Berka BERMAN," age 26, 13 at last revision at home in 1821; Berka's son Khaim, age 6, newborn since last revision; and Nokhim's 2nd son Yenkil, age 5, newborn since last revision. On the second page, the women in the household include: Nochim Berkovich's wife Nekhama, age 45; Nokhim's daughters Bluma, age 14, and Khanna, age 13; and Berko Nokhimovich's wife Khanna, age 25.
- 1850 revision list. Record Group 515, inventory 15, file 934, page 232, line #13. Nokhum Berkovich TSIRYLNIAK, missing since 1848, 51 at last revision (1834); Nokhum's sons Berko BERMAN, age 42, 26 at last revision; and Yankel, missing since 1848; and Berko BERMAN's son Khaim, missing since 1847, age 6 at last revision. Women listed in this census include Nokhum Berkovich TSIRYLNIAK's wife, Nechama Abramova (daughter of Abram), age 61; Berko BERMAN's wife Khana Itskova (daughter of Itsko, or Isaac), age 40; Khaim Berkovich BERMAN's wife, Revka, age 22; the daughter of Khaim and Revka BERMAN, Pesya, age 3; and Yankel Berkovich BERMAN's wife Pesya, age 22.
- 1858 alphabetical index to Dolginovo revision list. Name BERMAN, Berko Nokhimovich appears on either page or household #19.

These records describe a family that includes a boy named Khaim BERMAN, son of Berko and Khanna BERMAN, who was born about 1828. This age would fit perfectly with our

expectations for Honon BERMAN's father. Khaim BERMAN and his father Berko were present in Dolginovo at the time of the 1834 revision, and Berko was also present in 1850. In 1850, though, Khaim BERMAN himself was listed as missing since 1847, three years earlier. This could represent an attempt to avoid being listed in the census and to avoid the draft, which would have been very common (he would have been 19 years old in 1847). It could also represent an earlier move to Glusk than we had expected, when Khaim BERMAN was not yet 20 years old. I suspect that Khaim was simply absent, either in an attempt to avoid the draft, or for work purposes, since his wife and three year old child are listed. I have had difficulty translating the explanation for his absence, but the word seems to be a spelling variation of the work for "non-appearance," which isn't very specific. I think it basically says "non-appearance since 1847."

If this Khaim BERMAN, son of Berko, and your Khaim Eliyahu BERMAN are the same person, then it would suggest that Honon BERMAN, most likely born a couple of years after the 1850 census, had an older sister named Pesya, born in 1847 and still alive in 1850. It would further suggest that Honon's mother was probably Revka BERMAN, the wife of Khaim Berkovich BERMAN in these records. We had not seen any reference to Honon's mother's name in any of the documents that we had previously uncovered.

Another aspect of these records worthy of comment is the fact the Berko BERMAN's father apparently had a different surname: TSYRULNIK, or barber. This wasn't all that uncommon in those days. Most Jews in Russia did not carry fixed, hereditary surnames until sometime between 1808 and 1835, when they were legally required to adopt surnames by the Russian government. It was not uncommon for different members of the same family to adopt different surnames during this time period. Nochum Berkovich TSYRULNIK, the father of Berko BERMAN, was born about 1783, according to the revision lists. He would therefore already have been an adult with an occupation by time most Jews starting using surnames in the revisions of 1818 and 1834. One of the most common origins of surnames were occupational appellations, such as "Nochum the barber," or in Yiddish, Nochum tsyrulnik. It is possible that Nochum simply used this occupational appellation as a surname. It is possible that his son, Berko, chose not to do so because he himself was not a barber. Instead, he may have chosen the surname BERMAN, which generally is a name formed from the personal name Ber. Since Nochum's father was apparently also a Ber (his patronymic name is Berkovich, or son of Berko, a diminutive of Ber), Berko BERMAN may have selected this surname to designate descent from his grandfather Berko. It is also possible that the surname was derived from his own personal name, although from what I have read, this seems less likely to me. In any case, it is not unreasonable to think that a father and son would adopt different surnames, especially if one adopted a surname based on an occupation that the other did not share.

