

## Latvian Jewish Encyclopedia

### Article 5

By Chaim Freedman  
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## Super family

The earliest name known to the Australian Supers was Shmuel, the father of Rabbi Yitskhak-Yaakov. He and his wife Khaya-Minna lived in the small town of Korsovka now called Karsava, in Latvia. Since Yitskhak Yaakov had left his parents' home in Korsovka at the age of twenty-one and settled in England, he had little opportunity to hear from his father information about his family's origins.

One earlier generation of the Australian and English branch was available, derived from the Korsovka tombstone inscription of Shmuel Super, Yitskhak-Yaakov's father. The Hebrew names appearing on a tombstone also include the father's name, it was established that Shmuel's father was called Yosef-Yehoash



Rabbi Arthur-Saul Super (Avraham-Shaul) told of an oral tradition that his ancestors had been Soferim (scribes) for many generations. This was in fact the origin of their surname, Super being a Russian corruption of the term Sofer, or it's Aramaic version Safra, being the usual designation of the official town scribe: `Safra Demata'.

In a letter (in Hebrew) written in 1960 Yitskhak-Yaakov Super answers his son Rabbi Dr. Arthur Saul Super, then living in South Africa, who asks him about the relationships among the family Arthur met in South Africa. Yitskhak Yaakov explains that he left his home town as a young teenager in order to study and then worked as a Shokhet in a number of towns until he left Latvia aged twenty-one:

*"It is nearly fifty-nine years since I left Korsovka and how can I remember the Supers, but you can tell them that all the family who you met or who you will meet are not only relatives, but are flesh and blood to us. About Mr. Benjamin who is close to seventy three years old, if his name in Hebrew is Benyamin son of Reb Shmuel Sholem, he would be our second cousin."*

One of the tombstones photographed in Korsovja correlates with Rabbi Yitskhak Yaakov Super's reference to relatives in the letter above:



The man Shmuel Sholem  
Son of Reb Moshe Simkha Super  
Died 10<sup>th</sup> Tevet, 5688 [1927]

These names appear in various Latvian census records: "Shmuel son of Moshe" Super, born 1846 (lived in Korsovka) appears in a list of people living in 1889 in the rural areas of Lutzin district. This lists states that Shmuel Moshev (son of Moshe) came from Lutzin to Korsovka in 1877. His father Moshe son of Yitskhak born 1829 in Lutzin, moved to Korsovka in 1876. Shmuel's son Benyamin Yitskhak, born 1873, appears in the 1897 census in Korsovka. It appears that "Mr. Benjamin Super" referred to in Rabbi Super's letter to his son Arthur, as "Benyamin son of Shmuel-Sholem" was the son of Shmuel-Sholem whose tombstone appears above. Since Rabbi Super states that the relationship was of second cousins, it can be established that Benyamin Super's grandfather Moshe-Simkha was a brother of Rabbi Yitskhak-Yaakov's grandfather Yosef-Yehoash Super. Thus Rabbi Yitskhak-Yaakov's great-grandfather was Yitskhak Super, one of the four family heads who lived in Lutzin in the early nineteenth century: Shmuel, Yitskhak, Kivka and Leib Super. Three of these were found by Feigmanis in Magistrate records of Lutzin in the year 1837:

*"February 3, 1837 citizens of Lutzin who trade in alcoholic drinks deposed the complaint to the city council of Lyutzin, where they complained of the abuses in taxation of the tax official Glinka. Among the names of the alcohol tradesmen mentioned were Shmuila Super, Leiba Super and Itzik Super"*<sup>1</sup>

When the political changes in the former Soviet Union led to the dissolution of that Union, archives were opened to the public and much material about Jewish families was found. A Jewish researcher living in Riga, Aleksanders Feigmanis, found a treasure of documents, in particular the "Revizsky Skaza" (Revision Lists, meaning census) for the years 1874 and 1897 for the town of Lutzin and the list from 1897 for Korsovka. Many family groups including several hundred members of the Super family appeared, allowing the compilation of the family tree.

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<sup>1</sup> Latvian State Historical Archive, Riga. Reference 755-1-370-142. Extracted by Aleksanders Feigmanis, Riga, Latvia, 1997



Here is interred  
Our father the .....  
An honourable man  
The dear, our teacher and Rabbi  
Reb Yaakov Yehoash  
Son of Reb Shmuel  
Super

A list from 1863 of merchants in the towns of Vitebsk Province includes in Lutzin “*Leibe Super*”, without a patronymic.

