

ANNUAL JEWISH GENEALOGY TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY

Florence Elman

For the ninth consecutive year, veteran Jewish genealogists Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff will be offering a research trip to the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library in Salt Lake City from October 25 - November 1.

The program offers genealogists the opportunity to spend an entire week of research at the library under the guidance and assistance of professional genealogists who have made dozens of research trips to Salt Lake City. (Gary was co-chair of the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held in Salt Lake City last year.) It includes a specially arranged three-hour class on day of arrival introducing the participants to the facilities and resources of the Family History Library; a mid-week informal group discussion of progress and problem-solving and access to trip leaders from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Library for on-site

assistance and personal consultations. For those new to genealogy, a beginners' workshop on the first morning of the trip introduces

them to the wonderful world of Hamburg immigration lists, U.S. passenger arrival lists, naturalization records and census records.

Social events include a mid-week group brunch for camaraderie and discussion of successes (and failures) and special seating at the Sunday morning broadcast of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

For additional information, write to SLC Genealogy Trip, 155 N. Washington Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621, call 201-387-3818 or e-mail garymokotoff@avotaynu.com.

Additional information is also provided at <http://www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm>.



שרשים SHORASHIM ROOTS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Into the Millennium 2001

This long-awaited passage of time came and went very quickly. Can we really be in 2001 already? I think that year will always exude an aura of science fiction to me. In genealogy though, all heads are turned toward 1901 and the preceding centuries. On that note, Agi Romer-Segal (Chief Librarian at the Harry B. Cohen Library) made certain that we were thoroughly grounded in the details of reading our ancestors' matzevot. In March, Agi spoke at our monthly program, and outlined the embedded Jewish traditions that determine what we put on our tombstones, and how symbols are expressed. Agi, Alexander Sharon, and Eugene Medvedovsky, fluent in Yiddish, Polish, and Russian, also gave us all a hand in translating unreadable papers we've had stored away. We're sure to be making translation more readily available in the future from now on.

Our May meeting was dedicated to mothers, and held at Deana and Mel Fishman's home. The photographs and stories of all those who participated enthusiastically made for a thoroughly, delightful evening. Except for meetings that require special equipment and space, we will be holding our programs in the homes of our members in the future. So many of you have commented on the fact that these gatherings are more informal, and infinitely more comfortable. Several members have already offered us their hospitality, and a system of rotation will be put in place for 2001-2002. We welcome your invitations!

Best regards,

Florence Elman, President – JGS/SA
haflo@home.com

We are grateful to the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta for its financial support of SHORASHIM.

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LIBRARY OF THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

David Bickman

Listed below are some of the recently acquired books in the society's library that would be of interest to members of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southern Alberta (listed by name, author & publisher):

1. *The Road to Letichev (Vols 1 & 2)*, David A. Chapin & Ben Weinstock, Writer's Showcase Press.

DESCRIPTION: Letichev county (Podolia Gubernia, Russian Ukraine) was the home of Baal Shem Tov and the cradle of the Chassidic movement. This two-volume book presents the history of the area from a distinctly Jewish perspective. It is encyclopedic in its detail and a worthwhile read for anyone whose ancestors came from pre-revolutionary Ukraine, Belarus, eastern Poland and northern Rumania. More than 8300 individuals are mentioned, including 600 Jewish surnames from the area. The period covered in the book includes the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

2. *Poyln: Jewish Life in the Old Country*, Alter Kacyzne et al., Metropolitan Books.

DESCRIPTION: A picture book containing beautiful photographs taken of Jewish life in Poland in the 1920s. Alter Kacyzne was hired by a Yiddish language newspaper in New York City, the Forverts, to document images of Jewish life in "the old country". He spent 10 years in Poland doing so. His photos give the reader a view of a world that is gone. Kacyzne died in a Ukrainian pogrom in 1941 and his pictures languished in obscurity until very recently when this book was published.

3. *The Soup Has Many Eyes*, Joann Rose Leonard, Bantam Doubleday.

DESCRIPTION: The author writes about her grandmother's life in a pre-revolutionary Russian village, hiding from Cossacks to avoid being murdered, being lost from her family for 12 years before being miraculously found, and then emigrating to America. This book was written as a legacy for her children grandchildren so that they might better know their East European Jewish roots and the American Jewish experience of the early 20th century.

