



*The Tursky tannery, Krynki, c.1912. Courtesy of Randy Kepecs. Kusiel (Yekutiel) Tursky, 19, in dark suit at center. His brother Shimon stands to his left; his sister Chuma looks through window at right. The tannery was owned by Shumel Lieb Tursky, their father.*

# Memorial Book of Krynki (Krynki, Poland)

## Translation of *Pinkas Krynki*

Original Book Edited by: D. Rabin

Originally published in Tel Aviv by  
Former Residents of Krynki  
in Israel and the Diaspora, 1970



A Publication of JewishGen, INC  
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**Memorial Book of Krynki (Krynki, Poland)**

Translation of *Pinkas Krynki*

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First Printing: May 2022, Iyar 5782

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Reproduction of Photographs: Sondra Ettlinger

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Printed in the United States of America by Lightning Source, Inc.

Library of Congress Control Number (LCCN): 2022934809

ISBN: 978-1-954176-45-4 (hard cover: 426 pages, alk. paper)

## **About JewishGen.org**

JewishGen, an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, serves as the global home for Jewish genealogy.

Featuring unparalleled access to 30+ million records, it offers unique search tools, along with opportunities for researchers to connect with others who share similar interests. Award winning resources such as the Family Finder, Discussion Groups, and ViewMate, are relied upon by thousands each day.

In addition, JewishGen's extensive informational, educational and historical offerings, such as the Jewish Communities Database, Yizkor Book translations, InfoFiles, Family Tree of the Jewish People, and KehilaLinks, provide critical insights, first-hand accounts, and context about Jewish communal and familial life throughout the world.

Offered as a free resource, JewishGen.org has facilitated thousands of family connections and success stories, and is currently engaged in an intensive expansion effort that will bring many more records, tools, and resources to its collections.

Please visit <https://www.jewishgen.org/> to learn more.

**Executive Director:** Avraham Groll

## **About the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project**

Yizkor Books (Memorial Books) were traditionally written to memorialize the names of departed family and martyrs during holiday services in the synagogue (a practice that still exists in many synagogues today).

Over the centuries, as a result of countless persecutions and horrific atrocities committed against the Jews, Yizkor Books (Sefer Zikaron in Hebrew) were expanded to include more historical information, such as biographical sketches of famous personalities and descriptions of daily town life.

Following the Holocaust, the idea of remembrance and learning took on an urgent and crucial importance. Survivors of the Holocaust sought out other surviving residents of their former towns to memorialize and document the names and way of life of those who were ruthlessly murdered by the Nazis. These remembrances were documented in Yizkor Books, hundreds of which were published in the first decades after the Holocaust.

Most of these books were published privately, or through landsmanshaftn (social organizations comprised of members originating from the same European town or region) that still existed, and were often distributed free of charge. Sadly, the languages used to document these crucial histories and links to our past, Yiddish and Hebrew, are no longer commonly understood by a

significant percentage of Jews today. As a result, JewishGen has undertaken the sacred responsibility of translating these books into English so that the culture and way of life of these communities will be preserved and transmitted to future generations.

In 1986, a group of farsighted JewishGenners started a project to pool their efforts together in groups based upon their ancestors from each town and donate money to get the Yizkor books of their ancestral towns translated into English. As the translated material became available, it was made accessible for free at [www.JewishGen.org/Yizkor](http://www.JewishGen.org/Yizkor). Hardcover copies can be purchased by visiting <https://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/ybip.html> (see below).

It is our hope that the translation of these books into English (and other languages) will assist the countless Jewish family researchers who are so desperately seeking to forge a connection with their heritage.

**Director of JewishGen Yizkor Book Project:** Lance Ackerfeld

### **About JewishGen Press**

JewishGen Press (formerly the Yizkor Books-in-Print Project) is the publishing division of JewishGen.org, and provides a venue for the publication of non-fiction books pertaining to Jewish genealogy, history, culture, and heritage.

In addition to the Yizkor Book category, publications in the Other Non-Fiction category include Shoah memoirs and research, genealogical research, collections of genealogical and historical materials, biographies, diaries and letters, studies of Jewish experience and cultural life in the past, academic theses, and other books of interest to the Jewish community.

Please visit <https://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/ybip.html> to learn more.

**Director of JewishGen Press:** Joel Alpert

**Managing Editor** - Jessica Feinstein

**Publications Manager** - Susan Rosin

## Notes to the Reader

The images in the original book were reproduced from photographs from the time of the first edition. These reproductions were already of poor quality, being pre-war and at least 30 or more years old. As a result the images in the book are not very good and the best achievable.

A reader can view the original scans of the book on the websites listed below.

