

SOME GENEALOGY

[The material in this genealogy is as of March, 1995, Irving Schreiber]

On my father's side of the family (the Schreibers), I can only go back as far as my grandfather and grandmother. They were Yokhanin and Fayga Schreiber. They lived in Khotin, Bessarabia. At the time they lived there, it was part of Tsarist Russia. After World War I, Bessarabia became part of Rumania. After World War II, it reverted to the Soviet Union. After the Soviet Union split-up in 1991, Khotin became part of the country of Ukraine.

Yokhanin was a *malamed* - teaching young boys how to read Hebrew so that they could *daven* (say their prayers) rather than understand the Hebrew language. The teaching was done by rote, with the *malamed* usually banging a big stick on the table, keeping time as the children recited, in sing-song tones, the letters and their phonetic sounds. Although some of my cousins refer to my grandfather as a rabbi, he was far from being one. A *malamed* was not looked up to as a learned man. It was a rather ordinary calling, not requiring any erudition. The *malamed* had one or two *belfers* {beh-helpers, helpers} assisting him, literally carrying the small children on their backs to the school (the *kheder*), which was in the *malamed's* home. The *malamed* fed the children and was generally poorly paid (sometimes, not paid at all).

To help support the family, my grandmother, Bubbeh Fayga, raised chickens and kept a cow for milk. She regularly took her chickens and milk to the town market - the *yarid*.

Yohaknin and Fayga had six children who lived (there were one or two miscarriages or still-borns): Itzhak Elya, always pronounced Tskelya, Frima, Bessie, Harry, Abie (my father) and Bennie. Eventually, Fayga and all of her children came to the United States. Yokhanin died in Khotin at an early age (probably under 40).

MEMORIES OF KHOTIN

Following is what I picked up in conversations with my father, my uncle Bennie, and my cousin Joe:

About my father: When he was seven years old, he was apprenticed to a repairer of sheepskin jackets and coats. This man, accompanied by the seven-year-old kid would ride on a horse-drawn wagon from farm to farm and repair the peasant's sheepskin clothing (they couldn't afford to buy new clothes when parts of their clothes were torn or wore out). Learning to sew leather by hand, in a way, helped prepare my father for his future occupation as a furrier.

Other tidbits about my father's life in Khotin: Beside the training he got in his father's *kheyder*, he had one year of formal education, in a school endowed by a wealthy Jew (there were no state-run elementary schools, and no other secular schools for Jews). He learned some Russian, arithmetic, and played in

the school band (he banged the big drum). He also enjoyed swimming in the fairly well-known Dneister River which runs through the town.

About my Uncle Bennie (as told to me by Uncle Bennie): He often got into scrapes with older boys because he was aggressive and always had to be rescued by my father.

About my Uncle Tskelya (as related to me by my cousin Joe Stahlman), three stories:

(1) He accompanied his mother, Bubbeh Fayga, to another town where a *shiddakh* (a marriage arrangement) was to be made for him. There, he met his prospective bride. (This does not conform with the “arranged” marriage procedures we have heard about, where the groom doesn’t meet the bride until the actual marriage ceremony and the fathers, not the mothers, of the bride and groom enter into the arrangement. But probably various methods were used throughout Eastern Europe.) In the same room with the prospective bride was Freyda. Tskelya turned to his mother and said (about the prospective bride), “*Sie gefelt mir nicht* [I don’t like her]; *ich vill sie* [I want her],” nodding towards Freyda. So, Bubbeh Fayga worked out new arrangements and Tskelya married Freyda.

(2) Tskelya was a tough, strong, young man and not too many wise guys would tangle with him. There was a young goy who was picking on old Jews, physically tormenting them. Tskelya and a few of his friends grabbed this goy and threw him down a well. Joe didn’t know whether the goy ever got out.

(3) Tskelya drove a brewery wagon, hauling barrels of beer. Once, a rear wheel of the wagon got bogged down in deep mud and the two horses drawing the wagon couldn't pull it out. Tskelya got off the wagon, crawled under the wagon, got his shoulder under the axle and lifted the rear end of the wagon out of the mud. Tskelya's strength was legendary in Khotin, according to Joe.

YOKHANAN AND FAYGA SCHREIBER'S OFFSPRING

TSKELYA

He married Freyda in Khotin. They had six children, some born in Khotin and the others in Philadelphia after they came to the United States. They were Irene, Eva, Nathan, Sally, Dave, and Leonard. At this writing (January 3, 1995), only Irene, Sally, Dave and Leonard are still alive.

Irene married a man named Herman Myers and they had one daughter, Barbara. Herman died a number of years ago. Barbara married a doctor named Bill Myers. They have two sons, Robert and Richard, both of whom are pre-med students at this writing (January, 1995).

Eva married Nat Slogoff and they had a son, Edwin and a daughter, Judy. Edwin married Harriet and they have three children, all boys. Judy is unmarried. Nat died a number of years ago; Eva died in 1987.

Nathan married Vera and they had one son, Richard. Nathan died in 1987.

Sally married Felix Moskowitz. They had no children. Felix died in about 1991.

