

**THE LIBIN FAMILY**  
**FROM THE CHERNIGOV COUNTY**

**In The 19th & 20th Centuries**

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**2011 Internet Edition Edited by**  
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**Dedicated to:**

**My grandmother DOBA LIBIN SCHREIER**

**Her daughters,  
my aunt SARAH KAPLAN and my mother RIVKAH BUCH  
The value of their help is immeasurable.**

**And “The Aunt” ATARA LIBIN**

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## Introduction

I want to thank all who helped me gather the information, pictures, documents, stories and ideas that are presented in this booklet. Without their help, our family story would have been lacking.

My thanks to: my aunt Sarah Kaplan, my mother Rivka Buch, Fira Tamarin, Bela Libina, Lora Gutman, Ela Slutzkin, Arie Ben Yosef, Ori Brook, Yulia Bolotnikov, Ephraim Ilin, Amir Ilin, Mary Hayam, Galia Nachshon, Shirley Levin and Jill Kramer. I give my apology to those whom I neglected to mention. Corrections can easily be made.

For obvious reasons, I wrote a lot about the Libin branch of which I belong. I compiled the enclosed material in a loose leaf booklet. My hope is that there are some meshugeners in the other Libin branches, crazy individuals like me, who would decide to enlarge the chapter on their branch. This format also allows for the additions of pictures and documents as they become available.

I want to apologize for errors and mistakes, and for omissions and wrong statements. Please call my attention to such mistakes and to pertinent material that should be added. I will correct the text and send copies of the corrected pages to all who are on my mailing list.

The four last names of my grandparents are: BUCH, SCHLANK, SCHREIER and LIBIN. Researching the history of these four families is a hobby of mine. I am not an historian. I have a Ph.D. in International Business and Finance and I am a Finance Professor at La Salle University in Philadelphia. Nevertheless, I must confess that these projects give me more satisfaction and fun than any research project related to my academic profession.

I first researched the history of the Schlank family (Schlank/ Berliner/ Ashkenazi/ Hakohen/ Heschel and many more) for several years. This work covers a period of over one thousand years. This family line was connected with literally all the great rabbinical families of Europe. This fact made it possible for me to research at least forty generations of this family<sup>1</sup>.

In the summer of 1994, I completed the Hebrew version of the histories of the Schreier, Buch and Libin families. Currently (early 1995), I am in the process of translating these booklets into English. There are many similarities between these three families. In each case, I have information on about seven or eight generations. This information covers approximately the 19th and the 20th centuries. All three families lived in the Ukraine. Most members of these families left for Israel (Palestine) or the U.S., during the years 1890-1930. (Few went to other countries.)

While the background of these three families is similar, the research and the material included in each of the three booklets are very different. Each has its own uniqueness due to some specific circumstances.

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<sup>1</sup> Most rabbis married daughters of other rabbis. Many wrote books. In the introduction, they often wrote about their family history. This is the reason I was able to go so far back. Part of this research on the Schlank family was published in The Unbroken Chain by Dr. Neil Rosenstein, CIS Publishers 1990.

**The uniqueness of the Buch family research:** The Buch family is very small. We have detailed information on at least 5-6 generations of this family. However, after my grandfather passed away, my father found in his possession a suitcase filled with old letters and documents. This collection is a real treasure. Some documents are over a hundred years old. They shed light on life in those days, on the early days in Petach Tikvah, on land and property transferred under the Turkish rule, and on family ties and communication.

**The uniqueness of the Libin family research:** Over a hundred years ago, Rabbi Shaul Leib Yehuda Hakohen Libin was sent to Hebron Israel by the Lubavitz Rebbe. Seven of the letters that Rabbi Shaul sent to his son, Rabbi Aron Hakohen Libin, in the Ukraine, survived. Dr. Arie Ben-Yosef published a very interesting article based on these letters. The letters are a major source of information on life in Israel in the late 19th century. Family members who recently made Aliya gave me incredibly detailed information on the history of the family under the communist regime. This is a unique insight as to what would have happened to us had our ancestors remained.

**Figure 1. The Structure of the Libin and Gurevitz (Hurwitz) Families<sup>2</sup>**

<u>First Generation</u>		<u>Second Generation</u>
		Rachel Hannah & David Hirsh <sup>3</sup>
		Liela Ponizhovsky <sup>4</sup>
Rabbi Aaron Hakohen	Rabbi Shaul Yehuda Leib Hakohen Libin	Zvi Hirsch Sheinkman (Libin) <sup>5</sup>
		Rabbi Aaron Hakohen Libin & Bela Elka Gurevitz <sup>6</sup>
	Yosef Yermiyahu Gurevitz	Dov Bear Gurevitz <sup>7</sup> & Risa Zevin
		Sose Gurevitz & Moshe Bear Ilin <sup>8</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The generations in this booklet are counted from Rabbi Shaul Hakohen Libin and Yosef Yermiyahu Gurevitz. I did it this way because, while we do know the name of Rabbi Shaul's father, we have no information about him. Also, this way, I eliminated confusion in the generation count of the Libin and Gurevitz families.

<sup>3</sup> I know about them only from the letters from Hebron. I have no information about them or their descendants.

<sup>4</sup> Lora Gutman wrote this name on the Libin family. I have no additional information about her.