JGS (SOUTHERN ALBERTA) RESOURCES

BOOKS

From Generation to Generation, Arthur Kurzweil, William Morrow & Co., N.Y., 1980.

Keeping Family Stories Alive, Vera Rosenbluth, Hartley & Marks Pub. Inc., U.S.A., 1997.

Canadian Jewish Reference Book & Directory 1963, Eli Gottesman, Mortimer Ltd., Ottawa, Ontario, 1963.

Family Who's Who, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, (First Edition of Endowments & Family Trees).

Who's Who in Canadian Jewry 1997, Eli Gottesman, Mortimer Ltd., Ottawa, Ontario, 1997.

History of the Jews in Canada, B.G. Sack, Harvest House, Montreal, P.Q., 1965.

Through Narrow Gates, Simon Belkin, Eagle Publishing Co., Montreal, P.Q., 1966.

The Jewish Community in Canada, Vol. 1, Stuart E. Rosenberg, McClelland & Stewart Ltd., Canada, 1970.

Producing a Quality Family History, Patricia Law Hatcher, Avotaynu Inc., Bergenfield, N.J., 1998.

Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy, Gary Mokotoff & Warren Blatt, Avotaynu, Inc., Bergenfield, N.J., 1999.

Russian-Jewish Given Names: Their Origins & Variants, Boris Feldblum, Avotaynu, Inc., Teaneck, N.J., 1998.

WOWW Companion, Gary Mokotoff, Avotaynu, Inc., Teaneck, N.J., 1995.

(Euro Atlas) Russia: Baltic States, CIS, Moscow & Vicinity, American Map Corp., Maspeth, N.Y.

Yiskor Books in Canadian Libraries, Henry Wellisch & Peter Cullman, Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto Division), 1993.

Discovering Your Female Ancestors, Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, Betterway Books, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1998.

Latter Day Leaders Sages & Scholars, Emanuel & Neil Rosenstein, Computer Center for Jewish Genealogy, Elizabeth, N.J., 1983.

A Biographical Dictionary of Canadian Jewry: 1909-1914, Lawrence Tapper, Avotaynu, Inc., Teaneck, N.J.

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A TRACE ODYSSEY *continued from page 10*

never occurred to her! (I learned through subsequent correspondence that our relatives had successfully evaded the Nazis by escaping eastward to the Ural mountains.)

With that first ecstatic exchange, Polina and I have become regular correspondents, and I arranged for her grandson to meet more of the family in New York. We speak on the phone, through her daughter Irina whose English is very good. Irina and I have become close friends, and are thrilled with our "reunion"! Polina is overjoyed to have her "lost" family once again

Last year, my son & his wife exchanged visits with our newly discovered cousins & were the first to meet them after all these years. (My mother's cousin Polina, her daughter Irina, & granddaughter Nina, had been living in Germany for about 6 years since the collapse of the Russian economy.) Last October, my husband and I finally made a trip to Germany. Our reunion was a loving and joyful one. Polina, a generous and loving hostess, is the image of my mother, and they insist that I look just like her late sister! Moreover, when my husband developed a cold during our stay, Polina and I compared cough remedies. We discovered that a "gogl-mogl" was



still used by both our branches! The family bond remains after all these years, and now that we've found each other, we hope to enjoy many more get-togethers.

JEWES ENTERING CANADA, 1900 – 1945

Source: David Rome, Canadian Jewish Congress

1900	-	2765	1915	-	73	1931	-	214
1901	-	1015	1916	-	137	1932	-	313
1902	-	2066	1917	-	38	1933	-	420
1903	-	3727	1918	-	25	1934	-	577
1904	-	7715	1919	-	74	1935	-	560
1905	-	7127	1920	-	8731	1936	-	449
1906	-	6584	1922	-	3385	1937	-	317
1907	-	7712	1923	-	9494	1938	-	456
1908	-	2504	1924	-	5428	1939	-	1467
1909	-	2779	1925	-	2637	1940	-	329
1910	-	5060	1926	-	4441	1941	-	132
1911	-	5054	1927	-	4744	1942	-	41
1912	-	6885	1928	-	3532	1943	-	44
1913	-	11574	1929	-	3353	1944	-	74
1914	-	4279	1930	-	3702	1945	-	347

Inna Muliari who claimed to be an “interested historian”. She would “more quickly and qualitatively” find documents about my family for only “a retainer of \$200 US” to put into a US bank account, and an unspecified amount for “each leaf” that noted where such information could be found. (She subsequently refused to be pinned down on this last detail. In a later phone call made to the Ukraine, she also refused to give me the address she had for Polina.) She added an enticing “PS” to her introductory letter. It read:

By the way, I know, that in one of the cities of the former USSR lives Polina Gotlibovich. She was born in 1918. Her father was born in 1876. His name was Judka. And the name of his father was Peisah. Since the middle of the XIX century and till the World War II their family lived in Tcherkassy. Aren't they your relatives?