**ВѢДОМОСТЬ**  
О крѣпостныхъ заводахъ во Вѣтебской губерніи  
въ 1863 г.

ГДѢ НАХОДИТСЯ И КОМУ ПРИНАДЛЕЖИТЬ.	Сумма полугодичнаго вывоза.		ГДѢ НАХОДИТСЯ И КОМУ ПРИНАДЛЕЖИТЬ.	Сумма полугодичнаго вывоза.	
	руб.	коп.		руб.	коп.
<b>Ивановские заводы.</b>			<b>Во с. Лебедяни.</b>		
<i>Во селѣ Невелѣ.</i>			Купцу Фридриху . . . . .	2,007	18
Машину Рашковому . . . . .	388	—	"  Гуревичу . . . . .	1,304	85
Помельнику Шапко . . . . .	390	8	Шолохову . . . . .	510	—
<b>Во с. Гуровѣ.</b>			<b>Во уѣздѣ.</b>		
Жушу Рабеловичу . . . . .	780	80	Пом. барону Корзу, въ им. "Кривобережье" . . . . .	843	70
"  Перетискину . . . . .	304	—	Пом. графу Герарду Платтеръ, въ им. Алексѣево . . . . .	1,337	56
<b>Во с. Пелюкино:</b>			Пом. графу Станиславу Платтеръ, въ им. Колубы . . . . .	350	—
"  Давиду Гайнбергу . . . . .	360	64	Пом. Поповичеву, въ им. Панинскѣ . . . . .	300	—
"  Шмуэлю Дурасу . . . . .	413	56	Пом. графу Вурму Платтеръ, въ им. Вроцлавск. . . . .	988	85
<b>Во уѣздѣ:</b>			Пом. Календу Каленковскому, въ им. Александровск. . . . .	350	—
Пом. Романовичу, въ им. Подгужск. . . . .	433	—	Пом. графу Календу Платтеръ, въ им. Любимовск. . . . .	86	40
Пом. Соловьеву Глазову, въ им. Вакшаповск. . . . .	59	40	Пом. графу Михаилу Платтеръ, въ им. Койдубск. . . . .	330	6
Пом. Соловьеву Бутцу, въ им. Николаевск. . . . .	278	67	Пом. графу Платтеръ, въ им. Невелѣ . . . . .	1,151	20
Пом. Адаму Ротцу, въ им. Прохоровск. . . . .	432	—	Пом. Календу Бурману, въ им. Дубовск. . . . .	151	20
Пом. Фабрициусу Паррону, въ им. Лопатск. . . . .	198	—	Пом. графу Станиславу Платтеръ, въ им. Алейкушка . . . . .	—	—
Пом. Адаму Ротцу, въ им. Яковлевск. . . . .	23	78	<b>Во с. Селюжи.</b>		
<b>Во с. Дресно.</b>			Купцу Якову Грину . . . . .	525	71
Жушу Хальцелю Вареничу . . . . .	331	20	"  Иосифу Гладковичу . . . . .	107	—
<b>Во уѣздѣ:</b>			<b>Во с. Лопчанѣ.</b>		
Пом. Убри, въ им. Панинск. . . . .	108	—	Купцу Норману Павлику . . . . .	122	85
Пом. Цитцу, въ им. Юстиановск. . . . .	529	30	"  Бродуцу Дурасу . . . . .	150	84
Пом. Глазову, въ им. Грохницк. . . . .	108	—	"  Лебею Сугурову . . . . .	255	—
Пом. Карлу Тейху, въ им. Боровицк. . . . .	230	4	<b>Во уѣздѣ:</b>		
Пом. Шадринскому, въ им. Овца . . . . .	262	44	Пом. Угасовичу, въ им. Фридриховск. . . . .	—	—
Пом. Ковалевскому, въ им. Свирск. . . . .	680	40	Пом. Викентію Шадринскому, въ им. Свирск. . . . .	366	76
Пом. Яковлеву, въ им. Маршалск. . . . .	297	—			

Yosef-Yehoash's son "Shmuel Yoselov" (son of Yosef) appears in the 1897 Korsovka census:

1897, KARSAVA

In Korsovka in the house of Shmuela Super lived:

- 1) Super Shmul Josselev, 42, born and reg. in Lyutzin, literate in Hebrew, butscher-master
- 2) wife Super Haya-Mina Abramova, 43, born and reg. in Lyutzin, literate in Hebrew, at husband.
- 3) son Selick Morduch, 20, born in Lyutzin, literate, learned at house butscher.

