

So I thought I would give you all a wrap up of my genealogical tour of the cities and towns and villages where the Stolz family originated from at least as far back as the late 1700s and early 1800s.

From the family tree below you can see a few things: The earliest Stolz we have been able to trace back is Schia Stolz from a very small village Horodyszczce (horo- dee- cha). We were able to find a woman there who bought her very small house on a dirt road from a man named Stolz who died 20 years ago! He had a daughter name Milka, Amelia was her legal name. He also had other children. Milka lived in the nearby city of Drohobycz (Dro-ho-beech) which had the largest and most elaborate synagogue in the entire region which has recently been rebuilt, the outside anyway, the interior is still waiting for more funds to be raised by Jews in Israel and elsewhere who are funding this restoration. I posted a video of the woman and her house where the last Stolz lived until just 20 years ago! Our researcher is going to follow up about Amelia/Milka who died herself 10 years ago and/or any of her siblings. So Schia Stolz from the very small village Horodyszczce (horo- dee- cha) married Ester and we do not know her maiden name. They ran an inn, probably out of their house. They gave birth to Symche Stolz in 1849 in the same village so Schia Stolz and Ester must have been born around the 1820s. We don't know but assume they must have had other children but we have no records of them. Symche Stolz married Chaje (Cchaya) Badia from the town of Komarno and then moved to Boryslaw (Boar-ee-swav), a larger city than both Horodyszczce or Komarno, where Symche got a job as a watchman at one of the oil wells or probably at an ozokerite mine. Ozokerite was commonly referred to as earth wax, a naturally occurring odoriferous mineral wax or [paraffin](#) found in many localities. But the sole sources of commercial supply are in [Galicia](#), at [Boryslaw](#), [Dzwiniacz](#) and [Starunia](#), though the mineral is found at other non commercial points on both flanks of the [Carpathians](#).

Ozokerite deposits are believed to have originated in much the same way as [mineral veins](#), the slow evaporation and oxidation of [petroleum](#) having resulted in the deposition of its dissolved paraffin in the fissures and crevices previously occupied by the liquid. As found native, ozokerite varies from a very soft wax to a black mass as hard as [gypsum](#). There was an enormous oil industry in and around Boryslaw at that time as wells as ozokerite mines. There were around 1,500 oil wells.

So Symche Stolz and Chaje Badian Stolz lived and gave birth to about 9 or 10 children at several different house numbers in Boryslaw, none of which are traceable because they had no street names back then and there are no maps showing where those house numbers would be currently. You can see the children and dates of birth of the family tree above, but also we know that they gave birth to Solomon who is not listed on the family tree and possibly one other child. Harry who was my grandfather, and who was always called Shea, was named obviously after his grandfather Schia so that probably is the correct spelling for our grandfather's real name, not Shea, and Harry was his Americanized name. His brother's Samuel and Solomon came over with him. His sister Sura/Sadie, married Symche/Sidney Trinkler, son of Leib Trinkler from the nearby town of Niezuchow (nuh zoo chove). Israel Moses Stolz we believe stayed in the Boryslaw area. There were also Reisel/Rose Stolz and Ester Stolz. I am not sure if one or both of them went to Israel. Maybe one of you reading this (Steven L. Feder, for example) can clarify this. Of course Symche Stolz and Chaje Badian Stolz, my great grandfather and great grandmother, also stayed right there in Boryslaw in all likelihood. And we all know the sorrowful fate that later befell any and all of our relatives and ancestors who did not leave for America or Israel or elsewhere.

Now of course Chaje Badian Stolz was the mother of Harry, Sam and Sol, and her side of the family goes back even further than we can trace the Stolz side of the family starting with Mayer Stecher in the city of Stryj (Shtree) born in the 1770s or so. Mayer married Chaje Gitel and they moved from Stryj to Komarno. We can't trace either of them back any further. They had a daughter Keila Stecher in Komarno, who lived from 1797 to 1899, a full 102 years which in those days was remarkable. Keila married Moses Hersch Badian from Komarno and they had a daughter, Chaje Stecher Badian. Keila moved to Boryslaw,

probably to be near her daughter Chaje after Keila's husband Moses Hersch Badian died 23 yrs before Keila did. The date of the marriage between Symche Stolz and Chaje Badian which was after the birth dates of all of their children, was just the date that they got formally, or legally re-married again for the sake of the authorities, since records of Jewish marriages before those times were often lost.

On my trip we visited Komarno and saw and photographed the ruins of the Jewish cemetery there and a few broken gravestones, or matzevahs and a plaque in Hebrew on a somewhat newer building on the cemetery site. We saw the central square where the market was, and where many Jews were killed or transported from to the camps. We then went to Stryj (Shtree) where we saw and photographed the still standing walls and empty shell of the synagogue where Symche/Sidney Trinkler and Sura/Sadie Stolz were married and where their child Hyman/Hymie Trinkler was bar mitzvahed. We know that all of our ancestors who were alive at that time would have attended this grand synagogue at least for those occasions and probably many others. We found the remains, just a plaque, where the Jewish cemetery used to be. In most of these towns and cities the Soviets removed all Jewish cemeteries that the Nazis had not destroyed and put up plaques or monuments.