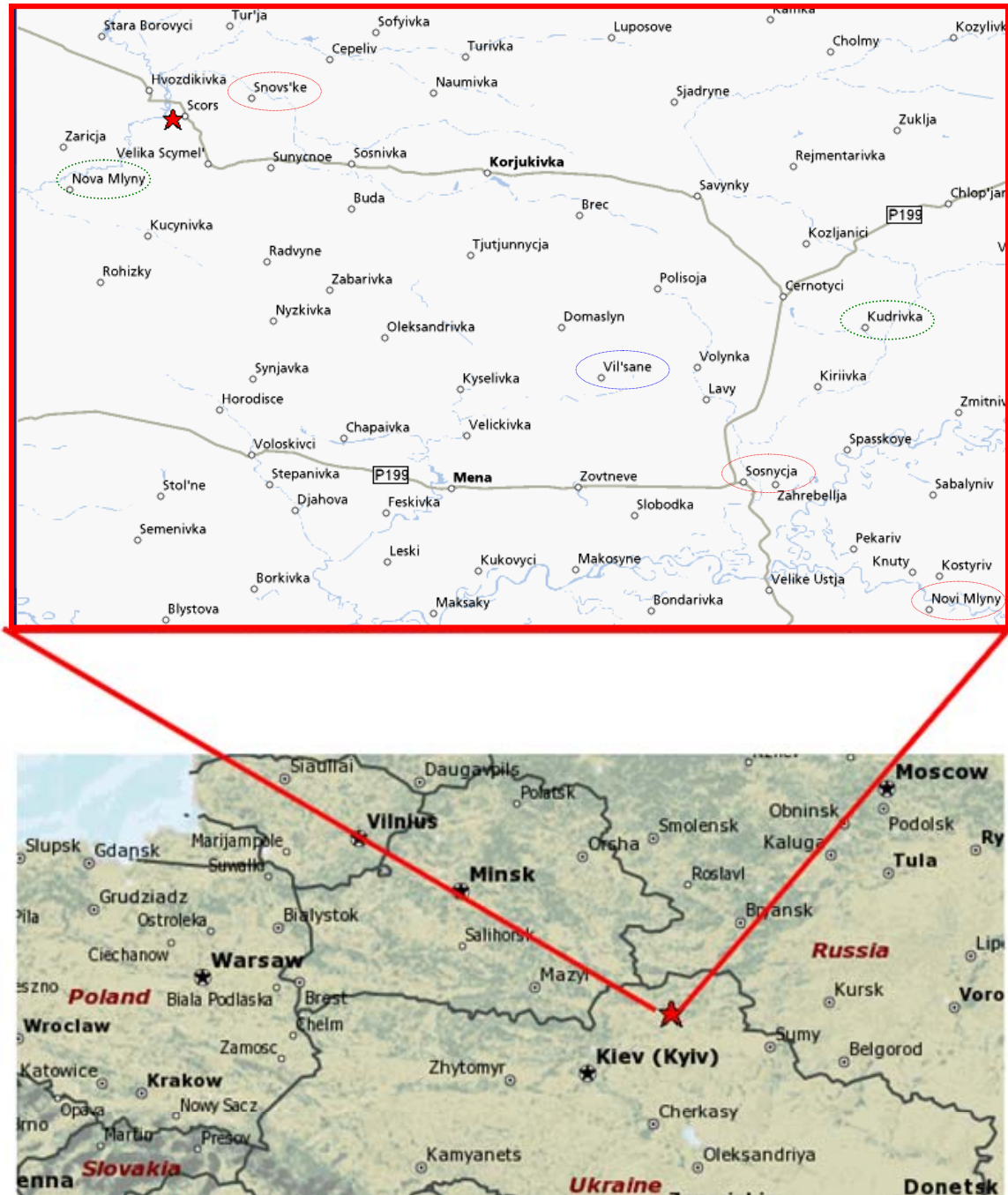
<sup>5</sup> He was the father of Atara Kriene who married her first cousin, Abba Libin.

<sup>6</sup> Aaron and Bela Libin had 11 children. Most of the enclosed material is about their families.

<sup>7</sup> The name was changed to Hurwitz. Enclosed is a family tree with a brief background.

<sup>8</sup> Enclosed is a family tree and a brief historical description.

Figure 2. Chernigow Gubernia (County) In The Ukraine  
The Towns and Villages where the Libin, Ilin, Gurevitz,  
and Schreier Families lived in the 19th and Early 20th Centuries



**The uniqueness of the Schreier family research:** Abrasha Wilcher wrote a book on his life in the Schreier family's home town of Noviye Mlini. We are privileged to have such a unique description of our ancestors' shtetle life. The book is a great source of first hand information on Jewish life in Eastern Europe at the beginning of the 20th century. Another important comment on the Schreier family research is the fact that the family was very large. The history of this family over the last 150 years is a microcosm of the Eastern European Jewish history during this period.

The last chapter in the booklet contains an analysis (not too scientific) and personal observations of mine. In this chapter, I summarized what can be learned from the history of the three families. This chapter is the same in all three booklets and it is sort of the combined summary of all three.

### **Rabbi Shaul Yehuda Leib Hakohen Libin (ca 1810-1893)**

Rabbi Shaul Yehuda Leib Hakohen Libin, the son of Rabbi Aaron Hakohen, was born at the beginning of the 19th century in Russia (Ukraine?). He migrated to Israel (Palestine) in 1887. There he served as a Lubavitz Chassidick (the CHABAB sect of Chassidism) Rabbi in Hebron. He died in Jerusalem on the month of Heshvan, 1893.

