

Aaron Peczurán Descendants¹

The descendants of Aaron Peczurán, whose family took the name of Breakstone in the US, are not related to members of the Breakstone family from Panemune, Lithuania.²

Aaron Peczurán (pronounced as Petzurán)³ (c.1844-1929)⁴ was the son of either Feival or Meshulam.⁵ He was born in Kopulli (Kapył), Belarus about 50 miles south of Minsk and 250 miles south of Panemune, Lithuania.⁶ He was an inn keeper who also was a wheat dealer. He married his first wife, Pesha Pechandran? Goldin?, in 1855 and had seven children with her.⁷ He then married his second wife, Mary (Scheine) Canterovicz (nee Spiro), in 1891 and had another seven children with her, not including her daughter, Helen, from her first marriage. The family lived in Grozovo, Belarus, ten miles east of Kapył.⁸ He, Scheine, and their two youngest children immigrated to New York in 1913.⁹

Jacob (Yankel) Peczurán(b.1870)¹⁰, the son of Aaron and his first wife, was the first of the family to arrive in America in 1888.¹¹ According to Peczurán Breakstone family members, Jacob worked for Breakstone Bros. Dairy as a manager and subsequently changed his name to Breakstone. Breakstone family members state that Jacob was a milk wagon driver, whom the city residents would see coming and shout out, "Here comes Breakstone". Hence, his decision to change his last name.¹² From 1907 on, Jacob used the last name of Breakstone, as did all members of his family upon their arrival to the US.¹³

However, neither of these two family's accounts seems to be correct. Jacob was using the name, Brekstone by 1892, five years before Breakstone Bros. was formed, and his brother, Meyer, was using Breckstone and Brekstein.¹⁴ Given the fact that Isaac Breakstone, one of the co-founders of Breakstone Bros. Dairy was using the last name of Brekstone in 1891/92

and was working as a milk seller at 155 Madison and that Jacob was using the same last name in 1891/92 and working as a milk seller at 156 Madison, may indicate that Jacob was working with or for Isaac at the time he changed his name.¹⁵ Even more intriguing is that the Directory of Directors in the City of New York, 1915-1916, lists Israel Breakstone (Peczuran), Jacob's half-brother, as a director at Breakstone Bros. at their 344 Greenwich address.

Jacob went into the milk business with his brother, Meyer, who, in 1909, started Breakstone Milk Co.¹⁶ In 1917, Meyer started Breakstone and Yevlove. The company consisted of Jacob, Meyer, their brothers Phillip, Isidore and Joseph M., and Jacob Yevlove. Previously (in 1909), Abraham, Philip, and Israel had started the Breakstone Candy & Soda Water Co. on Essex St.¹⁷

¹ Research based on Cynthia Dorfman, Unpublished MS, Petzuran Family Tree, 1982 (based on recollections of Israel Petzuran Breakstone); Ward and Midge (Walter and Mirian Bregman), The Breakstone Family, 1981; Marge Goldin and Rhoda Nadel correspondence 2003-2004; Rochelle Kaplan Family Tree, "Descendants of Zalman Bregman/Brekman/Bregmantureva", circa 2004.

² It should be noted that the 1905 NY census "Jacob Breakstone," has a Max Breakstone, b. 1881 in Russia, his cousin, living with him. It is likely that Max was not really a Breakstone cousin but rather was a Petuzran Breakstone cousin, whom the census taker recorded with the Breakstone surname. Recent DNA analysis, however, shows that the author and his second cousin on his Bregstein side both have numerous matches with members of the Petzuran family! How this can be is yet unknown, especially since the Petzuran family members came from Belarus, while the Bregstein family as well as their various ancestor branches, all were from Lithuania. Moreover, though the author shows genetic matches with a number of the Breakstone family members from Panemune, none of those members show matches with Petzuran family members, suggesting that, at some point, a member of the author's Bregstein family, married into the Petzuran family

or vis a versa.

³ 1907 Belarus Duma Voters List, "Aron Petzuran"; Philip Bregman, Bella's son, the informant on her 1942 death certificate, stated that her father's first name was Uscher (Asher?); Louis Bregman, the son of Aaron's daughter, Bella, stated on his marriage license that his mother's maiden name was Cohen, but that is probably not correct. Aaron's gravestone gives his name as Aharon the son of Meshualm ha-Cohen, the Cohen. 9/11/1910 New York Arrival record for Aron's son, Abraham, has his last name as Peczuran.

⁴ Gravestone, Mt. Hebron Cemetery, N.Y., "Aaron Breakstone": died 2/6/1929, age 88 (b. 1840/41); 1915 New York census, Brooklyn, "Arron Brekston" stated that he was 70 (b.1844/45); 1920 US census, Bronx, NY, "Aaron Breakstone," stated that he was 58 (b.1861/62).

