

Kishinev Cousins,

written by Shmuel Fisher

I have been involved with family history for the past twenty years. Like a number of people, only when I retired did I find the time for this exciting endeavor. And indeed I have made much progress with my mother's Polish family. My father's side is another story. My father died when I was eight and so the only information that I had was passed down to me only from my mother.

Her story was that my dad was born in Kishinev and came to Canada when he was a young child. His father, the story goes, died either before he was born or shortly thereafter. His mother remarried and that man Joseph he was told was his father. He grew up thinking that Joseph ROTHMAN was his father. Only when in his late teens, when he was going to be married, did his mother tell him that Israel FISHER was his real father. To me some of these details especially about how his father died seemed too outlandish for me to swallow. The story that my mother told was that he was killed by a bear. I did find his application for Social Security which contained his father's name.

I was of course familiar with the pogrom in Kishinev in 1903 and did look to see if any FISHER was among the dead. And I knew that the family's arrival in Montreal was after the pogrom. It also occurred to me that just as a person from neighborhood of a large city talking to other people about where they came from might use the name of the city as opposed to the actual town. So I took with a grain of salt that my father came from Kishinev.

But to my astonishment a few years ago researching the Bessarabian databases, I found the marriages of my paternal grandmother, Gitlya Gesya KHMELNITSKY, first to Itsko Yitzkhak FISHER then to Joseph ROTMAN shortly thereafter (notice the slightly different spelling). See the table below for records 2 and 3.

Looking at maps I discovered that my grandmother's name corresponds to a city in Ukraine and my grandfather is described as a merchant from Zhitomir. When I looked at the record of the marriage of my grandparents I noticed that her father's name was Shmuel. From that I found many other children from that same Shmuel. And on some of those records was not only his first name but also his middle name, Mordko. After all these years I had finally found the person who I am named for. That information was very important to me. I had always wondered and now I knew. So now it seemed that my attention should move toward the Ukraine in particular Zhitomir and Khmelnytsky. But that is for another time.

At this time I was off solving other genealogy programs. Fast forward some years and I looked again at some of the photos that my mother had taken. She was a business woman and it carried over into her personal life. She annotated most of the photos she took in her life. She has been gone over twenty years now and as most genealogists say, I started too late. The people who had so much information are gone.

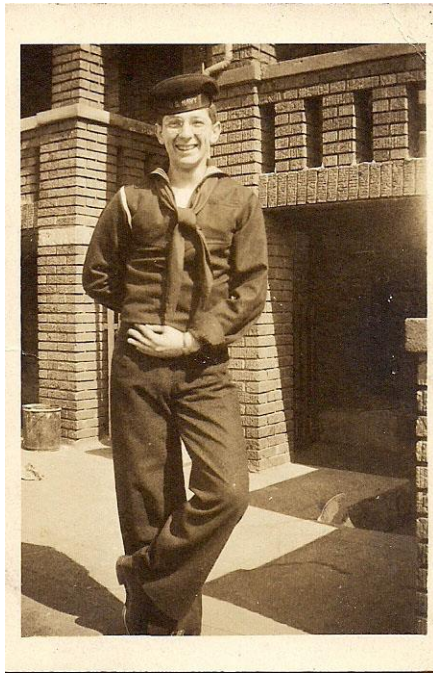
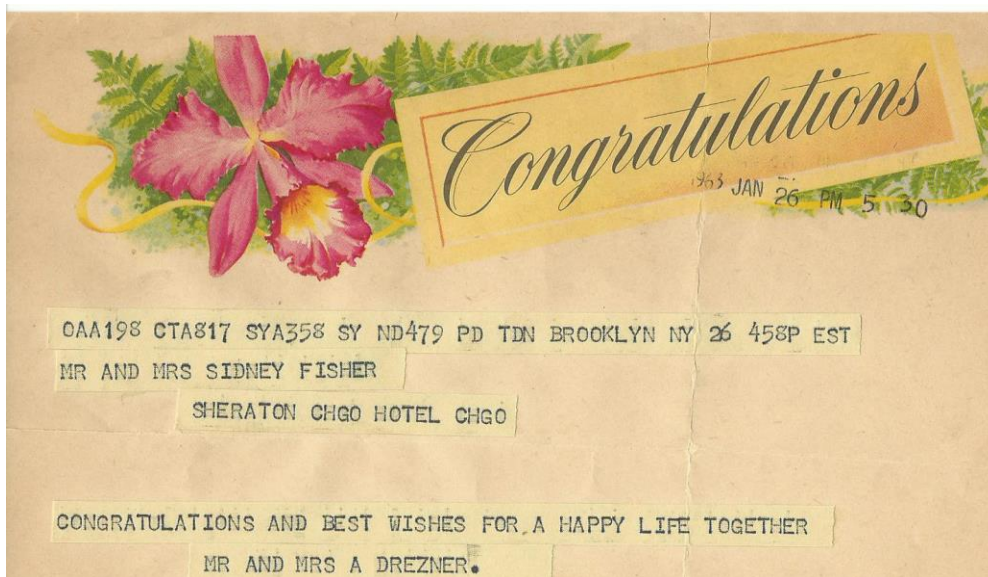