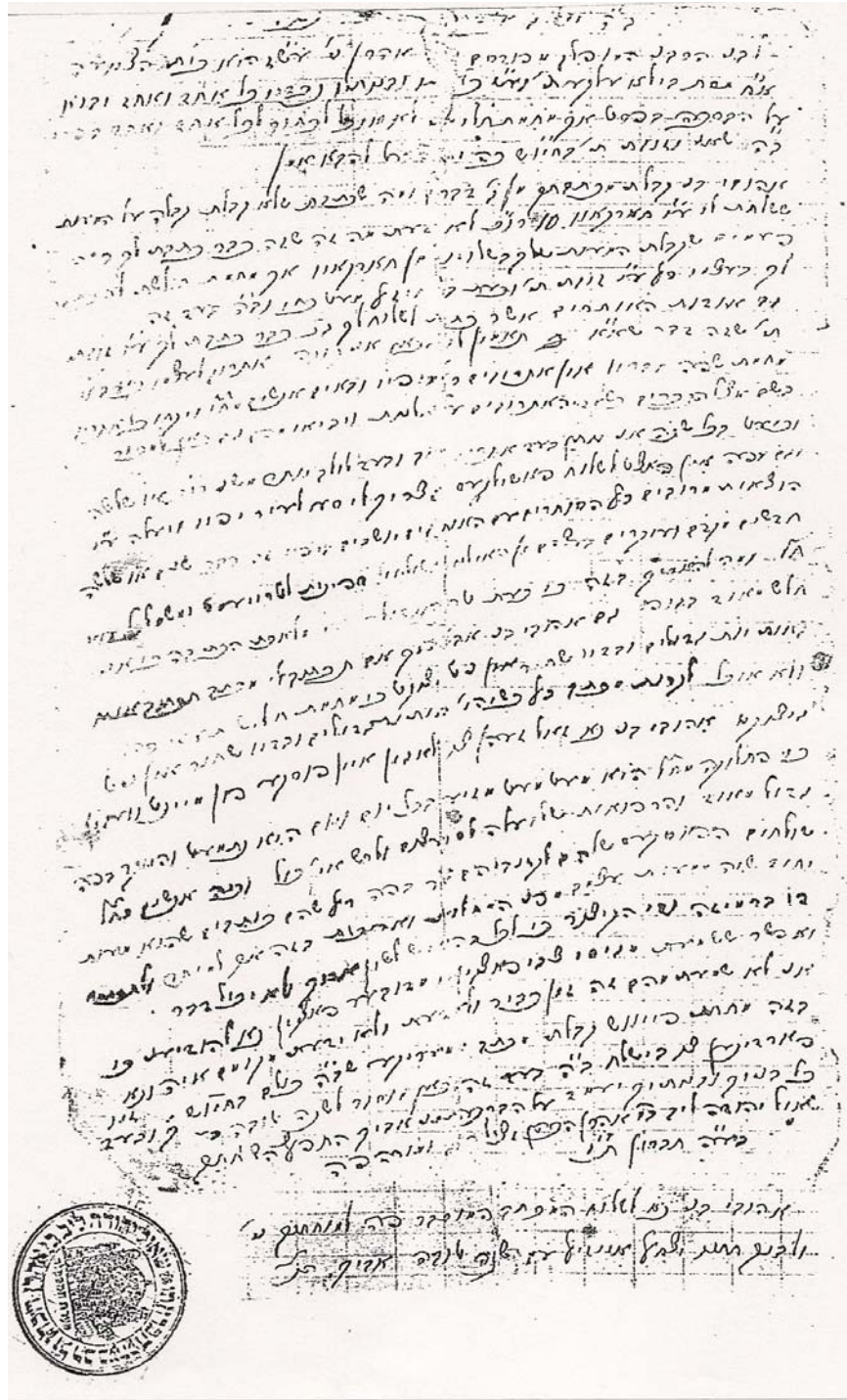
Rabbi Shaul was a rabbi in several towns in greater Russia and especially in the city of Konstantinograd (Krasnograd) in the Ukraine. The Jewish community, in this city, was very Zionist due to the teaching and influence of Rabbi Libin.

Late in life, he decided to make Aliya with his second wife, Malka, (all his children are from his first wife). It is possible that this decision was made for him by the Rebbe (Head Rabbi) of the Lubavitz Chasidick who wanted him to serve the members of the Chabad movement in Hebron. When he was about to leave for Israel, it was clear to him that he would never see his family members again. He wanted to take his personal Torah Scroll with him. Nevertheless, since he wanted to make sure that the Torah would remain with his descendants, he left it in the Ukraine with his son, Rabbi Aaron Hakohen Libin. He did so because he doubted that his son would come to Israel while he was still alive. This Torah Scroll was brought to Israel by his grandson, Isaac Yitzhak Libin. Isaac gave it to a great-grandson, Rabbi Shaul Chaim Brook. Today, the Torah Scroll of Rabbi Shaul Hakohen Libin is in the CHABAD synagogue in Rishon LeZion, Israel (Rabbi Shaul Brook founded this synagogue).