I spent some time entering the information from these records into a Family Tree Maker database, along with some of the information we have gathered about Honon BERMAN, his sister Fannie, and his children. I have not entered all of the information you gathered about his descendants, because I thought you might have already done that. I have just entered enough information so that I can print out some basic charts showing what this family would like if the Khaim BERMAN from the census records is, in fact, the same Khaim Eliyahu BERMAN who was the father of Honon BERMAN.

Regarding the research in Minsk, I have not been able to get any response to my inquires from the Eastern European Jewish Heritage Project staff, which is unfortunately not unusual. At this point, it appears that we will not ever receive any more information from them, nor any clarifications to the several questions I have asked them. Instead, I have suggested some other possible ways to get at these records.

Additional Research

We have now found some census records from Dolginovo that appear as if they might be for Honon BERMAN's father and grandfather, although these records do not include Honon himself. The primary research goal at this point should be to try to verify whether these Dolginovo records are really for Honon's family. We can best do that by finding some type of census record after 1850 that would include Honon and his father in the same record. With such a record, we would be able to verify a number of things, including the ages of Honon and his father, and the name of Honon's father's father (because of the Russian patronymic naming pattern). By comparing this information to the Dolginovo records, we could attempt to verify whether the Dolginovo information we have found is really for Honon's family.

The first and possibly most useful record we could find would be the 1858 revision list for Honon and his family, which we have so far been unable to locate. He may have been enumerated in either Dolginovo, where he was said to have been born, or in Glusk, where he later lived. This would depend on whether he re-registered when he moved from Dolginovo to Glusk. We know from the Lithuania research that Berko Nochumovich BERMAN, the father of the Khaim BERMAN of Dolginovo who might be Honon's grandfather, was listed in the 1858 Dolginovo revision list, but we haven't been able to obtain a copy of the actual revision list. The Lithuanian archives apparently only has an index to this census, but not the actual census itself. There may be other members of his family in this household who were not listed in the index, including Honon and his father, Khaim. It is possible that a copy of the original census has survived in the Belarus archives, and that was one of the records that I was trying to have reviewed by the Belarus researchers, without success. Even if we find this record, however, it might not include Khaim BERMAN, since he was reported as missing in the 1850 Dolginovo census, and we know that Honon apparently moved from Dolginovo to the area of Glusk sometime around this time. It is possible that Khaim BERMAN may be listed in Dolginovo in 1858, though, and we should still try to obtain this record since we know that his father was listed. He might have been in that household, or his absence might be explained more fully in the 1858 census.

Therefore, we should continue to search for Honon and his father Khaim in the revision lists of both Dolginovo and Glusk in 1858. We suspect that Honon's family was registered in Dolginovo, based on the 1905 additional revision list the Belarus researchers reported to us, and people were enumerated in the revision lists based on their place of registration. Many people changed their place of registration when they moved, though, so if Honon and his father moved to Glusk before 1858, it is possible that they re-registered in Glusk and might be listed in the revision lists there. This is also a search I requested from the Belarus researcher, but is one that doesn't seem to have been completed. We basically have three choices for trying to get this census searched: we can request a search from the archives staff; we can hire someone else in Belarus to attempt this search; or you could always send me to Belarus to research it myself!

(That last option would be quite expensive, so while I'd like to go, I don't really expect you to offer that possibility.) Getting the archives to perform such a search is a risky proposition. If they are willing to undertake the search (which is not guaranteed), they will ask for some money upfront, and then we will just have to wait a very long time (probably a year or more) before we hear anything from them. The most likely response, based on other researchers' experience, is that they will report that they couldn't find anything. Some researchers have had limited success asking the archives staff to do research in Belarus, but archivists are not genealogists, and this option is probably less likely to yield results than hiring another genealogist in Belarus.

I say probably because trying to hire someone in Belarus is always difficult. Researchers come and go, and from my conversations with other genealogists, no one is having much luck right now finding someone reliable to do research there. At the moment, I know of only one other researcher living there who could do this research, and while he is quite capable, he has a reputation for very poor communications. He is the head of the Minsk Genealogy Group (a genealogical society) and a university professor, I believe. This contributes to his being very busy, and he sometimes takes on research assignments that he doesn't complete for one or two years, with little explanation to the client. I have never hired him before, but have talked with several people who have. While some people have gotten good results from him, almost everyone has complaints about long lapses in communication.