The taunting tone was infuriating, yet, those were the very names I was searching. Polina's profile was identical to what I had figured out for Yehuda's daughter “Pesya”. They had to be one and the same. I was so close.

Shortly afterwards, at an autumn family reunion, I explained my plight to the gathered clan. To pursue, or

not ... that indeed was the question! It was obvious that the venture would become very expensive. That Inna had the material at hand, I never doubted. Too much information matched mine, and I had not included all of it in my request to the archives.

We had a lively debate about the letter's authenticity, and several members of the family contributed funds for further investigation.

Inna was too uncompromising. Now I contacted a Dmitry, whose name was given to me by a fellow researcher in the Netherlands. Although Dmitry was very efficient at finding documents, his prices kept climbing unaccountably as the results came in. His demands were dismaying, and many of his charges were unethical. However, in one message to me, he informed me that his assistant had spoken with people from the Cherkassy Jewish community, and had hit it lucky. She met a woman who was Pesya's friend, and had met with her during a visit that Pesya had made to Cherkassy about 10 years ago to visit her parents' grave. The main thing was that she had Pesya's address! At present, I was told, Polina Urievna (Pesya Udkovna) Gotlibovich, (married name Birman), was living with her daughter Irina in Germany. Pesya's son was living in Russia in St. Petersburg (ex-Leningrad). Eureka!

The rest of that day I was on Cloud Nine! Family contact might be made after searching for 25 years! It had been close to 90 years since my grandfather had left his homeland behind. I remember nervously composing (and re-composing) my letter to my newly found cousin, and trying to remind myself that it might all come to naught. I didn't even want to consider that possibility. I asked question after question of her to verify that this was indeed my missing family. Then I included pictures I knew to be of her parents and siblings, and asked her if she could name these people.

Her response was immediate. In a letter that arrived very soon after, Polina told me that her grandson had been studying for five years in the States, and that he, too, had been searching for our family, with no luck. “No wonder!”, she realized. They had always been told that my grandfather had gone to “Amerika” - a generic term for the “New World”. Making an understandable error, she just assumed it to be the USA. Canada had

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Ancestors – Guide to Discovery, Jim Tyrrell, KBYU TV, USA, 2000.

Yizkor Books in Canadian Libraries, Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto Division), Toronto, 1993.

CDs

1998 Cemetery Project. AJGS

1999 Family Tree of the Jewish People

2000 Family Tree of the Jewish People

LDS Family History Library Catalog

Jewish Records in the Family History Library Catalog [as of Feb. 2001], IAJGS

SEMINAR PROGRAM MANUALS

Vancouver JGI Seminar 1995

Vancouver JGI Seminar 1996

Vancouver JGI Seminar 1997

LA Seminar AJGS 1998

New York Seminar AJGS 1999

Salt Lake City Seminar IAJGS 2000

SAMPLE FAMILY TREES & BOOKS

Switzer/ Scwajer Tree

Switzer/ Scwajer Book I & II

GRANDPA BICKMAN SETTLES IN ALBERTA

David Bickman

Very shortly after arriving in Lethbridge, Grandpa, together with his brothers Max and Louie and his sister-in-law, Tuba, all of whom followed Grandpa to Lethbridge within a month or two, became actively involved in the activities of the local Jewish community. Though he was not a signatory to the incorporation of the Lethbridge Hebrew Congregation, as was his brother Louie, Grandpa no doubt was involved with the congregation from its beginning. There exists a photograph of the members of the Lethbridge Jewish Community, taken in the winter of 1912 or 1913 at the community's Purim celebration. In the photo are all of Grandpa, Max, Louie and Tuba. He and his brothers are visibly tanned, from

International JGS Newsletters

Genealogy Starter Kits

Family Tree Maker 5.0 Installation Kit & Video Presentation

CD's: 1) Social Security Death Index 1937 - 1997

2) WFT Volumes 1 - 5 (pre-1600 to Present)

3) Selected US/International Marriage Records

1340 - 1980

A Guide to Alberta Archival Information; prepared by the Alberta Genealogical Society (Edmonton)

VIDEO TAPES

IAJGS/ Avotaynu Seminar: How to Trace Your Family Tree

AUDIO TAPES (of featured speakers)

Sue Olsen, LDS : “Everything You Wanted to Know about the Family History Centre.”