Seven of the letters that Rabbi Shaul sent from Hebron to his son, Rabbi Aaron Libin, in the Ukraine were kept. Six of the letters were given by his grandson, Isaac Libin, to the National Book Archive of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Dr. Arie Ben Yosef, the grandson of Isaac Libin, has the seventh letter. Dr Ben Yosef is a librarian at the Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan Israel. He published a most interesting article based upon the seven letters. From the letters, we can learn a lot about the social and economic conditions of the Jewish communities in Jerusalem and Hebron, at the end of the 19th century. Rabbi Shaul describes the ride on camel back from Jaffa to Jerusalem, the customs and leaders of the community, and a lot about the position of the Chief Sapharadic Rabbi (at that time there was no Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi in Palestine). These letters are a major source of information about Jewish life in Palestine more than a hundred years ago. Figure 3 shows the seventh letter with Rabbi Shaul's signature and seal. On his letters, he signed "A Rabbi and a Teacher in the Holy City of Hebron".



Figure 3. The seventh letter of Rabbi Shaul Hakohen Libin<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</sup> This letter was sent in 1893 from Hebron, Palestine to his son Rabbi Aaron Libin in the town of Sosnitze in the Chernigow county in the Ukraine. The seal at the bottom reads "R. Shaul Yehuda Leib Halohen son of Arron, Rabbi in Hebron."

## **Rabbi Aaron Hakohen Libin (ca 1840-1915) and His Wife Bela Elka Gurevitz**

Rabbi Aaron and his wife, Bela Elka, lived on a small farm, near the village of Kodrovka in the Chernigow County in northern Ukraine. The next largest town is Sosnitse where the Ilin family lived. Kodrovka is between Noviye Mlini and Snovsk. Noviye Mlini was the town of the Schreier family. About 10 miles north of Kodrovka is the resort city of Snovsk, the home town of the Brook family. The Libins, the Ilins, the Schreiers and the Brooks were related by marriage.

Rabbi Aaron was a wealthy man. He leased flour mills which he used in milling the wheat crop of the farmers from the surrounding area. He married Bela Elka, the daughter of Yosef Yermiyahu Gurevitz (changed in the U.S. to Hurwitz). Yosef Yermiyahu and his wife probably died at a young age. The older daughter, Bela, raised her younger brother and sister, Dov Bear and Sose. I believe that she must have been married already when she took care of her younger siblings. Aaron and Bela Libin lived in a very large house on the farm. One room was used as a synagogue with an ark and a Torah Scroll. On Saturday, Jews from the nearby villages came for services. In the yard, there was a small building with two rooms. One room was the Hayder (The School). The Melamed (the teacher) and his family lived in the other room.

The following story indicates the relative wealth of Rabbi Aaron. The older daughter, Gitle Leah, married Israel Brook, a Yeshiva student, from the town of Snovsk. Rabbi Aaron sent, everyday for seven days, wagons filled with food to Snovsk for the celebration of the "Seven Blessings" of the marriage.

Bela Elka died at a relatively early age. At that time, the cause of death was not known. Today, we know that she died from diabetes. Unfortunately, many of her descendants were stricken by this disease.

Aaron and Bela Libin had eleven children, Gitale Leah, Isaac Yitzhak, Abraham Abba, Rachel, Sheine Yaffa, Doba, Yakov(Yasha), Yeshayahu Meir (Shaya, Isai), Isachar Bear (Boris), Mania Miriam and Arie Leib (Lova). Of the above eleven children, the following made it to Israel during 1923-1937: several children of Gitle Leah Brook, Isaac Itzhak and his family, Abba and Atara Libin, and Doba Schreier and her family. Fifty years later, in the 1970's and 1980's, several descendants of Yakov and Shaya managed to leave the Soviet Union and made Aliya.

Mr. Abrasha Wilcher, a descendant of the Schreier family, wrote a book about his childhood in the town of Noviye Mlini which is close to Kodrovka, the village of the Libins. In Appendix 1, I have enclosed a few pages of this book with highlights about Jewish life in this small Shtetle. Clearly, the description of life in Noviye Mlini is very similar to the case of the Libins in Kodrovka.

## The Descendants Of Aaron Hakohn Libin & Bela Elka Gurvitz: An Historical Description<sup>10</sup>

1. **Gitle Leah Libin** married **Israel Brook** of Snovsk. Israel was a Jewish scholar who spent most of his life studying Talmud in the synagogue. He had various occupations including being a lumber merchant. They were very poor and fed their ten children with great difficulty. Five of their children (or descendants of these five) made Aliya.
  - a) **Rabbi Shaul Chaim Brook**, his wife, **Zvia**, and five of their six children made Aliya in 1937. The sixth daughter came to Israel in 1992. Rabbi Shaul served as the Rabbi of the Lubavitz CHABAD Chassidic sect in Rishon Lezion. The Torah Scroll of his grandfather, Rabbi Shaul Yehuda Leib Hakohen Libin, is housed in the synagogue in this city.
  - b) **Yosef Brook** married **Clara**. Yosef was a painter. His granddaughter, Yulia, married Anatoli Bolitnikov. In 1990, the Bolitnikovs moved to Israel with their two children, Victor and Vladimir, and two grandchildren. They lived in Beer-Sheva. Some family stories indicate that Yosef was a difficult child. His mother used to say that even cleaning his nose was a major issue.
  - c) **Musia (Menucha)** married **Yehoshua Yefman**. They came to Israel in the early 1970's with their daughter, Gili, and her daughter, Liza. In Russia, Musia was an educator and an author. Yehoshua was an engineer. Ephraim Ilin wrote in his book that, in his Jewish school "Tarbut" (Culture) in Kharkov (Ukraine, 1920s), they studied from textbooks that Musia wrote. Gili was a French teacher in Israel and, after retirement, specialized in making miniature dolls dressed with authentic Spanish-Jewish costumes from the Golden Age and the period of the Inquisition (1000-1500CE). Lisa is a professional dancer.
  - d) **Shlomo Brook** was born around 1900. He was among the founders of Habimah, the Jewish National Theater. Habimah was founded in Moscow. Shlomo made Aliya with the rest of the members of the theater in 1927, and, was active in acting for the rest of his life. Shlomo always attended our family Seders that took place at the house of the Kaplans. He used to come the day before and stay at our house. As a child, I vividly remember that I looked forward to seeing how he would handle the Kneidlachs. He used to consume huge quantities of this traditional Jewish food.
  - e) **Tuvia Brook** (1892-1964) married **Tanya** (Tamar) **Lutzky** (1892-1972). Their older son, Israel, was born in the Ukraine in 1920. They made Aliya in 1924. Their second son, Ori, was born in 1934. Tuvia was a well educated person. He was an accountant by profession. In Harkov, he worked as the chief accountant for the business of Yosef Ilin, his mother's cousin. Tuvia was an active Zionist and one of the founders of "Tarbut", the Hebrew speaking school system in the city. Tuvia often told Jewish jokes and tales. He was a great story-teller. His son, Israel, was a teacher. In World War II, he served in the Jewish Brigade. This unit was made up of Palestinian Jews who volunteered in the British