There are some other possibilities, though, even though I have never used their services either. Another option is to hire a company here in the U.S. called FAST Genealogy Service. It is run by Boris Feldblyum, a Ukrainian immigrant with many contacts in Eastern Europe. I have e-mailed him to ask if he thought his researchers could do this research, but haven't received an answer yet. Boris doesn't do the research himself (he lives in Maryland now), but has a network of researchers in Europe who do this research. I'll let you know what he says about possibly handling this work. There is also another researcher I know of in Belarus who seems capable, based on what I have read of his qualifications, but I don't know anyone who has hired him to research their family, so I don't have any references to go on.

The bottom line is that we will struggle to find someone to do this research, but without finding someone, we will not be able to connect what we know of your family in the Glusk area to the records we have found in Dolginovo. You will need to decide whether you want me to continue with this effort into the old Russian records. If you do want me to continue, I will have to investigate several possibilities before hiring someone else to try to review the 1858 revision lists for Dolginovo and Glusk to see if we can find Honon and his father. We will also need to set a budget for this additional work.

I have enclosed an invoice for the most recent work, which includes some additional funds sent to the researcher in Lithuania. After you have looked over this report and the new documents, please let me know how you feel about continuing the attempt to locate Honon BERMAN in the Russian records. We can then decide how (or whether) to proceed any further.

Sincerely,

Ted Gostin

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November 13, 2007

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SUBJECT: Honon BERMAN Research - Report #6

Job #1047

Dear Eugene:

I'm sorry about the e-mail problems had in reaching me, and about not getting back to you sooner. I'm afraid I let you down on this one by not finishing the arrangements to have the Belarus research conducted. I did try to set this up, but I felt the options were less than satisfactory, and never finished the arrangements.

I've reviewed below what I tried to accomplish since our last communications in May/June. First, though, I just want to review what we were trying to accomplish. Much of this is repeated from earlier reports.

We had found some census records from Dolginovo that appear as if they might be for Honon BERMAN's father and grandfather, although these records do not include Honon himself. The primary research goal was to try to verify whether these Dolginovo records are really for Honon's family. Our best chance for doing that was to find some type of census record after 1850 that would include Honon and his father in the same record. With such a record, we would be able to verify a number of things, including the ages of Honon and his father, and the name of Honon's father's father (because of the Russian patronymic naming pattern). By comparing this information to the Dolginovo records, we could attempt to verify whether the Dolginovo information we have found is really for Honon's family.

The most useful record we could find would be the 1858 revision list for Honon and his family, which we were previously unable to locate. He may have been enumerated in either Dolginovo, where he was said to have been born, or in Glusk, where he later lived. This would depend on whether he re-registered when he moved from Dolginovo to Glusk. We know from the Lithuania research that Berko Nochumovich BERMAN, the father of the Khaim BERMAN of Dolginovo who might be Honon's grandfather, was listed in the 1858 Dolginovo revision list, but we haven't been able to obtain a copy of the actual revision list. The Lithuanian archives apparently only has an index to this census, but not the actual census itself. There may be other members of his family in this household who were not listed in the index, including Honon and his father, Khaim. It is possible that a copy of the original census has survived in the Belarus

archives, and that was one of the records that I was trying to have reviewed by the Belarus researchers, without success. Even if we find this record, however, it might not include Khaim BERMAN, since he was reported as missing in the 1850 Dolginovo census, and we know that Honon apparently moved from Dolginovo to the area of Glusk sometime around this time. It is possible that Khaim BERMAN may be listed in Dolginovo in 1858, though, and it remained my goal to try to obtain this record since we know that his father was listed. He might have been in that household, or his absence might be explained more fully in the 1858 census.

Based on our previous correspondence, I contacted Yuri Dorn of the Jewish Heritage Research Group in Belarus. He was one of two researchers I told you about, the other being Oleg Perzashkevich. I asked him about searching some specific records of Dolginovo, Glusk and Staryye Dorogi that are in the Minsk archives, based on various inventories that I found. This included the 1858 revision list for Vileyka uyezd (which included Dolginovo) that was in the Minsk archives, according to Miriam Weiner's *Routes to Roots* inventories. His response was as follows.

