

Important Genealogical Information in Old Jewish Newspapers

Important genealogical information can be found in old Jewish newspapers published in Russia in the end of 19th – and beginning of 20th century in Hebrew, Yiddish and Russian, which are available on-line at the website of **National Library of Israel** recently updated at <https://www.nli.org.il/en/discover/newspapers/jpress>

There are lists of donations for poor, victims of fire, pogroms, and, especially, for Eretz Israel, collected by the representatives of the “Society for support of Jewish farmers and artisans in Syria and Palestine” established in 1890 with its Vaad (Committee) based in Odessa. Local branches of the Society were founded all over the Russian Empire.

The donations were collected on regular basis as well as on various occasions like weddings, births, bar mitzvas, Torah readings on Holidays, In Memoriam, etc. Eretz-Israel donation bowls put in synagogues and beit-hamidrashim were full on Yom Kippur Eve. The names of the donors and other important information were published mostly in Ha-Melitz. Here is one of such publications:

Ha-Melitz, 21.08.1898

I am sending my Mazal-Tov blessings to my friend Moshe Meir Leites from Mstislavl for the wedding of his brother Yakov Leites with Anna Gurevich. In the memory of this event, I donated 2 times “chai” (18) kopecks for the benefit of the workers in the Holy Land.

B. Pines from Chislavichi.

Based in Warsaw, Hazfirah was also publishing lists of donors in behalf of poor, victims of fire, hunger and pogroms.

All the lists mentioned above and their original sources can be found at https://shlomogurevich.net/Mogilev_gubernia/Mogilevgubernia.html and further under Uyezd towns.

[Home](#)