Figure 1 Nathan DREZNER 1944

One of the photos in her albums was of a man, Nathan DREZNER. There he was in a sailor uniform with the date 1944 on the back of the photo. Not only did I have my mother's photo albums but among her papers was a list of all the invitees to my wedding and my daughter's Bat Mitzvah and whose name should be on both of those documents but an Abraham DREZNER. And to put the icing on the cake, I had a Western Union telegram that was sent to my wife and I offering congratulations on our wedding from Mr. and Mrs. A DREZNER. Therefore I was 95% certain he was a relative. Why I thought he was from my father's side of the family, I don't recall but the feeling was strong. Then I found an Abraham DREZNER living in New York City in the 1930 census with a son named Nathan. That led to Abraham's Naturalization Papers and that contained the information that he came from Kishinev. That did it. Nathan was related on my father's side.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF 1930
POPULATION

State New York Incorporated place New York City
 County New York Ward of city Assembly District 6 Block No. B
 Township or other division of county M Manhattan Borough Unincorporated place Assembly District 6 Institution _____

Street, avenue, road, etc.	PLACE OF ABODE			NAME of each person whose place of abode on April 1, 1930, was in this family Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any Include every person living on April 1, 1930. Omit children born since April 1, 1929	RELATION Relationship of this person to the head of the family	HOME DATA				PERSONAL DESCRIPTION				EDUCATION			PLACE OF BIRTH		
	House number (in case of tenements)	Number of dwelling house in block or lot	Number of family or other persons in dwelling			Home owned or rented	Value of home, if owned, or of rented	Males 18 and over	Does this family live on a farm?	Sex	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital condition	Age at first marriage	Attended school since Sept. 1, 1929	Whether able to read and write	PERSON	FATHER	MOTHER
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	35	20	262	Schindler Louis	Son					M	W	19	8	no	yes	Russia	Russia	Russia	
			263	Schindler Morris	Head	R #16				M	W	30	M/24	no	yes	Roumania	Roumania	Roumania	
				Yetta	Wife					F	W	29	M/23	no	yes	Austria	Austria	Austria	
			264	Oregnet Able	Head	R #25				M	W	31	M/21	no	yes	Russia	Russia	Russia	
				Elice	Wife					F	W	29	M/19	no	yes	Russia	Russia	Russia	
				Nathan	Son					M	W	4 1/2	0	no	no	New York	Russia	Russia	
				Murray	Son					M	W	2 1/2	0	no	no	New York	Russia	Russia	
				Krantz Joseph	Boarder					M	W	42	8	no	no	Austria	Austria	Austria	

Figure 2 1930 Census

ORIGINAL
(To be retained by clerk)
hjh

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA No. 335960

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION
U.S. District Southern District New York, N.Y.