Thanks for being interested in service provided by our group. Documents you are listing in your letter are in two different archives in two countries.

Documents for Dolginovo are kept in the Historical Archives of Vilnius (Lithuania). We have partners in this archives who will be able to check for you the presence of necessary documents.

Documents for Glusk and Bobruisk uyezd are kept in the Historical Archives of Minsk, Belarus.

We are working in this archives. We would be very glad to help you with the research.

Cost of our service for carrying out the research in Minsk Historical Archives amounts to \$850 (one family research). Prior starting the research we require a deposit at the amount of \$300. Price includes translation of all the found documents into the English language. Also we can provide you copies of the found documents for extra fee (\$15 per 1 page). Usually such researches last for 3-4 months.

We would be very glad to start collaborating.

I wrote back to him, explaining that I was not asking for research in Lithuania, and that I had already had a researcher search the Vileyka uyezd records that were available there. I was a bit taken aback by his charges, which are considerably higher than most researchers in Eastern Europe. His fee of \$850 is about a year's salary in Belarus, so while it may not seem like all that much money to you, it certainly seems out of proportion to the cost of living there.

While writing to him, however, I realized that the file numbers for the 1858 Vileyka uyezd revision list in Miriam Weiner's inventory might have been among the revision lists that had been filmed by the Mormons, and so I checked the catalog. Miriam Weiner's inventories list fond (record group) 333, opis (inventory or series) 9, delo (file) 177 as containing revision lists for 1795, 1834, 1850 and 1858 for Vileyka uyezd. I found that this file (delo 177) had been filmed by the FHL, and so I ordered the film. If it truly contained records for 1858 from Vileyka uyezd, then it could possibly answer our questions.

It took quite some time to arrive, and when it did, I found that it contained nothing but early revision lists from 1795 and 1800. There was no information in the filmed file for any of the later years that Miriam lists in her inventory as being available in Minsk. If there are revision lists for these later years in Minsk, they would appear to be part of some other inventory and files, and Miriam's *Routes to Roots* inventory would appear to be mistaken. This actually makes sense. Vileyka uyezd was in Minsk gubernia in the late 1700s up to about 1804. After that time, the boundaries of the provinces were changed, and Vileyka uyezd became part of Vilna

gubernia. This is why the later revision lists are generally in the Lithuanian archives, since Vilna (now Vilnius) is the capital of Lithuania. Records of its province and district are generally held by the Lithuanian archives. But since in earlier years, Vileyka uyezd was in Minsk gubernia, it makes sense that the records for those earlier years would be in the State Historical Archives of Belarus in Minsk. I have searched several other inventories (all partial), but can find no indication that later records for Vileyka uyezd, such as the 1858 revision list, are held by the Minsk archives. I'm pretty sure that Miriam's inventory is simply in error.

That means that we simply don't have the 1858 Vileyka uyezd revision list available to us, and we may never know who else was enumerated in the household of Berko Nochumovich BERMAN, the father of the Khaim BERMAN of Dolginovo, in 1858. There don't appear to be any later revision lists for Vileyka uyezd available in the Lithuanian archives. We must therefore search for other records in the area of Glusk and Staryye Dorogi that might include Honon BERMAN and his family. There are some problems with this to consider, though.

First, we can ask a researcher to search the 1858 and later revision lists of Bobruysk uyezd, where Glusk and Staryye Dorogi were located, for the family of Honon BERMAN and possibly his suspected father, Khaim Berkovich BERMAN. There are a couple of problems with this. First, we don't know whether Honon BERMAN or his father Khaim BERMAN were registered in Glusk or Staryye Dorogi. The only registration we have is from 1905, in which two of Honon's sons were registered in Dolginovo, as found in a supplemental revision list for that year. If Honon, his father, and the rest of the family were also registered in Dolginovo (as seems likely based on this registration), then we will not find them listed in the revision lists or family lists of Glusk, Staryye Dorogi or Bobruysk uyezd. We will find them in these lists only if they re-registered after moving to Glusk or Staryye Dorogi, and we just don't know if this happened. It was quite common for someone to live in one place but be registered in another. So we could have a researcher spend a lot of time searching the revision lists of Bobruysk uyezd, only to find out that the BERMAN family is not listed. This is a very real possibility.