Dave married Hilda Zaslow and they had two children, Cheryl and Judy. Cheryl is married and has three sons; Judy is also married and has two daughters.

Leonard married Jean Zaslow (Dave's wife's sister). They had two daughters, Sandra and Deborah. Subsequently, Leonard and Jean were divorced and in 1978, Leonard married Rosalind Rudow. Leonard's daughter Sandra married Barry Liever and they have two sons, Adam and Marc. They live in Coral Springs, Florida. Len's other daughter, Deborah, married Donald Krastman in 1993. They live in Pittsburgh.

FRIMA

She was also married in Khotin, to Israel. Among the family, the first syllable of Israel's name was elided in conversation, so in Yiddish, in which Israel is pronounced *Yisrool*, he was always called Srool. They had two children, Joe and Edythe, both born in Khotin before they all came to New York.

Joe married Betty and they had two daughters: Phyllis and Ruth. (Betty died about 10 years ago; Joe died in 1994.) Phyllis married Lennie and they had three children: Steven, Linda and Robert. Phyllis and Lennie were divorced and Phyllis died about four years ago. Ruth married Marvin and had two sons: Richie and Howard. Richie recently was married.

Edythe, whose given name was Yetta and who, when she came to the United States and entered the New York City school system, at a teacher's urging, changed it to Edythe, married Morris Schiffman and had two children, Howard

and Ruth. Howard was married, had two sons, and was divorced. Later he remarried. One of his sons is married and has at least one child. Ruth married Don and they had two children, a son and a daughter. Both married and had two children each. The son died of multiple sclerosis a few years ago.

BESSIE

She married Louis Kaufman in the United States. They had two daughters: Pauline and Anna (always called Honey). They lived in Philadelphia.

Pauline married Meyer Goldsmith and moved to Johnstown, Pa. They had two sons, Mark and Frank. Mark lives in New York and has two children, twins: Scott, who is graduating from Fordham in May and Jennifer, who is entering NYU Medical School. Frank, a Ph.D. in Public Health, is supervising the Health Care program in the Graduate School at SUNY at Stony Brook. Pauline's husband died a number of years ago. Pauline lives in Broomall, near Philadelphia.

Honey was married in 1948 to Isadore Yasno and had two daughters, Fran and Ruth. Honey's husband died in 1980. Honey's daughter Fran married Howard Toll. They have two children, Adam, 13 and Karen, 10. Honey's other daughter, Ruth, is married to David Love. They have one son, Billy, who is eight years old. Both daughters live in the Philadelphia area. Honey lives in Broomall.

HARRY

He settled in Elizabeth, New Jersey and married Millie there. They had four children: Max, Anne, Herman (almost always referred to as Sonny), and Marilyn.

Max married Selma and they have three children: Jerald, Maureen, and George. They live in Elizabeth, N.J. Jerald is a veterinarian and has been married twice and now lives in Farmingdale, N.J. He has two daughters, Melissa (who is married to Micheal Bell and lives in Hollywood, Florida) and Ariella. Maureen is married to Sam Bernstein and lives in Toledo, Ohio. George is not married.

Anne was married to George Cohen and had two children. She died at an early age. Anne's daughter Mindy is married to Lewis Furman and lives in New City, NY. She has three boys, Joshua, Andrew, and Benjamin. Anne's son is Dr. Richard Cohen and he is married.

Sonny has been married twice and lives with his second wife in Union, NJ. He has two married daughters. Karen is married to Paul Ney. They have no children. Susan is married to Alan Kornblum. They have two sons, Timothy and Craig.

Marilyn was married to Eddie Abraham and had three children, Helene, Mark, and Alan. Eddie died at an early age. Later, she married Armand Cicciu. They live in Schnectady, NY. Helene married Michael Platt and they have two children, Erica and Heather. Mark married Katie and they have two children, Micheal and Molly Rose. Alan married and they have a son, David.

ABIE

My father came to the United States in 1906. He was then unmarried. I believe he was the first of his family to come to the United States and helped bring his siblings and his mother here. (My cousin Joe contradicted this. He

thinks some of the others, especially Tskelya, came here before my father and that Tskelya's wife, Freyda, was helped by her relatives to come to this country). In New York, Abie married Rose (my mother) and Irving (me) and Bea (my sister) were born.

Irving married Dorothy and they had three children: Jay, Susan, and Fran. Jay married Linda. They have twin daughters, Julie and Alana. Susan married John and they have four children: Aaron, Martin, Rose, and William. At this writing, Fran is unmarried.

Bea married Ted and they had two children: Ken and Ellen. Ken married Carol. Ellen married Dennis and they have two children: Kieran and Kyla. Ted died four years ago. Bea died in January of 1994.

BENNIE

He married Fannie in New York. They had three children: Sylvia, Evelyn, and Jerry. For a while they lived in Elizabeth, New Jersey but then returned to New York.

Sylvia married Lou and had two children. Her son married and had two children and I believe a grandchild. Her daughter was married and divorced and is now unmarried.

Evelyn married Bernie and moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan. They had two children. Bernie died at an early age.

Jerry was married twice and twice divorced. He has a daughter. He lives in Florida