To the Honorable the Court of _____

The petition of ABRAHAM DRAZNER hereby filed, respectfully shows:

(1) My place of residence is 211 E. 3rd St. New York, N.Y. My occupation is Paper hanger

(2) I was born in Kishiner, Roumania on October 19, 1897 My race is Hebrew

(3) I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on October 19, 1936 in the U.S. District Court of Southern District at New York, N.Y.

(4) I am single married. The name of my wife or WIFE Elise we were married about March 27, 1920 at Kishiner, Roumania; he was born at Kishiner, Roumania on December 12, 1900; entered the United States at New York, N.Y. on December 29, 1922 for permanent residence therein, and now resides at 211 E. 3rd St., New York, N.Y. I have 3 children, and the name, date, and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children are as follows: Nathan, November 11, 1925; Murray, February 9, 1928; Harry, May 9, 1930; all born New York, N.Y. reside New York, N.Y.

(5) My last foreign residence was Kishiner, Roumania I emigrated to the United States of America from Denzig, F. State My lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at New York, N.Y. under the name of Abram Drazucz on September 5, 1923 1923 on the vessel Canopic as shown by the certificate of my arrival attached hereto.

(6) I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposed to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States. It is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and to renounce

Figure 3 Petition for Naturalization

Titles	Record 1	Record 2	Record 3
Town/Gubernia/Date	Kishinev/Bessarabia/28-May-1891	Kishinev/Bessarabia/29-Aug-1895	Kishinev/Bessarabia/2-Apr-1901
Hebrew Date	3 Sivan	21 Elul	28 Shvat
Groom Name	DRAZNER , Yosel / Yosef	FISHER , Itsko	ROTPAN , Iosif / Yosef
BrideName	KHMELNITSKAYA, Ginda-Mirlya / Hinda-Mirel	KMELNITSKY, Gitlya Gesya	FISHER, Gitlya-Gesya
Groom Father	Abram / Avraham	Avrum Yankel	Kisel-Ber
Groom Mother			
Bride Father	Shmul / Shmuel	Shmul	Shmul
BrideMother			
Place			
Groom Age	29	22	24
Bride Age	21	19	25
Comments	Groom was a bachelor. A maiden, a daughter of a retired private.	Groom was Zhitomir petty bourgeois. Bride was daughter of retired private,	Groom is single Dombrovits townsman. Bride is widow, a Zhitomir townswoman, born as KHMIELNITSKY.

Figure 4 Table of three Genealogy Records

So four years ago using the Whitepages.com I searched for Mr. DREZNER. I found one in Florida of the right age and I called. We spoke only for less than five minutes and it was obvious that he really was not interested in my research. He did confirm that he was in the navy in WWII. Discussing this with my walking buddies in the following days, they suggested that I may have just caught him on a bad day. With that in mind, I wrote him a letter and included the scanned copy of the photo. Time went by and nothing. After some time I just wrote him off.

This May four years after the conversation I get an email from a woman who maiden name is DREZNER. Nathan died and his brother, Murray, going over his papers found my letter. Murray gave the letter to his daughter, Elaine who contacted me on May 1 of this year. Now the problem was to find how we were connected if at all. Elaine has a facebook account and we became friends. Looking at her page I noticed that she had formed a group in facebook called of all things, Kishinev Cousins. That did it. In the few weeks in May we exchanged many emails asking and answering many questions.

But now back to the Bessarabian databases. I found the marriage of Yosel DRAZNER to of all people, Ginda-Mirlya KHMELNITSKY. And she was the sister of MY father's mother Gitlya Gesya KHMELNITSKY.

And now I have thirty five new cousins who I hope to meet some day. However we are friends on Facebook and that will have to do for now.