

Killian Family Photo from Bendery, circa 1903

This formal, portrait photo card (6 3/8" x 4 1/4") from Bendery, Bessarabia shows brothers Moshe Lieb (Morris) Killian (my grandfather, left) and Berel (Dov) Kalian and two unknown women (a contemporary note on the back indicates that one is an unnamed sister). The undated photo may have been taken about 1903. Morris looks like he is about 20 years old, and the "family" photo possibly was taken just before he left for Canada in 1903, with subsequent immigration in July 2005 to Syracuse, NY, USA, where cousins Meyer and Rona Gitel Kleiman had settled earlier. Since Morris married Esther Yellin of Jalowka, Poland in Syracuse in 1909, it is possible that one woman in the photo is a sister, and the other is Berel's wife Ita Sapunar, but I have not uncovered details yet to confirm this hypothesis.



S.Koreek (the photographer) — SK "shield"
Bendery



Crown on top of SK "shield" + 3 "coins" * Photograph +
3 "coins" *. S. Koreek, Bendery

A.I. Kulke, Odessa Negatives are Archived Special
enlargement of photos

(*The "coin" on the left marked "NIEPCE DAGUERRE" refers to Nicephore NIEPCE (born Joseph Niepce, 1765-1833) a French inventor credited as the inventor of photography and the world's first internal combustion engine, and Louis S. DAGUERRE (1787-1851), with whom Niepce entered into a partnership in 1829. The two inventors created an improved photographic process to Niepce's "heliography", called the "physautotype". Daguerre later developed a different process which he named "daguerreotype", and which led to his taking credit for inventing the photographic process at the expense of his deceased partner. Based on online images of the two men, it looks like Niepce's profile is to the left of Daguerre's.

Of the 3 coins on the right, the lowest one marked "TALBOT" refers to the British inventor and photographer Henry Fox TALBOT (1800-1877), who invented the "calotype" or "talbotype" photographic process in 1839-41, which included development of the negative/positive image process, a precursor to the 19th and 20th century processes. The two other coins probably represent the physical and chemical innovations of Talbot's processes.

Additional research is needed, any help is appreciated:

- 1) to confirm the identity of all 4 people;
- 2) to glean any historical information from their style of clothing;
- 3) to determine a more accurate date for the photograph;
- 4) to learn more about the photographers (Koreek and Kulke) and the meaning of the shield and crown on the back of the card;
- 5) to search for the photographer's negative of this and possibly other family (and community) photos in Odessa, Bendery, or other location.

For a detailed description of Eastern European photo studios and postcards, go to the following link at The Museum of Family History: <http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/pse-4.htm>.

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