October 1998

David Bickman: “Where to Access Documents.” February 1999

Bertha Gold: “How to Audio-Tape Family Members” March 1999

which it is assumed that they had recently been working outdoors. Other records indicate that, for some brief period of time after arriving in southern Alberta, all three of them worked as farm hands.

In the first two years that Grandpa lived in Lethbridge, he was without his family. He worked for Messrs. Wyman and Fefferman in their hide and fur business, saving what money he could in order to be able to purchase passage tickets to bring his wife and son over. Grandpa's savings, supplemented with funds that he borrowed from Mr. Wyman, finally enabled him, in the summer of 1913, to buy their passage. His wife,

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Leah, and their son, Avrum (my father), left Nova Ushitsa sometime that summer. Their other son, Leib, born shortly after Grandpa had left, died in 1912 when he was about a year old.

From the various records cited above, it is clear that Grandma and Dad were only very briefly detained in hospital in Quebec City and that they likely reached Lethbridge to rejoin Grandpa sometime in early or mid-October, 1913.

The Bikmans, now reunited, initially lived in a one-room apartment above Mr. Wyman's hide and fur shop in Lethbridge. Dad often told us that he never in his entire life would ever forget how badly their room above the shop reeked from the hides and furs stored just below them.

The 1914 edition of Henderson's Directory for Lethbridge, at pages 83 and 129, show a Samuel Bickmer [sic], occupation peddler, living at 406-4th Street South in Lethbridge. By 1917, according to the Directory for that year, he had moved to 420- 4th Street South. By 1920, though still recorded as living at the same address, the spelling of the family name had been corrected to "Bikman". In the 1927 Directory, Grandpa was recorded as living at 534-6th Street South. This address would be Grandma's home for the rest of her life until she passed away in 1962 and would also be Grandpa's home until he moved into a senior citizens' home later in the 1960s.

Though life was much easier for the Bikmans in Lethbridge than it had ever been in Nova Ushitsa, Grandpa never really adapted completely to life in Canada. He was never able to properly provide for the economic needs of his growing family. He tried various occupations: hide and fur dealer, peddler, junk dealer, teamster, trucker's helper. He never learned to drive a motor vehicle. To make matters more difficult for both him and his family, he was inclined to several vices, chiefly among them gambling, and he was once imprisoned for about six months in the Lethbridge Provincial Jail in the early 1920s for attempting to export liquor from Canada to the USA (this was during prohibition in the States) without having paid Canadian tax on the liquor. Also, in the 1920s, Grandpa became seriously ill and had to undergo serious stomach surgery to correct

ulcers. He almost died during and after the surgery, and he required several months to recover.

Grandpa's inability to provide adequately for his family made it necessary for each of them in turn to leave school without graduating in order to earn a living. There is no doubt that Grandpa was aware of his shortcomings; Grandma never ceased reminding him of them. He periodically sought comfort and refuge by visiting his younger brother, Louie, who lived and farmed south of Milk River near the Coutts/Sweetgrass international boundary. These visits occasionally were for extended periods of time.

All of Grandpa and Grandma's children recall their parents' distress over the wretched conditions in which their relatives back home were living in the late 1920's and early 1930's, and the many parcels that they put together and mailed overseas to help make their relatives' lives a little easier. No matter how little the Bikmans themselves had, they knew that their relatives in Nova Ushitsa had far less.

With the assistance of a family friend, Max Moscovich, a distinguished lawyer and member of the Lethbridge Jewish community, Dad and Grandpa began the process that resulted in Grandpa acquiring his Canadian citizenship on July 4, 1939. His citizenship certificate describes him as a hide and fur buyer, born in Nove Uschitsa [sic], Podolia, Russia on July 12, 1882, with fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair and 5 feet 8 inches tall.

Records of Grandpa's citizenship application at National Archives, Ottawa, indicate that he had first applied for Canadian citizenship on March 29th, 1919. In his application made at that time, Grandpa gave his home address as 420-4th Street South, Lethbridge and

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Grandpa Bickman

was a dentist and died in 1992. One of his three children, his son, Anatoly, now lives in Philadelphia.

