

A Jewish Birth Record from Latvia – Exploring Raduraksti

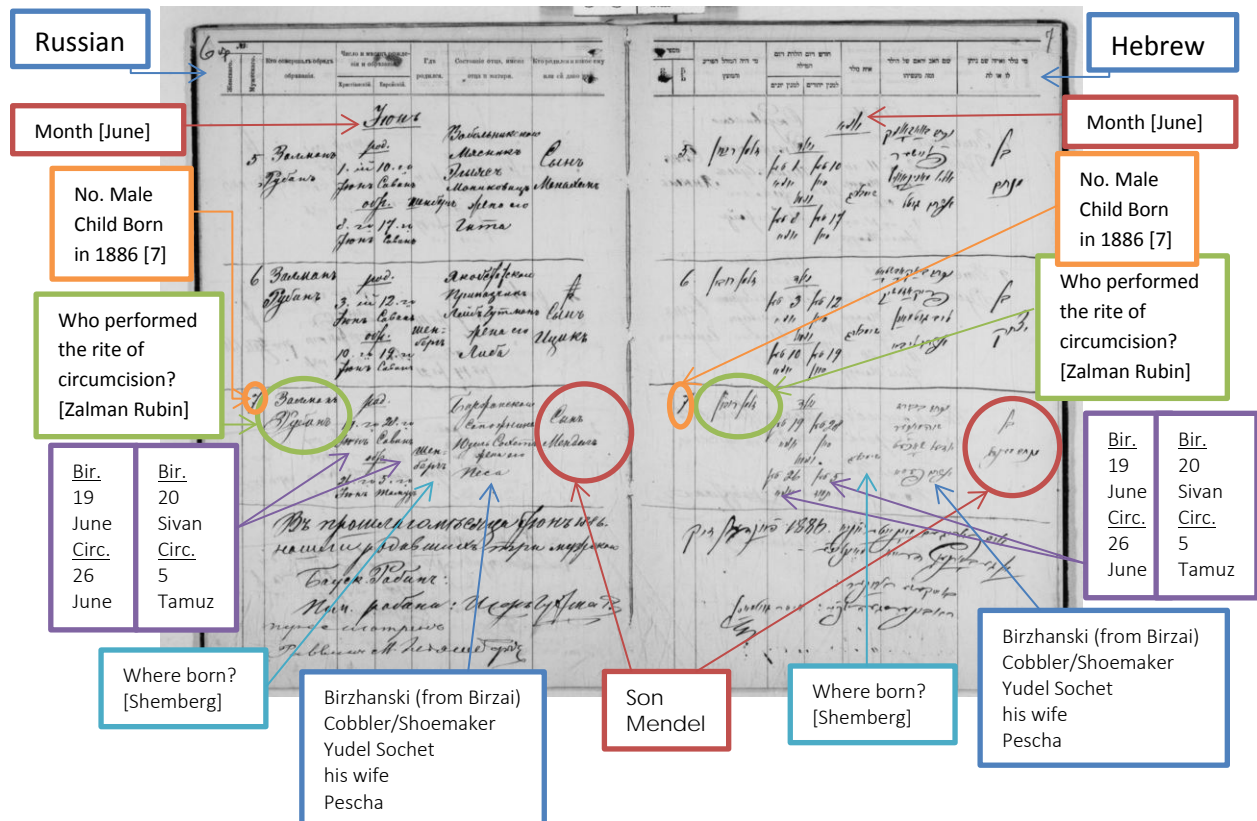
The Latvian government in 2007 created a website to provide free access to vital records.ⁱ In [Latvian Jewish Vital Records – Exploring Raduraksti](#), you can learn how to access these records. The records date from the mid-1800s through 1909. The records will help you identify previously unknown family members and recreate family groups lost because of the Holocaust and emigration.

If you have not yet read the guide to accessing the records on Raduraksti, click [here](#). If you would like to find your family in the Latvian vital records, this new guide will assist you in understanding the format in which the records are written. You will also learn what information items are included in a sample record.

Navigate to a vital record image page for births. Use directions posted [here](#).

The Jewish vital records posted on Raduraksti are usually written in both Russian (on the left side) and Hebrew script (on the right side). I have seen some records without the Hebrew side.

Below is the June 1886 birth record for Mendel Sochet.ⁱⁱ Let's deconstruct the page to make it easier to locate specific names and dates.



Russian | **Hebrew**

Month [June] | **Month [June]**

No. Male Child Born in 1886 [7] | **No. Male Child Born in 1886 [7]**

Who performed the rite of circumcision? [Zalman Rubin] | **Who performed the rite of circumcision? [Zalman Rubin]**

Bir. 19	Bir. 20
June	Sivan
Circ. 26	Circ. 5
June	Tamuz

Where born? [Shemberg] | **Where born? [Shemberg]**

Birzhanski (from Birzai) Cobbler/Shoemaker Yudel Sochet his wife Pescha | **Birzhanski (from Birzai) Cobbler/Shoemaker Yudel Sochet his wife Pescha**

Son Mendel

Translations Worksheet: The worksheet below shows the headings in Russian for a page of birth recordings. The facing page displays the same headings in Hebrew. The English header translations are the same for both Russian and Hebrew. It is helpful to use a worksheet as you go through the birth records to record your findings. I have completed the first line with the information extracted from Mendel Sochet.

Translations Worksheet

Russian BMDD Headings for Latvian Jewish Vital Records
held on Raduraksti; <http://www.lvva-raduraksti.lv/en.html>Births for Year: 1886

<i>№.</i> Женского	<i>№.</i> Мужского	Кто совершал обряд обръзания	Число и мѣсяць рождения и обръзания Христіанскій	Число и мѣсяць рождения и обръзания Еврейскій	Гдѣ родился	Состояніе отца, имена отца и матери	Кто родился и какое ему или ей дано имя
Female No	Male No	Who performed the rite of circumcision	Day & month of Birth and Circumcision Christian	Day & month of Birth and Circumcision Hebrew	Where born	Father's occupation, name of father and of mother	Who was born and what name was given to him or her
	7	Zalman Rubin	<u>Bir.</u> 19 June	<u>Bir.</u> 20 Sivan	Shemberg	Birzhanski (from Birzai) Cobbler/Shoemaker Yudel Sochet, his wife Pescha	Son Mendel
			<u>Circ.</u> 26 June	<u>Circ.</u> 5 Tamuz			

Resource: A copy of this worksheet can be found on [Dropbox](#).

Now you can navigate within and extract the appropriate information from a birth record on the Raduraksti website. Learning where the key information is located is the first step in locating information in an unfamiliar language.

If you have any questions, [please let me know](#).

Jennifer

ⁱ Latvian State Historical Archives, *Raduraksti* (<http://www.lvva-raduraksti.lv/en.html> : accessed 13 February 2015), Project page.

ⁱⁱ Latvian Jewish Rabbinate metrics books for births in 1886, Latvia, Skaistkalnes, p. 6-7 (image 9 of 18), June births, 3rd entry, number 7, Mendel Sochet; digital image, *Raduraksti* (<http://www.lvva-raduraksti.lv/en.html> : accessed 13 February 2015).