



Archive Service - Glossary

Arshine

- Russian measurement which has been in use since the 16th century. It was standardized by Peter the Great in the 18th century to measure exactly twenty-eight English inches (71.12 cm). Thus, 80 vershoks = 20 piads = 5 arshines = 140 English inches (355.60 cm)

Burgher

- A title for the residents of a city/town that shows that they belong to a lower middle class (craftsmen/ merchants etc). Those people had some rights e.g. to vote. Therefore, it is more than simply being a resident.

Clan

- Family

Kahal or Qahal

- A Hebrew term meaning 'assembly' or 'community' referring to the autonomous governments of Jewish communities in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and the Russian Empire.

Khaim

- Chaim

Odnodvoretz

- Odnodvoretz was a social group of the Russian gentry in the late 17th - mid 19th centuries. Those of this group who failed to prove nobility or regain it through the Table of Ranks were ranked with the state peasantry. [More information](#)

Patronym

- A patronym is your father's name after your first name. For example if someone is called Chaim Minsky, and his father is called Igor, then Chaim's full name would be Chaim Igorevich Minsky (surname), where Igorevich is the patronym and Minsky is the surname.

To apply this in English, if Jack Cohen's father's name was Michael, Jack would be Jack Michael Cohen. Or if it was a female Jackie Cohen, she would

be Jackie Michaela Cohen (or other surname if and when she marries and takes her husband's surname).

The name Koifman Hirshev is also a patronym but a much more old fashioned one which was only used in the 19th century. Nowadays "ev" is not used - only "evich")

Sazhen

- Old Russian measurement, approximately 7 feet

Quarter

- Administrative area - maybe a couple of streets

Vershoks

- An old Russian unit of length, approximately 4.4 centimetres.

Voivodeship

- An administrative division in Poland.

Volost

- Traditional administrative subdivision.

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