Motel (Motya, 1903-1941) was killed by the Nazis along with his wife and two small children.

Shimon Doktorov (b.1901) died of the flu in 1921 in Bobrover Kout.

Srulik (b. 1905) was killed fighting with the Red Army in 1942. His grave is in Stalingrad (now Volgograd.)

Finally, a few notes about the Winnipeg family. Gershon (George) Doctoroff, born in 1881, came to Winnipeg in 1904. Shmulik gives this account of Gershon's emigration:

George Doctoroff was in the Czar's army, and was scheduled to leave for the far east, to the Russo-Japanese war. His father bribed his son's commander with alcohol to allow Gershon and his friend a last leave of absence. Like many others, they deserted. His father got the boys new clothes, took them to Odessa, and got them on a boat to Romania. From there they made their way to Canada.

George soon sent for his fiancée, Malka Rechitsky; they married in Winnipeg. He became a dairy farmer in West Kildonan (before that Winnipeg suburb became urbanized) and in 1933 moved back to the city. Malka

A TRACE ODYSSEY: FINDING POLINA

Florence Elman

It was my fascination with my maternal great-grandparents' photographs which started me off on my genealogical journey. My grandfather had already passed away, and there was no-one who could tell me much about his parents or siblings. All I knew was that my aunts and uncles "thought" he had "a brother who had stayed in Russia". The name "Yehuda" was mentioned only tentatively. As for finding anyone still there, I was told that if anyone was left, they had probably all "disappeared" in the Holocaust. Not much else to go on, except some postcards written in the early 1900's.

When the Iron Curtain came down in 1989, the genealogical world was expanded with the possibility

died in 1958, George in 1959. George and Malka Doctoroff raised nine children – four sons and five daughters. From oldest to youngest, they were Samuel (Marion Kruger) 1906 -1978; Rose (Al Girtle) b. 1907; Joe (Claire Sarah Rabinovitch) 1909-1988; Kay (Max Sorokin) 1910-1982; Anne (Louis Maister) b. 1914; Minnie (Samuel Leventhal) 1914-1996; Lilly (Benjamin Shiffman) 1916 -1980; Mickey (Anne Baker) 1918 -2000; and Sidney (Edith Nemerovsky) 1924-1987, my daughter-in-law's parents.

Michele Doctoroff offers the following thoughts about this genealogical breakthrough: "There are at least four of us (cousins), Ronnie, Linda, Jason, and myself, who are working or have been in the field of Jewish communal work, and specifically with Russian immigrants. Were we subconsciously sifting through all these people (our clients) as if we were seeking out our roots? I know I kept hoping to meet a new Canadian named Doctoroff. Has our work been a way of giving back to those making the journey of immigration, as a way of saying thanks to our grandparents who made the journey for us?"

Gershon and Malka have 94 direct descendents. The cousins have occasional reunions and have prepared a family history/cookbook they call "The Doc Flock." Michele Doctoroff can be reached by e-mail at tswitzer@cadvision.com.

of extracting documents from the former Soviet archives. Although I discovered many other relatives during my searches, it was not until 1995 that I accidentally stumbled across information that would eventually bring us all together. The translation of those old postcards had given me an edge; I now had names, some family relationships and rough dates. The postmarks showed that they came from Cherkassy, Kiev in the Ukraine, so I wrote to the Kiev Archives to inquire about records for my great-grandfather, grandfather, and his brother Yehuda. Their answer was discouraging.

On the heels of their letter, came another from an

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Russian revolution Doktorov history, and their expulsion from their farm as members of the Kulak (landed peasant) class.

“I was born on November 12, 1918 in the Jewish settlement Bobrover Kout. After the brutal murder of my grandfather, I was called after him, Shmulik, and in Ukraine they call me Mischa. I was taught in Yiddish in school and completed two grades. Then we had to move to the city of Zaporozhje. All our property was taken from us to a Kolkhoz (collective farm), including our house. We had to leave Bobrover Khut just in our clothes. This also happened to Maier’s, Anyuta’s and Frima’s families. Only God knows what hardships we had to endure, but we could survive.