The original book can be seen online at the Yiddish Book Center website:

<https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/collections/yizkor-books/yzk-nybc313837/pinkas-krinki>

or

at the New York Public Library Digital Collections website:

<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/30129f40-7525-0133-6825-00505686d14e#/?uuid=306ae00-7525-0133-d60d-00505686d14e>

To obtain a list of Shoah victims from Krynki (Krynki, Poland) the reader should access the Yad Vashem web site listed below; one can also search for specific family names using family name option. These lists are continually updated by Yad Vashem, so it is worthwhile to periodically search these lists.

There is more valuable information (including the Pages of Testimony, etc.) available on this website:  
<https://yvng.yadvashem.org/>

A list of all books available from JewishGen Press along with prices is available at:

<https://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/ybip.html>

## **Acknowledgements And Dedication**

Over twenty years ago, I began coordinating the translation of Pinkas Krynki, a Yizkor book. Little did I know then how much time it would take and how many people would be involved in this project. After many starts and stops, ups and downs – the book you're holding is now an unabridged English edition.

Yizkor books were written with great pain for the terrible loss of people, culture and tradition. The language in this book can be far from perfect, as is true for most Yizkor books.

There are so many people to thank for this accomplishment – all the folks at JewishGen and the JewishGen Press. Special thanks to Lance Ackerfeld., who kept the project on track through the years.

I also want to thank the many translators: Dora Rytman, Sara Mages, Eszter Andor, Hadas Eyal, Gloria Berkenstat Freund, Hadassah Goldberg, Judie Goldstein, Benjamin Kamm, Jerrold Landau, Danny Rubinoff, and Jim Yarin, with special thanks to Jerrold Landau for getting us through all the remaining Hebrew sections and preparing the book for this publication.

Last, but not least, I wish to thank everyone who contributed financially to make this English translation possible.

The book is dedicated to my Wolf family from Krynki, especially my great grandmother, Cherney Wolf (see picture below). Plus those who survived World War II, and sadly, the many who did not. Our cousins, Feivel Wolf, Lola Wolf-Resnick, and Samuel Wolf were among the survivors who wrote about their experiences and accounts of the War for this book

Michael Palmer, Project Coordinator



Cherney Wolf. Photo taken about 1900 in Krynki. Not in original book; Courtesy of Michael Palmer



## Credits and Captions for Book Cover

### Front cover

Top: *View toward St. Anne's Church from Kavkaz district, June 2014.* Photo by Tomek Wisniewski (Bagnowka-Bialystok). Kavkaz synagogue, right, is now the Communal Cultural Center in Krynki.

Bottom:

*Wedding guests, Krynki, December 1937.* Courtesy of Helen Abeles.

### Back cover

Right: *First Girls' Hebrew School in Krynki, 1903.* Middle row, sixth and eighth from the left, founders Sima and Malka Grossman. Between them, student Hindke Nisht. Courtesy of Hadassah Goldberg, John Gorfinkel, and the Former Residents of Krynki in Israel.

Lower left: *Couple poses in front of the Kavkaz (Jewish and tannery) district, 1938.* Courtesy of the Communal Cultural Center in Krynki and Bob Silverstein.

Lower right: *Bryna Itta Shushan, Krynki, February 12, 1922.* Courtesy of Rosalind Finkelstein. From a photo postcard sent to her cousin in America.

## Geopolitical Information

**Krynki**, Poland is located at 53°16' N 23°47' E and 136 miles ENE of Warszawa

	Town	District	Province	Country
Before WWI (c. 1900):	Krynki	Grodno	Grodno	Russian Empire
Between the wars (c. 1930):	Krynki	Grodno	Białystok	Poland
After WWII (c. 1950):	Krynki			Poland
Today (c. 2000):	Krynki			Poland

### Alternate Names for the Town:

Krynki [Pol, Rus], Krinek [Yid], Krienek, Krinki, Krinok

### Nearby Jewish Communities:

Odelsk, Belarus 9 miles N	Wasilków 24 miles WSW
Kolonia Izaaka, Belarus 9 miles N	Sidra 25 miles NW
Vyalikaya Byerastavitsa, Belarus 11 miles ESE	Zabłudów 25 miles SW
Gródek 12 miles SSW	Volpa, Belarus 25 miles ENE
Indura, Belarus 13 miles NNE	Ros, Belarus 26 miles E
Sokółka 16 miles NW	Golobudy, Belarus 26 miles SE
Michałowo 18 miles SSW	Janów Sokolski 27 miles WNW
Jałówka 18 miles SSE	Narew 27 miles SSW
Kuźnica 18 miles NNW	Nowy Dwór 27 miles NNW
Supraśl 18 miles W	Białystok 28 miles WSW
Svislach, Belarus 21 miles SE	Vawkavysk, Belarus 29 miles ESE
Mstibovo, Belarus 22 miles ESE	Hrodna, Belarus 29 miles N
Lunna, Belarus 24 miles ENE	Skidel, Belarus 29 miles NE
	Narewka 30 miles S

**Jewish Population:** 3,542 (in 1900)



Map of Poland with **Krynki** indicated

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