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<sup>10</sup> See Appendix 3 for the family tree of their descendants.

military. Roi Brook has continued in his father foot-steps. He is an accountant in Tel Aviv.

- f) **Rasia** (Raya), remained in Russia. Some of her descendants still live there.
- g) **Leib Arie Brook** married **Anna**. They remained in Russia. Their descendants still live there.
- h) **Bela** married **Abraham**. They remained in Russia. Their descendants still live there.
- i) **Anna** married **Aaron**. They remained in Russia. Their descendants still live there.
- j) **Rachel Chanah** married **Yakov**. They remained in Russia.

2. **Yitzhak Isaac Libin** and his wife **Golda**. During 1916-1918, Isaac Libin lived in the Russian city of Saratov on the Volga River. In partnership with his brother, Boris Libin, and his brother-in-law, Alexander Ziskind Schreier, he founded a coffee factory. Isaac arranged lunches for the employees, a major social innovation in those days. He also founded a soup kitchen for the poor. When Saratov came under the Communist regime, the factory was nationalized. In about 1923, Isaac and Golda adopted a daughter, Chayah Ester, and made Aliya in 1924/25. Isaac was a very religious man and devoted his entire life and energy for Tzdukah (charity) purposes. Within the orthodox Jewish communities, most marriages were arranged and tradition required that the bride have a dowry. Isaac helped poor potential brides raise funds for their dowries. He also helped poor people get bank loans. He did it by finding someone who would guarantee the loan. It should be emphasized that Isaac was not wealthy at all. Their daughter, Chayah Ester, married Naftali Ben Yosef. Their grandson, Dr. Arie Ben Yosef, is a librarian in the Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan Israel.

3. **Abba Avraham Libin** married his cousin, **Atara Kriene**. Her father, Zvi Sheinkman, was Rabbi Aaron Libin's brother. Abba and Atara had a packaging factory and were very wealthy. Atara was a professional midwife but, after they got married, she worked in their business. Due to their economic position, they were allowed to live in a big city. They lived in Harkov (Ukraine). In time, they helped many members of the family move there too.

In 1905, the infamous pogrom in Kishenev took place. Atara was pregnant and, when she heard of the frightening atrocities she had a miscarriage. She was not able to get pregnant again. She went to Germany several times for fertility treatments, but to no avail. In 1908, Doba Schreier, Abba Libin's sister, gave birth to her son, Shimon. Doba had a two year old daughter named Bela. The plan was for Atara and Abba to adopt Shimon. Unfortunately, baby Bela died and the plan was canceled.

After the communist take over, they lost all of their wealth. They attempted to migrate to the U.S. and, finally, came to New York in 1923/4. They had a tobacco and cigar store in Harlem and worked very hard. The store was open seven days a week until midnight. They closed the store only three days a year, on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Arie Leib Epstein (possibly a distant relative) used to come and help them in the store.

Every penny that they saved they sent to Palestine. Their cousin, Yosef Ilin, purchased and raised for them a citrus grove in Nes Ziona (10 miles south of Tel Aviv). In 1933, they made Aliya, just as Sarah Schreier (the daughter of Doba Libin Schreier) and Eliyahu Kaplan got married. The wedding was in the Warshavsky Hotel in Jerusalem. Abba and Atara stayed overnight at the hotel and, the day after the wedding, they went sightseeing in Jerusalem with the young couple.

Arie made Aliya at about the same time as Abba and Atara. He met his wife, Shoshana, in Israel. Their son, Murray (Moshe) Epstein, was born in 1937. In 1938/39, they went back to the U.S.

Dr. Murray Epstein is now a world renowned nephrologist. He lives in Miami with his wife, Nina, and their three children.

4. **Rachel Chanah Libin** married a Russian, Mr. **Medvedev**. They lived in Saratov and had a son, Nikolai.

5. **Yaffa Sheine Libin** married **Menachem Mendle Shneorson**, a relative of the family of the Lubavitz Rebbe. They remained in Russia and had three daughters: Bela, Maria and Raya. Their descendants live today in Russia. When Doba (Sheine's sister) and her husband, Alexander Ziskind, planned to leave Russia in 1918, Sheine gave them a hard time. She claimed that only Alexander wanted to leave and that he "takes Doba wherever he wants like the farmer takes his cow".