Granny Genya and her two younger children, Motka and Srulik, did not have this problem and they stayed to live in the settlement. Motke worked at a store and Srulik as a collective-farm tractor driver. All Doktorov brothers and sisters always supported and helped each other. I completed high school in Russian and then graduated from the Highway Construction Institute and was qualified as an automobile mechanic. On May 27, 1939 I was drafted. About my life during the war you can read in the article I attached to this letter. My relatives Abraham and Sonya with their daughter Ryna and two granddaughters Lida and Lesya had to move in the war to Bashkiria in the Urals.

From our family the following people were at the front (with the Russian armed forces): our son-in-law Ilya Ravkin who was killed in 1943, my brother Lyonya who was killed in 1945 near Berlin. I was wounded twice but survived and returned home to my parents in 1946 and married Liza Volovich. She died in 1981 as she had lung cancer. We had one son, Slavik, who was born in 1951. He lives in Zaporozhje with his family.

After Liza died, I married Klara, Yosef’s (Shmulik’s uncle) daughter-in-law and ex-wife of Zhenya (he died in 1971). He had two daughters, Fira and Ina. They both now live in Baltimore. Fira is married to Vadim, Anyuta’s grandson. Klara and I have four granddaughters, two great grandsons and four great granddaughters.

Klara Doktorov, presently a pensioner, graduated from Odessa Medical Institute. During the war she worked in Samarkand as an attending physician in the

surgical department of the local military hospital. After the war she worked as a surgeon at the military hospital, then as a surgeon in Zaporozhje.

Klara and I repatriated to Israel in 1994 and now live in the northern part of Israel. We have everything except health – we spent it all on constructing communism and our state five-year plans, but we can still move and walk, thank God for this, and we will see what happens next to us.”

Shmulik spent the war in uniform, with the Red Army. He was wounded twice, was decorated for bravely several times, and survived some of the eastern front’s worst battles, including the defence of Moscow and the Soviet victory at Stalingrad.

Shmulik was able to give the Winnipeg Doctoroffs brief data on the Russian family. His great-grandparents were Gershel (1816-1877) and Anna Doktorov (1821-1885). His grandparents Samuel and Genia Doktorov of Bobrover Kout, Ukraine, had nine children – Gershon, Abram, Meir, Yosef, Anyuta, Frima, Shimon, Motel, and Srulik.

Gershon (George), as noted, emigrated to Winnipeg in 1904. He was the only sibling to leave Russia. Gershon’s brother Abram, 1881-1961, had three children; Shmulik, their newly discovered cousin, is the youngest. His brother Lyonya died in combat in 1945, and a sister lived to age 70.

Meir Doktorov (1883-1943) had two sons and one daughter. The family was imprisoned 1937 for their Zionist beliefs. Maier and oldest son Muniya died in jail in 1943. Youngest son Simon was killed in 1942, a war casualty. Daughter Betya died in Moscow.

Yosef, a doctor, died in Samarkand in 1943. His son, Zenya (Klara Doktorov’s first husband) was also a doctor and died in 1972 in Nikoliyev, Ukraine. (Yosef’s two granddaughters are Fira and Ina, of Baltimore, MD.)

Anyuta (Anna, 1885-1973) died in Zapoeziya. One son was killed in the the Great Patriotic War (World War II.) One daughter lived and passed away in the Ural region. The youngest daughter Eugenia now lives in Zaporozhje.

Frima passed away in Ukraine in 2000 at age 101. She had one son, Shimon, who lost a leg in the war. He

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stated that he had resided in Lethbridge continually since arriving there in August, 1911. He also stated that he first arrived in Canada at Coutts, Alberta by train, on August 15, 1911.

Grandpa was supposed to appear in Court in Lethbridge on September 17, 1919 for the hearing of his application for citizenship, but somehow his application was refused. He reapplied on December 7, 1938, after the conversation with my Dad related above.

In his 1938 citizenship application, Grandpa repeated the same information as he gave in 1919 regarding his arrival in Canada and his date and place of birth. He further stated his then home address as 534-6th Street South, in Lethbridge. This application was scheduled to be heard in Lethbridge District Court on March 28, 1939.

In the interim, pending the hearing, Canada Immigration was unable to verify Grandpa’s admission to Canada and a letter to that effect was placed in his file. The RCMP’s report on Grandpa was favourable and was filed February 2, 1939. In his Petition for Naturalization dated March 21, 1939, Grandpa stated that his 1919 application for citizenship was refused because, “I was unable to speak and to understand English. When I appeared in Court before His Honour Judge Jackson I ... failed to see the Clerk of the Court first. I was told to go to the Clerk but, not understanding what was being said to me, I walked out of the Court House.”