⁵ 1907 Belarus Duma Voters List, "Aron Petzuran" gives his patronymic as Faivelev; Gravestone, Mt. Hebron Cemetery, N.Y., "Aaron Breakstone", stated that he was the son of Meshulam.

⁶ NY Naturalization record, 9/18/1939, "Mary Breakstone," stated that her late husband, Aaron, was born in Kapyl.

⁷ Philip Bregman, Bella's son, the informant on her 1942 death certificate, stated that her mother's name was Pasha Pechedran. Her son, Meyer's 9/23/1894 Manhattan marriage license ("Maer Brekstein") gives his mother's name as Peshe Goldin. Could her name have been Peshe Golda Pechedran?

⁸ Hamburg Passenger Records, 5/1/1888, "Jankel Peziran" stated that he was born in Grosov; 9/11/1910 New York Passenger Arrival record for his brother, "Abraham Peczuran," stated that Abraham was born in Grosav; 6/4/1901 New York Passenger Arrival record for his brother Israel ("Srueel Petzuran") stated that he was from Rosowe; WWI draft registration ("6/5/1917, Boston, MA, Morris Breakstone") states that he was born in Grozow, Russia); Aaron Petzuran's gravestone stated that he was from Roziveh.

⁹ 1915 New York census, Brooklyn, "Arron Brekston" stated that he had been in the US for two years; 1920 US census, Bronx, NY, "Aaron Breakstone," stated that he immigrated in 1913.

¹⁰ Hamburg Passenger Records, 5/1/1888, "Jankel Peziran" stated that he was born 1870; 10/18/1892 Naturalization Record NY Supreme Ct., "Jake Brekstone" gives his date of birth as 10/17/1870; 1900 and 1910 US census, NY, NY, "Jacob Breakstone," both state 1870; 1915 NY census, Manhattan, "Jacob Breakstone," stated that he was born in 1867; 1920 census states 1864.

¹¹ Hamburg Passenger Records, 5/1/1888, "Jankel Peziran"; 10/18/1892 Naturalization Record, NY Supreme Ct. "Jake Brekstone" stated that he immigrated on 9/1882, which is not correct; 1900 US census, NY, NY, "Jacob Breakstone" stated that he immigrated in 1883. The 1910 US

census, gives his immigration date as 1888. 1915 NY census, Manhattan, "Jacob Breakstone," stated that he had been in the US for 28 years (1887); The 1920 US census states 1890.

¹² Earl Stone, the grandson of Joseph Breakstone a co-founder of Breakstone Bros. Dairy, stated that his name was Pidjanranski. Harry Breakstone, the son of Morris Breakstone, another co-founder of Breakstone Bros. Dairy, stated that his name was Pitchedrowsky and that he was a truckman for Breakstone Bros. who would go overnight by the 42nd St. Ferry to the depot in Weehuaken, NJ, to pick up tins of sour cream and cottage cheese and bring them back by (wagon? truck?) to Manhattan. He also stated that this Pidjanranski had a brother, Mara who opened a store and took the name of Meyer Breakstone. (The Pidjanranski name is also known to members of the Petzuran family.) Is Pidjanranski/Pitchedrowsky a misremembered name for the maiden name of Jacob and Meyer's mother: Pechandran?

¹³ Israel naturalized in 1912, Joseph Meyer in 1914, Phillip in 1915, all under the last name, "Breakstone". (Card Index, Naturalization Records, NY Supreme Ct. 1907-1924).

¹⁴ 10/18/1892 Naturalization Record, NY Supreme Ct. "Jake Brekstone"; 1893 NY City Directory, "Breckstein." His brother, Meyer, in 1894, was listed in the NY City Directory as Breckstone and his 9/23/1894 Manhattan marriage license gives his name as "Maer Brekstein". Rhoda Nadel stated that the 1895 birth certificate for Meyer's son, Raphael, gives his last name as Breakstone.

What name Jacob was using between his arrival in 1888 (see above) and his 1892 naturalization record is currently unknown. He does not appear in the New York city directories under Peczuran, Petzuran, Pechandran, Pidjanranski or Pitchedrowsky during these years.

¹⁵ He was also using Brekstein as evidenced on the birth certificates of his daughters born in 1900 and 1902.

¹⁶ (Manhattan City Directories, 1894-1909; 3/29/09 NY incorporation papers, give his name as Maer Breaksten and lists his partners, Louis and Momis Siegel.) In 1914, his daughter, Rose, was fined \$10 for improper labeling of milk sold from her wagon. ("Successful Prosecutions for Violations of the Sanitary Code, Week Ending 11/14/1914", Quarterly bulletin, NY, NY Dept. of Health, 1914, p. 420).

¹⁷ (Confectioners Gazette, NY, June 10, 1909, vol. 30, no. 333, p. 26).