6. **Doba Libin** (1877-1940) married **Alexander Ziskind Schreier**. I wrote an entire chapter about my grandmother Doba and her family. (See page 15.)

7. **Yakov Yasha Libin** married **Tzeite' Margolin**. Yakov was very close to his younger brother, Shaya Libin. They always worked together and were partners in various ventures. Until the outbreak of World War II, their families lived together. They even divided their income based upon the size of each family. They had many business ideas that possibly would have succeeded under free enterprise, but not under the communists. They had a small lock factory and a bookbinding business, among other businesses. Up until 1926, they lived in Harkov.

Their brother, Arie Leib (Lova), and his wife, Miriam, graduated from medical school in the early 1920's and moved to the city of Korsak. They left their apartment to Yakov and Shaya. The apartment had one room and a basement with two rooms. Yakov and his family lived in the basement, and, Shaya and his family in the one room apartment. They left Harkov because they were afraid that the communists would arrest them as they did other small business owners. They moved to Saratov where they lived under very harsh conditions. There, they tried to produce candles and, later, ink. Later, they worked in a glass blowing factory.

Yakov and Tzeitle had three children: Bela, Lena and Arnold. Bela Libina was born in 1916 and married Pavel. She made Aliya in the early 1970's with her daughter, Ola (Olga), her husband, Nachum Shniderman, and their children, Dan and Alon. In Russia, Bela was a medical doctor and specialized in childrens' tuberculosis. She also served as a doctor in World War II. In Israel, Ola is a teacher and Nachum is a construction engineer. They live in Kfar-Sabba.

Sarah was born in 1919 and married Solomon Shlomo Shore. Their daughter, Ela,

was born in 1942 and was married to Velle Kasker. She divorced and married twice again.

Arnold was born in 1924. He was killed in World War II in 1941, at the age of 17.

8. **Yeshayahu Meir (Shaya) Libin** (1887-1956) was born in Sosnitze, near the family village of Kodrovka. His friend, Mr. Levin, served in the Tsar's Army. Yeshayahu married Mr. Levin's sister, **Tema Riva Levin**. Shaya and Tema often spoke Yiddish at home, especially when they did not want their children to understand their conversation. As mentioned already, Shaya was very close to his brother, Yakov.

Shaya and Tema had two daughters, Bela and Fira (Esphir). Bela was born in 1915 and completed graduate studies in Physics and Math (there were only three women in the graduating class). She married her classmate Yakov Pismani. Many members of the Pismani family were very active communists and held high government posts. During the Stalinist trials in the 1930's, they were executed or sent to Siberia. Yakov's uncle was a deputy minister who was shot to death. Yakov himself got a job with the assistance of Soviet President Kalinin. He was killed as a soldier in World War II (he was missing in action for a very long time). Bela remained a widow and worked in a research institute. She published numerous articles and received prestigious medals. Among others, she worked on the design and planning of the T34 tank.

Fira (Esphir) was born in 1919. She was a medical student. Her husband, Rubin, the son of Lazar Tamarin, was born in 1911. He completed Jewish education in Yiddish and also had an engineering degree. In 1941, when the Germans invaded the USSR, they fled their home in Harkov and moved to the Ural Mountains in County Sverdlosks. There, Fira worked as a pediatric doctor. Later, she was the head of the childrens' division in a hospital. In the Urals, Rubin worked in a tank factory. In 1953, they moved to Lugansk and lived there until they made Aliya in the late 1980's.

Fira and Rubin have two daughters, Ina and Lora. Ina was born in 1941 and Lora was born in 1945. Ina has an engineering degree and married Yuri Luzhan, a teacher who was born in 1942. They live in Magadan on the Yakutiya Lake. Their daughter Yelena was born in 1970.

Lora and her husband, Yevgeni Gutman (born in 1947), are also engineers. They have two sons, Stas, born in 1970, and Boris, born in 1975.

Fira, Lora, and the children came to Israel in 1990. Lora changed her profession and got a degree in social work. They live in Jerusalem.

9. **Isachar Bear (Boris) Libin** married **Esphir**, and they lived in Saratov. From 1916 to 1918, he owned a coffee factory in partnership with his brother Isaac Libin and his brother-in-law Alexander Schreier. The factory was later confiscated by the Communist regime.

Isachar and Esphir had a daughter, Bela, who was an extremely beautiful woman. Her husband was a doctor and worked in a military hospital during World War II. She visited him in the hospital, but was infected by a virus and died in 1942. Their son, Samuel, was a Russian soldier during the war. He was wounded several times and came home in very bad shape. He lived in Saratov, but his family has had no contact with him since the war.

10. **Mania Miriam Libin** (1880-1915) married **Itzhak Slutzkin**. He was an accountant, and they had two sons, Israel and Arkadi. Israel, born in 1918, was a Russian officer during World War II and was seriously wounded. A Russian nurse, Yelena, took care of him and, literally, saved him. They got married in Germany where he served as the military governor of a small town. Their daughter, Bela, was born there.

Israel was arrested by the Soviets and served in a hard labor camp building railroad tracks. His numerous medals were revoked and taken from him. Eventually, Yelena succeeded in getting him back to Russia. He was then sent to work to dig the Volga-Don Canal. Since he excelled in his work, his past record as a potential traitor was erased. He eventually went back to school and became a construction engineer.