On March 28, 1939, Grandpa’s Petition was heard and approved. A few months later his certificate of citizenship was issued and mailed to him.

After the outbreak of World War II, the Canadian government introduced national registration of all of Canada’s male population; Grandpa was registered on August 19, 1940 at which time his age was recorded as 58. In his registration transcript, he stated that he could read and speak Yiddish and Russian. He probably meant that he could only speak Yiddish and Russian, as he was illiterate. He further stated that he had not been working at his usual occupation for the four years immediately preceding his registration; rather, he had by August 19, 1940 spent those four years working in the office of a garage answering the telephone. He gave

his employer’s name and address as Abe Bickman of Speedy Delivery and Garage, 543-4th Street South and stated that he had worked 40 out of the previous 52 weeks.

Henderson’s Directory for Lethbridge listed Grandpa’s occupations through the 1920’s and 1930’s as “hide dealer” and “junk dealer”, the last entry of that kind being in 1940. Thereafter, until 1959, Grandpa was described as an employee of Speedy Delivery, which by the 1950s had become incorporated and was now called Speedy Storage and Cartage Ltd. Beginning in 1959, Grandpa is described in Henderson’s as retired. Aunt Rose Berlant, one of Grandpa’s daughters, remembers my Dad saying to the family sometime early in the Second World War, perhaps in 1940, that Grandpa no longer had to work if he didn’t want to; further, that Dad would assume all financial responsibility for his parents’ needs.

Returning to his national registration transcript, Grandpa also stated that he had previously worked on a farm in Alberta at harvest time for three or four seasons and that he could handle horses and milk a cow. He also stated, incorrectly, that he had not previously served in any naval, military or air forces. He may have answered this question as he did because he did not want the Canadian authorities to know that he had served in the Russian army. Because of his advanced age, Grandpa was not drafted into military service for Canada in WWII.

My father once was so annoyed at the amount of money that Grandpa was spending on these pool tickets (and losing) that he told Doug Boyer to quit selling these tickets to Grandpa. When Doug refused, Dad told him that he would no longer patronize Doug’s business, to which Doug replied that Grandpa was a better customer than Dad and he (Doug) would rather keep Grandpa’s business than Dad’s. For a short time after that, Dad did not patronize Doug’s, instead buying his Calgary and Toronto papers from the Club Cigar Store, a few doors away. Eventually though, Dad realized that his father would buy pool tickets no matter what Dad said or did to discourage it and he returned to buying his papers at Doug’s.

Another of my fond recollections of Grandpa is sit

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ting with him on the veranda of his and Grandma's house in the summertime, with the windows open and the screens on, listening to the Chicago Cubs baseball games on the radio (they were broadcast daily from the Cutbank, Montana radio station which we picked up clearly in Lethbridge) and drinking Coke from those little green bottles. We would just sit there quietly in the old, deep-cushioned chairs and listen very closely to the game. Of course, Grandpa would smoke a few of his "roll your owns" during the game.

In the synagogue in Lethbridge, most of the seating was gender separate; that is, the men sat together on one side of the sanctuary and the women on the other. The

members of the congregation who did not want to sit apart from their spouses sat at the back of the sanctuary. I can remember many High Holy Day services in which my Mother, sister and my Grandma Bikman sat together and I of course sat apart from them with Dad and Grandpa. Grandpa prayed, and followed the prayers, from a book that was published in Hebrew only (the older prayer books, as I recall, were exclusively in Hebrew while the newer ones were, and are, printed in both Hebrew and English, with the Hebrew prayers on the right facing page and the English translation on the left facing page). He never learned to read or write English, but he could read Hebrew and he could chant the prayers.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MY UNCLE CHAIM?

David Romney

My uncle, Chaim Lev Heilpern, was the Rabbi of the Bournemouth (Orthodox) Hebrew Congregation before and during the war and shortly thereafter. Bournemouth is a seaside resort on the south coast of England not far from Southampton and the Isle of Wight. This is the place where I grew up. When my uncle was the rabbi there, there was a thriving Jewish community and about a dozen Jewish hotels which filled up during the summer and during the Jewish Festivals. My uncle was well liked. He was both an orator and a cantor and he had a pleasant way of interacting with people. Because I was his nephew I had a strict orthodox upbringing.

