

# Origin of the Name Grollman

by

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According to a family tree created by Arthur Grollman, our branch of the Grollman family came from two small towns in what is today Northwest Lithuania: Rietavas, (also spelled Ritavas or Ritove) and Silalė. Both towns are in the Raseiniai district of the province (guberniya) of Kovno (also spelled Kaunas).



from: <http://www.eac2002.lt/en/maps/lithuania.htm>

According to Alexander Beider's *Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire*, the name Grol was common in this area. Beider derives this name, as well as the

name Grolman, from the Yiddish word “groyl”, meaning terror, horror, shudder. Jews in Lithuania adopted surnames only in the early nineteenth century as a result of pressure from the Russian Czar (Jewish Statute of 1804) and the names only begin appearing regularly in archival records by the 1830s. They often used personal characteristics, both negative and positive, to generate their surnames (see Meltzer, 38-39). The Jewish Genealogy website, which contains numerous on-line archival records, corroborates the name Grol in Rietavas (see tables below). However, there is no record of a Grollman here. The HaMeLitz Archive lists a Moshe Aharon Grollman from Silale in 1899, in addition to several Grol(l)mans from Riga (Latvia). Further, a *Revision list* (census) for all of Lithuania in 1895 shows eleven instances of the name Grolman in the town of Pakruojis (Northeast of Rietavas). These Grolmans had connections with Riga as well. Beider also cites the name Grolman having existed in Riga. This is not surprising as the patronym *-man* is German, and Riga was under German administration in the nineteenth century. Arthur Grollman mentions in his family tree that our furthest known ancestors, Chaim and Moshe Grollman, came from Latvia in the mid nineteenth century. This could explain how we came to be named “Grollman” rather than simply Grol or Groll. However, more research needs to be done to answer this question definitively.

### Books Cited

Beider, Alexander. *Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire* Teaneck: Avotaynu, 1993).

Meltzer, Milton. *World of our Fathers. The Jews of Eastern Europe* Farrar, New York: Straus and Giroux, 1974.

### Appendix: Archival records for Jewish name Grol/Grollman

Much information on the town of Rietavas can be found on the following website:

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/ritavas/rtv-sitemap.html>

(The lists on Rietavas below came from this site).

#### Rietavas List 1

## 1816 Revision List

14 August 1816

### Part II (G to N)

12	GROEL	Samson	Iosel	Son-in-law	29	
	.	Sora	Hatskel	Daughter	25	

from: <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/ritavas/rtv-1816rev2.html>

#### What are Revision Lists?

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The revision lists were a series of 10 censuses ordered by the Imperial Czarist Russian Empire, designed for taxation and conscription purposes. Jews first appeared in the 1795 Revision List.

These revision lists provide valuable genealogical information about every member of every family and household, in the Jewish community in which he had originally been registered. They show: family name, given name, father's name, age, and the relationships of each family member within the household. There is often additional notation about significant events that had occurred since the last revision was taken a number of years before, such as death, conscription, moved away, unknown, change in guild status, etc., along with the date that this happened.

from: <http://www.jewishgen.org/litvak/abbdesc.htm>

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## Rietavas List 2

### *1877 Box Taxpayers List*

*A large number of the persons listed here are shown as living in shtetlach other than Rietavas. It is not yet known why their names should appear on a Box Tax list for Rietavas*

#### *Part 1: A - I*

GROL	Movsha	Shlioma	Poor; lives in Taurage
GROL	Shlioma	Iosel	Died
GROL	Irmiya	Shlioma	Poor; lives in Taurage
GROL	Chaim	Shlioma	Poor

from: <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/ritavas/rtv-1877box1.html>

The Box tax was a different thing. It was a specific Jewish tax paid by the whole Jewish population, except for some higher professionals and perhaps merchants. It was a tax on every pound of Kosher meat sold by a butcher and purchased by a Jew, and on every animal slaughtered. I still can't figure out how it was done. It should have been collected by the butcher, I see no other way, but I don't know how it was done. And where was the box? In the butcher's house or where? I don't know. But the government for the administration of the Box tax used to announce a public auction, and the person who suggested collecting the largest sum was granted the right to collect the Box tax for a few years, four years in a certain area.<sup>3</sup> With these tax measures the Box tax was collected. To estimate the sum expected they had to make an estimate of the Jewish population. Who would buy and eat meat and who should pay the tax? Thus we have these lists of tax payers of Candle taxes for 1845 and 1846, and various later lists for Box taxes: for 1877, 1888, 1892, and for some Jewish communities for 1904, 1908, and 1912, but it's different for different Jewish communities.

from: <http://www.jewishgen.org/litvak/vital-p4.htm>

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### Rietavas List 3

## *1885 Community Members List*

### Part 1: A - S

GROL	Srol	Abel	well-to-do
GROL	Iosel	Shlioma	well-to-do
GROL	Urish	Shloma	poor
GROL	Movsha	Gilel	poor

from:

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/ritavas/rtv-1885Members1.html>

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### Rietavas List 4

## *1890 Rabbi Electors' List*

*This list is in the Kaunas archives. The names have been re-arranged in alphabetical order*

GROL	Iosel Shlioma	52	.
GROL	Fayvel Honel	39	.
GROL	Sroel Abel	42	did not show up
GROL	Movsha Gilel	44	.
GROL	Uriash Shlioma	69	.

from: <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/ritavas/rtv-1890electors1.html>

A list of permanent town dwellers who had a right to participate in the election. This usually includes the family name, the first name and father's name or patronymic, and often their age.