Israel and Yelena have two daughters. Their first daughter, Bela, born in 1947, was married twice and has a daughter, Yelena Kulikova, from her first marriage. Their second daughter, Lora, born in 1951, is married to Alick Fuchsman. They have a son, Vladimir, who was born in 1976.

Mania's second son, Arkadi, was born in 1924. Arkadi is an engineer and his wife, Ela (born 1924), is a psychiatrist. They live in Harkov. Their daughter, Ina (born 1950), is married to Yefim Nusanov and they have a son. Ela is the source for all of the above information on the Libins that remained in Russia. Ela sent this information to Lora Tamarin Gutman, and Lora gave it to me.

11. **Arie Leib (Lova) Libin** (1892-1970) married **Miriam**. Arie was the youngest son of Rabbi Aaron Hakohan and his wife Bela. He served as a Russian soldier in World War I, in the Russian-Finnish War and in World War II. Both Lova and Miriam were medical doctors and they had two children, Sosana (Shoshana) and Anatoli.

Sosana, born in 1919, was a chemist and married a fellow student, Israel Slonim, who became a leading Russian physics professor. They lived in Sverdlovsk and in Moscow. However, she was killed in a car accident. They have two daughters and grandchildren.

Anatoli is an engineer. He married a Russian and had two children. He got divorced and his second wife died. Today, he lives near Moscow.

## **Doba Libin Schreier, Her Husband Alexander Ziskind and Their Descendants<sup>11</sup>**

### ***Family History***

**Doba Libin** was born in 1877 and lived with her parents in a farm near the village of Kodrovka. In 1904, Doba was, relatively speaking, an old maid. She was 27 years old and had two older unmarried sisters. She turned down several marriage opportunities because of the age old tradition of older sisters marrying first<sup>12</sup>. One day in 1904, **Alexander Ziskind Schreier**, who lived in the nearby town of Noviye Mlini, came to visit the Libins in Kodrovka. Alexander was a widower with a sickly two-year-old boy, Yeshayahu. After Alexander lost his first wife, someone suggested to Alexander to visit Rabbi Aaron Hakohen Libin in the nearby village of Kodrovka, since he had an eligible daughter. Both families, the Schreiers and the Libins, were Chasidic and Habadnick

<sup>11</sup> See Appendix 5 for the family tree of their descendants.

<sup>12</sup> This tradition was based on the Biblical story of Jacob, Leah and Rachel.

(Lubavitz) families, which obviously was an important factor in any potential marriage. Alexander was a very attractive young man, highly educated, and well-off. Doba decided to marry him regardless of the tradition or the fact that he had a two year old son. Rabbi Slutsky, from the nearby town of Sosnitze, married them in 1904/5<sup>13</sup>. The couple lived in Noviye Mlini and Doba raised Alexander's baby son, who had many medical problems, as if he were her son.

Alexander Ziskind (Zisl) Schreier was the youngest son of Shimon and Feige. He was born on Purim, 1873, probably in Noviye Mlini. His grandfather, Alexander Ziskind Polonsky, was very wealthy and lived in Manstritze, near Nieschzhin. Alexander studied in the Heyder (the Hebrew school) in Noviye Mlini. When he was about 17 years old, he was drafted into the Tsarist Army and served about four years. After completing his military service, he studied in the Yeshiva and planned to become a rabbi. This was in 1895, when he was 22. For some unknown reason, he changed his plan. He completed his rabbinical studies but did not pursue the ordination. Instead, he decided to become a businessman. He purchased from the farmers in the region some kind of yarn. He processed it into ropes and strings which he sold in large towns. This profession required a lot of traveling through the entire region.

In Noviye Mlini, Doba and Alexander lived with his parents, Shimon and Feige Schreier. Shimon was partially paralyzed and died in 1906/7. The family had a large grocery store. Doba described her mother-in-law, who came from a very wealthy family, as a "Lady". She cared very much for her looks and was always dressed very well. Feige was a very smart woman. She ran the household and managed the books of the business. Doba managed and worked in the family store. She often helped poor customers and ignored their debts. In 1910, they brought Rabbi Libin, Doba's father, and his second wife to live with them too. In 1906, Doba gave birth to Bela who died at the age of two. Their son Shimon was born in 1908, their daughter Sarah in 1912 and Rivka (my mother) in 1914.

In their yard, they had a cow and chickens. When Shimon was about three years old, Doba's sister-in-law (and cousin), Atara Kreine Libin, came for a visit. Doba told Atara that she was concerned because Shimon did not eat anything. Atara followed Shimon for an entire day and discovered that the gentile maid, while milking the cow, gave him fresh milk. Shimon also used to look for eggs in the yard and eat them raw. He liked to eat raw eggs for the rest of his life. Atara and her husband, Abba Libin (Doba's brother), had no children. It was planned that they would adopt Shimon. After the older daughter, Bela, died as a baby, the plan was canceled.

Alexander was very concerned about his children's education. He understood that, in these modern times, the Heyer and the Hebrew school were not enough. So he sent his older son, Yeshayahu, to a school in the city of Konotop. This was a very unusual thing to do in those days.

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<sup>13</sup> The great-grandson of Rabbi Slutsky, Yakov Zour, graduated high school with me. His father, Hillel Zour, was Vice-Mayor of Netanya and an active Irgun member.