At right is a picture taken after the war, of my uncle, flanked by my brother, Monty and me. I am the one on the left! Monty is now deceased.

After the war, he travelled a lot. I remember that he visited the States, Australia, and Cyprus and Palestine (as it then was). From the States he sent Monty and me a letter in the form of a small gramophone record. He said that when he had arrived in Palestine, "large crowds were waiting for him at the station" but I suspect that they were just waiting for the train. He also urged us to "work hard at our studies" and concluded by singing the Hatikvah. In case you're wondering, there was no piano accompani-

ment. I wish I could find that record!

He was very active in his time and made an important contribution to Jewish society. During the war he showed exceptional hospitality to American Jewish servicemen who were stationed in Bournemouth. Consequently, in 1946 he

received certificate for meritorious service from the National Jewish Welfare Board when Walter Rothschild was Chairman of the Army and Navy Committee. He was also very active in promoting the establishment of the State of Israel and in criticizing the British Government for its internment of Jewish refugees in Cyprus.

After the war he emigrated to the US. Perhaps he had a row with the congregation about all his numerous leaves of absence. Unfortunately, his wife, my moth-

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er's sister, refused to accompany him, though she did pay him a visit in 1950 when I believe he had a post somewhere in North Carolina. From 1956-57 I know for sure that he had a job at the Tifereth Israel Temple in Newcastle, Pennsylvania. He came back to Bournemouth briefly in 1957 to attend my grandmother's (his mother-in-law's) funeral and then returned to the States, hoping to secure a position in Palo Alto, California.

DOCTOROFF MEETS DOKTOROV IN FAMILY REUNION

Jack Switzer

Michele Doctoroff, my daughter-in-law, provided me the following account of a fortuitous genealogical event - the unexpected discovery of close relatives, for instance, her father's cousin - and a joyous family reunion.

In February of this year, Katia Miropolskaia, a recent arrival to Winnipeg and an immigrant from the former Soviet Union, made inquiries in the Winnipeg Jewish community on behalf of a family friend, 83-year old Shmulik Doktorov, a Russian émigré to Israel. He was seeking relatives of his uncle, Gershon (George) Doktorov, who had left Russia for Winnipeg in 1904. George Doctoroff and his brother Abram (Shmulik's father) had last communicated in 1944 or 1945, when

George had sent him family photos from Canada.

Katia's search for Shmulik's family was a short one. The Doctoroffs are well known in Winnipeg, and Michele's cousins were soon contacted, both by Jewish Child and Family Services, and by the Jewish Genealogical Society. Michele and several of her cousins met Katia, and



I had been trying on and off for many years to track him down, only to discover that he died at the end of August, 1974 at age 73 and is buried in the House of Peace Cemetery in San Diego. However, nobody down there seems to remember him. It is very strange. I am wondering where he was and what he did from 1957 until his death. It distresses me to think that nobody in San Diego remembers him. The last 17 years of his life are a complete mystery. I suspect that he died impoverished and alone.

her husband and daughter, who had Shmulik's letter as well as the family photos George Doctoroff had sent to the Soviet Union.

Shmulik phoned a gathering of the Winnipeg Doctoroffs from his home in Kiryat Shimona, Israel. They spoke in Yiddish. Shmulik Doktorov and the Canadian Doctoroff families have spoken and corresponded several times. And Recently Michele, her husband, and their daughter got to meet Shmulik, in Baltimore, where he and wife Klara were visiting his step-daughters, Fira, Ina, and their families.

Both the "Russian" and "Winnipeg" Doctoroffs have been updated - largely by internet messages - on each other's family histories. Shmulik's original letter (translated from Russian) states his father, Abram Doktorov, asked him to some day find his brother's family. He was also anxious to talk about the terrible fate suffered by the Jews of his home town in Ukraine.

"We are from Jewish village Bobrover Kout. It was a small farming community. In September 1941 the Nazis occupied our village. At this time the Jewish community had 917 seniors, women, and children. On September 16, 1941 the Nazis killed all of them. Our grandmother (Genia) and uncle (Motka) with his family (wife and two little sons) were among the victims. All of them are in grave in Bobrover Kout. I visited the grave in 1985. Bandits killed our grandfather (Samuel) in 1918."

In another letter Shmulik briefly recounts post-

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