We could have the researcher search for other population lists of Glusk, Staryye Dorogi and Bobruysk uyezd that list people by place of residence, rather than by place of registration. Such lists might list Honon and his family, and there are certainly many of these available. The problem here is that most of these lists would not list all the family members; most would only list the head-of-household. Thus, while we might find information on Honon or his sons in some of these lists, there is a good chance that these lists won't show the family groups that would allow us to connect Honon BERMAN with Khaim Berkovich BERMAN of Dolginovo. So again, we could be requesting some very expensive research that may not tell us what we want to know.

When I combine the uncertainty of whether the available records can answer our questions with my reservations about the available researchers, I have a hard time suggesting that you spend an additional \$300 to \$1,000 on this research in Belarus. The research I've discussed does represent the most logical way to proceed, but involves great expense combined with some serious questions about the probability of success. If you are willing to spend a large sum of money on this research, knowing the significant chance of failure in advance, I can still set this up. I can select either of the researchers discussed above. Since I have never hired either one before, I can't offer much advice on who would be better.

As I see it, there are basically three options at this point.

1. We can hire one of the two researchers I've contacted in the past about this type of research. The first, Oleg Perzashkevich, is a professor and the head of the Minsk Genealogy Group, and is not Jewish. His charges would probably be no more than \$300 to \$400, based on previous quotations. The advantage here is that he would probably be the less expensive of the options. The disadvantage is that he has a reputation for slow work and poor communications, although he has generally gotten high marks for the quality of work. The second option is to hire Yuri Dorn, of the Jewish Heritage Research Group in Belarus. His charges are \$850 for researching one family, but that does not include the cost of copies (at \$15 per document). The main disadvantage with him is his high price, which I don't think is reasonable. The possible advantage is that he is Jewish and might be more familiar with Jewish names and Jewish records. I am personally not very comfortable hiring either of these men, but they are the primary options available to us at this point. If you choose to hire someone, the choice in my mind is between the lesser of two evils.
2. We can apply the remainder of the \$200 deposit that you sent on other research that I can complete here myself. This may be on other branches of your BERMAN family, especially here in the United States. I had made some suggestions about possibilities in earlier reports.
3. I can refund the remainder of the \$200 deposit. A little over half of this amount was spent on corresponding with Yuri Dorn, and with researching the Vileyka uyezdz microfilms.

I'm sorry about not keeping you up to date, and not following through with the arrangements to hire someone in Belarus. Based on the discussion above, please let me know how you'd like to proceed at this point.

Sincerely,

Ted Gostin

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February 14, 2008

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SUBJECT: Honon BERMAN Research - Report #7

Job #1047

Dear Gene:

Enclosed are the documents received from Yuri Dorn, the researcher in Belarus. I have also enclosed a CD-ROM with copies of these and other documents, and have e-mailed you copies of the documents.

The enclosed package includes:

- A copy of the researcher's report sent last month. I believe that I already sent you a copy of this via e-mail.
- A printout of the e-mail header from the e-mail containing the digital files, so that you can see the original file names. Because they used Cyrillic characters, Windows replaced the Cyrillic characters with underscore characters. There are ten digital images, covering pages 1166 through 1174 of fond 295, opis 2, delo 50 in the State Historical Archives in Minsk. There are actually two documents for page 1172, since there is a document without a page number after page 1172.
- Printouts of each digital image in black & white, with either the researcher's translation of that document, or a partial translation from me when the researcher did not provide a translation.

As we discussed earlier, these documents suggest that Khonon BERMAN and his family remained registered in Dolginovo while they lived in Glusk and Staryye Darogi. This means that for the primary census records, called "revizkie skazskie" or "revision lists," they would have continued to be enumerated in Dolginovo. These records recorded people where they were registered, rather than where they lived.

