

Notes about the document black-samuel-passport-ukraine-1904-or-1905.jpg

I consulted a librarian colleague at the University of Toronto Libraries with extensive knowledge of Ukrainian language and culture. She and a Ukrainian-speaking student kindly translated/transcribed the document. Below are excerpts from her e-mails, in the order she sent them (in September/October, 2015):

It's a passport. It indicates that he was born on 18 Dec. 1887. He was of medium build with light brown hair. The name is full of curly cues, but it's something like Shmul (Samuel) Avrum [third name] Bl___. I'll try to figure the last name out and the place the passport was issued.

The last name could be Bleich, and it could have been issued in 1905. The writing is a bit difficult to decipher. He was from the Podolia Governate (province), Balta uyezd (county). It looks like a smaller geographical locality is mentioned.

I had a student help me—we consulted and came up with some more probable answers. What is written for occupation and marital status still is beyond us, as is the locality within Balta, but we'll ask around. There is a signature of the issuer of the document at the top and bottom of the page. We can't make the name out, but figure it's not as important to you (some Russian bureaucrat). Curious about the scar on his neck!

Паспорт

Выдан:

1. Вероисповедание: **иудейское** – Religion: Jewish
2. Время рождения или возраст: **род. 18 Декабря 1887 г.** – Date of birth or age: born December 18, 1887
3. Род занятий: (?) – Occupation:
4. Состоит ли или состояли в браке: (?) – Marital status:
5. Находится при нем: прочерк – Dependents: dash
6. Отношение к отбыванию воинской повинности: прочерк – Military obligations: dash
7. Подпись (владельца паспорта): **Шмиль Блейх** – Signature of passport owner: Shmil' Blaikh

При неграмотности предъявителя обозначаются его приметы: - In case the holder is illiterate, his features must be specified:

Рост: **средний** – Height: middle

Цвет волос: **русые** – Hair color: brown

Особые приметы: **на шеи шрам (?)** – Specific features: a scar on the neck (not sure if understood correctly)

Предъявитель сего – **Подольской губ., Балтийского уезда, (?)** – The holder of this – (from) Podol'skaya guberniya, Baltiyskiy uезд, (?)

Шмиль Аврум Иуков Блейх. – Shmil' Avrum-Iukov Blaikh

Уволен в разные города и селения Российской империи от ниженаписанного числа: **31 Декабря 1905 года** – Dismissed to other towns and places of Russian empire from the date pointed below: December 31, 1905.

Дань с приложением печати: **тысяча девятсот четвертого года (?)** дня – Date with the seal: 1904 year (the day is unclear)

Печати - seals

Подпись (?) - signature

So he was single (холост), and worked in some type of industry or manufacturing (промышленник).

I would think that Avrum (Abraham) and Iukov (probably Jacob) are significant (deceased) relatives based on Jewish naming traditions.

And finally, I rethought what the top line and middle line say about location, and I'm pretty sure that the passport was issued in Kruti (not far from Balta), and that he was a resident thereof. It's kind of like saying you're from Toronto, but you're really from Milton.