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### Rietavas List 5

## *1910 List of Real Estate Owners*

*This list is made up of the lot number as shown on the 1910 plan of the village,*

followed by the surname and first name of the owner, and in two cases, the name of his father.

216 GROL Avel  
218 GROL Hatskel

from: <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/ritavas/rtv-ptyowners.html>

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**Rietavas List 6**

***1915 - Rietavas town dwellers living outside the town***

*(Part of a larger list relating to the Rasseiniai district)*

<b>GROL</b>	Shimel	Head of Household	Abel	.	Lives in estate "Kukhary", Zemaiciu Naumiestic volost; farmer.
.	Bina	Wife	.	.	.
.	Sora	Daughter	Shimel	Bina	.
.	Leah	Daughter	"	"	.
<b>GROL</b>	David	Head of Household	Abel	.	Lives in estate "Gilegiry", Labardzhiai volost; farmer and money-lender
.	Chaya	Wife	.	.	.
.	Beylia	Daughter	David	Chaya	.
.	Dveyra	Daughter	"	"	.
.	Cherna	Daughter	"	"	.
.	Sheyna	Daughter	"	"	.
.	Chana	Daughter	"	"	.
.	Girsh	Son	"	"	.
.	Abel	Son	"	"	.
<b>GROL</b>	Shlioma	Head of Household	Abel	.	Lives in estate "Gilegiry", Labardzhiai volost; farmer.
.	Tauba	Wife	.	.	.
.	Urel	Son	Shlioma	Tauba	.
.	Chana	Granddaughter	.	.	.
.	Shapshel	Grandson	.	.	.
<b>GROL (SHNEYDER)</b>	Dana	Daughter	Shlioma	Tauba	Married.

From: <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/ritavas/rtv-towndwellers.html>



**JEWISH GEN HaMelitz List**

<b>Searching for Surname GROLLMAN</b> (D-M code 598660) Number of hits: 4 Run on Monday 23 August 2004 at 11:37:01					
Surname	Given Name	Comments	Town	Source	Year
GROLLMAN	G		Riga, Lat.	Hamelitz #214	1900
GROLMAN	Shraga	Beis Hakneses Hagadol	Riga, Lat.	Hamelitz #208	1899
GROLMAN	Moshe Aharon		Silale, Lith.	Hamelitz #249	1899
GROLLMAN	Shimon		Riga, Lat.	Hamelitz #221	1894

From:

[http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg~jgsearch~model~\[alllithuania\]hamelitze](http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg~jgsearch~model~[alllithuania]hamelitze)

This is an index to lists of names and announcements that were printed in the Hebrew newspaper *HaMelitz* during the years 1893 to 1903. With a few exceptions, only names listed as being from towns in Lithuania or Latvia have been included.

**JEWISH GEN All Lithuania Revision List**

<b>Searching for Surname GROLLMAN</b> (D-M code 598660) Number of hits: 11 Run on Monday 23 August 2004 at 11:41:33										
Town	Surname	Given Name	Father	Relationship	Age This	Reason Left	Comments	Date	Page	Publication Type
Uyezd					Age Last	Year			Registration	Archive / Fond etc
Guberniya									Former Registration	

Pakruojis Panevezys Kaunas	GROLMAN	Fayvush	Movsha	Head of Household			Resettled to Pakruojis/Panevezys. In Riga, family was adopted by Leyba Shmuelson, son of Abram	1895	395	Family list of Kaunas Guberniya Jews Expelled from Riga KRA/I-106/1/5344
	GROLMAN	Khase		Wife	50		Resettled to Pakruojis/Panevezys. In Riga, family was adopted by Leyba Shmuelson, son of Abram			
	GROLMAN	German	Fayvush	Son	29		Resettled to Pakruojis/Panevezys. In Riga, family was adopted by Leyba Shmuelson, son of Abram			
	GROLMAN	Shlioma	Fayvush	Son	25		Resettled to Pakruojis/Panevezys. In Riga, family was adopted by Leyba Shmuelson, son of Abram			
	GROLMAN	Mordkhel	Fayvush	Son	21		Resettled to Pakruojis/Panevezys. In Riga, family was adopted by Leyba Shmuelson, son of Abram			
	GROLMAN	Simon	Fayvush	Son	19		Resettled to Pakruojis/Panevezys. In Riga, family was adopted by Leyba Shmuelson, son of Abram			
	GROLMAN	Nisen	Fayvush	Son	11		Resettled to Pakruojis/Panevezys. In Riga, family was adopted by Leyba Shmuelson, son of Abram			
	GROLMAN	Zundel	Fayvush	Son	7		Resettled to Pakruojis/Panevezys. In Riga, family was adopted by Leyba Shmuelson, son of Abram			
	GROLMAN	Rebeka Leya	Fayvush	Daughter	16		Resettled to Pakruojis/Panevezys. In Riga, family was adopted by Leyba Shmuelson, son of Abram			

	GROLMAN	Libe	Fayvush	Daughter	14		Resettled to Pakruojis/Panevezys. In Riga, family was adopted by Leyba Shmuelson, son of Abram			
	GROLMAN	Berta	Fayvush	Daughter	9		Resettled to Pakruojis/Panevezys. In Riga, family was adopted by Leyba Shmuelson, son of Abram			

from: [http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg~jgsearch~model~\[alllithuania\]newrl](http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg~jgsearch~model~[alllithuania]newrl)

Information on the subject headings of this list can be found at:

<http://www2.jewishgen.org/litvak/revision.htm>