We previously had a researcher in Lithuania look for revision lists up through 1858, the last full revision taken in the Russian empire. There were, however, later revision lists that were partial, usually called additional or supplemental revision lists. I don't recall whether I had asked the Lithuanian researcher to search for such additional revision lists for Dolginovo, but she certainly didn't complete such research.

If any such additional revision lists exist for Dolginovo or Vileyka uyezd after 1858, they would be stored in the Lithuanian State Historical Archives, rather than in Belarus. This is because for most of the 19th century, Dolginovo was in Vilna gubernia, most of which is in Lithuania today. The city is actually in Belarus today, but most of its historical records will be in Lithuania. Unfortunately, these records are not well catalogued in the various inventories available to us, because of this dichotomy. The Lithuanian inventories tend to focus on places that are in Lithuania today, and the Belarussian inventories just refer you to the Lithuanian archives. The bottom line is that I don't have access to any full inventory of what records of Dolginovo or Vileyka uyezd exist in the Lithuanian archives.

My best suggestion for further research, therefore, is that while you are in Lithuania on your trip, you try to find out from the Lithuanian archivists just what type of records for Dolginovo and Vileyka uyezd exist in the archives in Vilnius and Kaunas. The State Historical Archives in Vilnius would have the revision lists and additional revision lists, so I assuming that you will have the opportunity to find out what actually exists in the archives from them. The archives in Kaunas may have other types of tax lists for Dolginovo and Vileyka uyezd, such as the various religious taxes (box tax and candle tax lists), lists of businessmen, and other lists of the population.

If you can find out what actually exists in the archives for Dolginovo and Vileyka uyezd, then you can arrange to have some additional research done in these records. I think that Howard Margol can assist you with this while you are in Lithuania. It would be better to make arrangements while you are there, rather than after you go home. I doubt that you will be able to accomplish much research while you are there, but you can discuss this with Howard. He may be able to help you communicate with the archivists before the trip, and arrange for any existing files to be made available. I believe that this is part of what Howard tries to arrange on his trips.

If you are trying to set up this type of research in advance, here is what you are looking for.

- Additional or supplemental revision lists for Dolginovo and/or Vileyka uyezd after 1858, that might include the family of Khaim Eliyahu BERMAN and his son Moshe Elkhanon BERMAN, usually called Khonon BERMAN. Khonon was born about 1852, based on the best sources we have available. Because the original 1858 revision list for Dolginovo seems to be missing (according to the previous research we had done in the Vilnius archives), we weren't able to find this family in the 1858 lists. In all earlier lists, Khonon would not yet have been born, and so we wouldn't have been able to find him. We found a Khaim BERMAN in the earlier lists, the son of Nochum TSYRILNIK, who may be Khonon's father, but we can't confirm this unless we find later lists that show a Khaim BERMAN with son Khonon.
- Any other population lists that might show Jews registered in Dolginovo after 1852, even if they were no longer living in Dolginovo. (Khonon BERMAN apparently lived most of his life in Glusk, rather than Dolginovo.) You would be looking for the same family: a Khaim BERMAN who had a son name Khonon, or Moshe Elkhanon, born about 1852.

Eugene B. Berman

February 14, 2008

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As I noted, you should discuss with Howard Margol the possibility of having such records for Dolginovo available for you when you get there. If you look carefully at the Belarussian researcher's report, you will also see that he suggests that there is an "1874 mail census of Vileika yezd," although I'm not sure exactly what this is. I don't know how Howard arranges for this, so any additional questions should be addressed to him.

I wish you good luck on your trip. The few people I know who have taken one of Howard's trips have said generally good things about the experience. At this point, though, I think my work for you is done, at least for the present. I have enclosed an invoice for this last bit of work, reviewing and partially translating the documents received from Belarus.

In order to give you all the information you might find useful before your trip, I have also included on the enclosed CD-ROM copies of the documents and reports received previously from the researcher in Lithuania, as well as the database files that I created while working on your family. One of these database files is in an old version of the Family Tree Maker database, and the other is a GEDCOM file (importable into any genealogical software) created from that database.

Let me know if you have any questions. Otherwise, I will just wish you good luck on your trip again, and hope that you will be able to make arrangements to review some of the Dolginovo records while you are there.

Sincerely,

Ted Gostin