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4) son Jossel, 13, literate in Hebrew,

5) son Hatskel, 11, born in Karsava, illiterate

6) son Srol, 9, illit.

7) d. Hasaya, 5, illit 8) servante Suchbokova Shula, 17 & Jelena Gusare

14 v. o.

Feigmanis' translation of the original Russian census in Korsovka in 1897.

Yitskhak-Yaakov Super does not appear among the children of Shmuel, either because he was away from home studying, or because he was liable for military service as the second born son.

From the available evidence it seems that Yosef-Yehoash was a son of Yitskhak Super, one of the three alcohol traders mentioned in the 1837 litigation in Lutzin. My reason is based on the naming patterns. My wife's grandfather Rabbi Yitskhak-Yaakov Super was given the name Yaakov after his maternal great-grandfather Yaakov Dobrin. It seems likely that the name Yitskhak was given to him after his paternal great-grandfather Yitskhak Super.

Yosef Yehoash has been located in the records of Lutzin

### ***ADD LUDZA BIRTH RECORD OF SON TO YOSEF ITSKOVICH SUPER***

Thus confirming that he was a son of Yitskhak Super.

In 2003 Aleksanders Feigmanis took about three hundred photographs of the now accessible tombstones in the Jewish cemetery of Korsovka. There are large areas covered in weeds that may hide other family tombstones.



One of the tombstones, that of Yankel Heibish Super, is shown above. The Ohel (mausoleum) of Shmuel, the son of Yosef-Yehoash Super still stands but the tablet inscribed with the name has been removed, perhaps by the locals in this village where there are no longer any Jews or perhaps during the Nazi invasion in 1941 when nearly all the Jews were killed. Fortunately most of the cemetery survived.



Korsovka, 2003



Korsovka, 1929 with Khatzkel Super

Photographed by Feigmanis

A key source for the early nineteenth century relationships of the Supers is the census recorded in 1816. This is held by the Belarus State Historical Archive in Minsk. This anomaly is due to the political border changes whereby Lutzin was located in Vitebsk Province under Tsarist government, which province is now part of Belarus. Therefore some records for Lutzin (now Ludza) are held in Riga and some in Minsk.

The following are the key entries. See also attached chart and full family tree.

**1816 census:**

Fond 2640-1-617-55-55

Family number 28.

**Shmuel Gevushevich\* Super** aged 31 in 1811; 35 in 1816.

Shmuel Gevushevich's sons:

**Itsik** aged 9 in 1811; 13 in 1816.

**Mark** aged 2 in 1811; died in 1813.

**Leib** newborn in 1811; aged 3 in 1816.

Shmuel's son-in-law **Yankel Kufman Sholomovich**, absent in 1811, 18 in 1816.

Shmuel Gevushevich's wife **Brokha** aged 35 in 1816.

Itsik Shmuelovich's wife **Fruma** aged 17 in 1816.

Yankel Kufman's wife **Paika** aged 18 in 1816.

\*Shmuel's patronymic Gevushevich is the Russification of the Yiddish name Heibish, equivalent to the Hebrew name Yehoash.

**1834 census**

Fond 2640-1-617-155-156

Family number 58

**Shmuel Gevushevich Super** aged 35 in 1816, 53 in 1834.

From Shmuel Gevushevich's first wife, sons:

1. **Itsik** aged 13 in 1816; separated to family number 59 in 1834 list.

2. **Mordkha** not written in 1816, moved to family number 259 in 1826.

3. **Leib** aged 4 in 1816; 20 in 1834.

From Shmuel's second wife **[Elka** from latter sources sons:

**Yankel** newborn in 1834; 3 in 1834.

Shmuel's son-in-law **Kifka** Sholomovich 18 in 1816, moved to family number 259 in 1824.

Family number 59:

**Itsik Shmuelovich Super** previously family number 58.

Aged 31 in 1834.

Itsik's son **Mordukh** newborn in 1816; 14 in 1834.

Itsik's second son **Livsha** [should be **Moshe**] **Simkha** aged 5 in 1834.

Itsik's wife **Fruma** aged 32 in 1834.

Mordukh's wife **Touba** aged 16 in 1834.

Since Shmuel's son **Tuviah (Gutta)** and Itsik's son **Yosef-Yehoash** do not appear in the 1834 census, they must have been born after this date.

From the above it can be seen that the head of the family in 1816 was Shmuel Super, born 1781. His father's name was "Gevush" or Heibish/Yehoash, born probably about 1760.