We drove thru Niezuchow (Nuh-zoo-chuv) which is much more rural, and which is the village where Leib Trinkler and his son Symche were from.

We visited and spent a long time in Boryslaw and learned all about the oil wells and earth wax/ozokerite mines there where our great grandfather was a watchman. We saw the ruins of a small synagogue, a monument where the Jewish cemetery used to be, a school house that was used for children of all religions and was in use at the time my grandfather Harry/Schia was of school age and is still in use today. I posted many historical photos of old Boryslaw that were provided to us by the historian of the Boryslaw oil industry who gave us a details tour and history of the city and guided us around to several places. On the way from Boryslaw to Drobovycz (dro-ho-beech), we saw a sign for a Jewish monument, which led us down a dirt road to a large stone monument and down an even narrower dirt road to mass graves in the forest where many Jews had been taken and shot. It was obvious that some Jewish organization made up in part by the families of some of those who died there, had erected very large long, flat, slightly raised concrete mass grave monuments, maybe a dozen of them, some with plaques bearing the names of the dead, others probably for those whose names are not known. The dirt roads had actually been "paved" with crushed granite and the area is clearly being cared for. We spent some time there in contemplation and reverence for the magnitude of what we were just starting to have a much more direct experience of than we ever could have before from a distance. We were able like never before to start to imagine what our people, our very own relatives and ancestors who didn't leave for America had suffered. It is not inconceivable that one or more of our ancestors could have been slaughtered right there in this now peaceful mass burial ground in the middle of the forest just a few miles from Boryslaw, in and around where Harry, Sam and Sol's parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews and cousins all would have lived.

Next we went to Drohobycz (dro-ho-beech) where the largest synagogue in the region of Galicia was, which is what the entire region was called. We found that synagogue with the exterior completely rebuilt like new and the interior under construction, all paid for by an organization in Israel that raised funds to restore this famous synagogue, for what reason I could not completely understand. There are virtually no Jews left in the entire area. But it was my understanding that once or twice a year it was the intention of this group to have Jews travel there from all over and hold services and ceremonies there in honor of the Jews of Galicia in general and those who would have come to this famous synagogue at least on occasion during their lives. And there's no doubt that many if not all of our ancestors would have worshipped at this famous synagogue on at least a few occasions during their lives if not more frequently.

We then drove on to Horodyszcze (hor oh dee cha) where the Stolz family began as far as our family tree can trace us back. I was shocked to see what a very rural, tiny little village it was and so peaceful and pastoral. And then our researcher/guide got out of the car and went to speak to a family he saw and asked if they knew of anyone named Stolz. The father said he did, a man who had lost one hand or one arm in an accident, who had died just 20 years ago. And the adult son of the man who told us this information jumped on a bicycle and led us along a winding, narrow dirt road that wove along what was a small river or large creek, to the house of people who might know more about this Mr. Stolz. The first house knew of him but told us of another house a little further on who would know more. This turned out to be a small house owned by a woman who bought it from Mr. Stolz's daughter after he died 20 years ago or so. The daughter's name she said was Milka or formally Amelia, who lived in Drohobycz (dro ho beech) and who had also died herself about 10 years ago. But the woman said that Milka had siblings, other children of Mr. Stolz. She did not remember his first name if she ever knew it. Our researcher is going to follow up about Milka/Amelia and her siblings. Hopefully some of them were men and so will still retain the Stolz name. We don't know Milka's married name. But since it's so recent records should be more complete. This was a huge revelation to me and to our researcher that there were still Stolzes in this town of our origins back in the early 1800s and probably before, as recently as 20 years ago and his children as recently as 10 years ago and possibly more recently. He said that it might have been possible that they changed their religion or just hid their Jewishness to survive the war.

After this amazing revelation we drove on to Sambor which was a big center of Jewish life in the area. There we found the ruins of the Jewish cemetery and a brick wall which a local woman told us was where the Nazis lined up all the Jews of Sambor and shot them and she showed us where the walls were filled with bullet holes for a very long section of those walls. You can read some history of Jewish Sambor about halfway down this page <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/sambor/SamI.html> . I will also re post some history of the other cities and towns mentioned above and a link to a map of the area showing where each town is located.

It was truly a revelation to finally know, and visit and get the feel of the places where our ancestors lived going back to the late 1700s and early 1800s and probably earlier than that but before which we have no records. Before this research and this trip, we had no idea, none of us, where any of our ancestors on the Stolz side came from, what any of the names of any ancestors were beyond the generation of Harry, Sam and Sol. We didn't know the names of their parents. We didn't even know for sure what country they were from no less what cities, towns and villages they all came from and lived in since at least the late 1700s early 1800s. Now we know their names, their children, dates of birth and marriage, synagogues they worshipped at, even their occupations in some cases. And we have photos and some videos showing what these areas are like so we can imagine the lives and surroundings of our ancestors for the first time. I am overjoyed that I was able to do this and now I look forward to doing the same on my mother's side of the family. Unfortunately they were all from what is now eastern Ukraine near Russia, which is currently too dangerous to travel to.