

Family Krupnick or Crupnic (as it was spelled in Roumania)

by Gloria K Wolfson



This photo was taken sometime before the family left Brichany. Not exactly sure when the picture was taken, but it was prior to 1921.

The back row consists of my father Herman (Chanoch); Irving (Isaac); Sylvia (Sura); and Rae (we never knew her Yiddish name). The front row consists of my grandmother Goldie (Fainbaum or Vainbaum) from Sekurany; Grandfather David Tzvi ben Ze'ev Halevi; Karl (Kalman); Alex (don't know Yiddish name); and Simon (Shay).

The family came to New York in 1921. There were 3 other living children. Louis (the eldest son) was sent to Brazil (Recife) to live with Fainbaum relatives and escape conscription. Flavio Mendes Bitelman (who is also on the listserve) is part of the Fainbaum family. Two other girls, Ettel and Fanny (Frida) were sent to the US between 1911 and 1913 to Goldie Fainbaum Krupnick's sister Sarah Kenner who was then living in Rhode Island.

My grandfather was said to be descended from Rabbi Hanoch HaLevi Krupnick of Shargarod. My grandfather was said to have left Shargarod because he wanted to get away from religion. As you can see, he isn't wearing a head covering, nor is my grandmother's head covered, nor are any of the boys. However, my grandfather did function as a chazzan in New York. In Brichany, he worked for a prince managing a very large farm.

My father spoke both Russian and Yiddish . He could also read Russian. He often spoke about eating Mamaliga. He also belonged (as did the rest of the Krupnicks) to a burial society in New York called the Smotricher Podalier society. After WW2, we used to get phone calls from people looking for Krupnicks. However, we didn't know them. Apparently there was a large department store in Vienna that had been owned, prior to WW 2, by Krupnicks. To the best of my knowledge, I have not been able to establish a link between my father's family and any other Krupnicks in the US.

Gloria K Wolfson, RSW, EdD
Vancouver, BC