### ***Moving Out Of Noviye Mlini and Aliya to Israel (1916-1923)***

The Jews began to leave Noviye Mlini and others towns in the area, prior to the outbreak of World War I. Some left in the late 19th century and during the Russian-Japanese War of 1904/5. At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, and later, during the Communist revolution in 1917, living conditions for the Jews worsened. Pogroms, murders and rapes were daily events. Many Jews left the small towns for large cities where they were less noticeable. As mentioned already, at least five of the family members were murdered during this period by the gangs of Petlura or the White Tsarist Army of General Danikin.

In 1916, Alexander, Doba and their four children moved to city of Saratov on the Volga River. As already mentioned, Alexander established a coffee factory there in partnership with two of Doba's brothers, Isaac and Boris Libin. Isaac was very liberal and initiated a lunch meal in the plants for the employees. During the weekdays, Alexander used to purchase tickets for the electric street cars. On Saturdays, they rode the street cars to the synagogue<sup>14</sup>.

In Saratov, the Schreiers' lived in a house and shared a large court with about 45 gentile families. When Shimon was practicing his Haftara for his Bar-Mitzvah, he had to keep his voice low in order not to anger the gentiles.

They stayed in Saratov until 1918. However, when the Communists began to take control of the area, the entrepreneurs were in danger. Alexander's strong desire to educate his children guided him in their next move. They decided to move to Lithuania. The Jewish communities in Lithuania established a large modern school system<sup>15</sup>. They planned to go to the city of Riga but the first train to come was for Kovna. They took that train and lived in Kovna from 1918 to 1923. In Kovna, the children studied in the Hebrew Realick Gimnasia (Hebrew High School).<sup>16</sup>

In a letter that Alexander Ziskind wrote to his granddaughter, Aviva Kaplan, in 1959 he wrote:

**"Forty two years ago I left a factory in Saratov without receiving a penny for my third of ownership. I earned there a very good living. We lived very well. I did so in order to leave this impure city. I was afraid that my children will be assimilate and will lose their Jewishness. Many members of my wife's family gave me a hard time. ...her sister Sheine Libin Shneorson told me that they will not allow me to take Doba and the children away. She said: 'Do you think that you have the right to take your wife like the farmer takes his cow..?'"**

In Saratov, prior to their departure, Alexander ordered from a carpenter a small crate with hollow walls. In it, he put his Russian rubles and their jewelry. This was his daughter's' dowries. By the time they arrived in Kovna, the Communists changed the

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<sup>14</sup> This is an amazing story since Alexander was very orthodox. I do not believe that the orthodox rabbis would allow such an act today but I am told that it was permitted in those days.

<sup>15</sup> Up to the end of World War II, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were independent countries. As we know, they regained their independence with the collapse of the USSR.

<sup>16</sup> My mother's class picture from the early 1920's is in Appendix 2.

Russian currency and the rubles were worthless. (In Appendix 2 is a picture of one of these bills which he later gave as souvenirs to his grandchildren.)

## **Kovna**

In Kovna, Alexander established a coffee and cocoa factory with a partner, Mr. Hayman. The business did extremely well, but there were, unfortunately, problems with his partner, who was not an honest man. After awhile, Mr. Hayman committed suicide. His son, who lived in Raanana Israel, also committed suicide. In Appendix 2 is a picture of the label that was glued on the coffee cans of their factory. On the label, there is a Russian and French explanation on how to make coffee and cocoa.

Alexander and Doba's children went to the Jewish community school in Kovna and learned to speak Hebrew fluently. Everyday, a Yeshiva student was invited for a meal at the Schreiers. Each day, a different student came for two reasons; first, to give the students the opportunity to observe different families, and second, to make sure that they did not get involved with the daughters of the hosts.

Alexander Ziskind was a Zionist. His daughter, Sarah Kaplan, told me that when the famous poet, Chaim Nachman Bialik, received a permit to migrate to Palestine, she went with her father for a special reception. The older son, Yeshayahu, was active in the Zionist youth movement, "Hashomer Hatzaeer". The second son, Shimon, read regularly a Zionist magazine edited by the famous Zionist leader, Zev Zhibotinsky. Yeshayahu planned to make Aliya, and Doba said to Alexander, "Yeshayahu will not go alone. He might get lost there". As a result, all six made Aliya in 1923: Alexander, Doba and the four children.

In 1958, at the very end of a long letter about their life in Saratov and Kovna my grandfather, Alexander, wrote, "The essence of this long Megila (a long story) is that we all should be thankful to Yeshayahu who was the catalyst for our Aliya to Israel."

On the way to Israel, they visited their in-laws, Abba and Atara Libin, in the Polish city of Chopot. The Libins were waiting there for entry visas to the U.S. From Chopot, the Schreiers went to Berlin. This was exactly the time of the Nazi Putsch in Munich (the beginning of Hitler's rise to power) and they were advised to get immediately out of Germany. They took a train to Trieste, Italy. From Trieste, they went on a boat to Port Said in Egypt. For this boat ride, they had to bring their own food. From Port Said, they took a smaller boat to Jaffa, Palestine.

## **Palestine**

The Schreiers arrived in Palestine on the sixth anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, on November 1, 1923. (Figure 4 shows Shimon Schreier's Entry Certificate to Palestine.) They initially stayed in Tel-Aviv for about ten days<sup>17</sup>. Alexander went to Petach Tikvah (6 miles east of Tel-Aviv) to investigate the place. He knew that the people in Petach Tikvah were more religious than in Tel-Aviv. He then came back and took Doba to Petach Tikvah.

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<sup>17</sup> Tel Aviv, the first Jewish City in modern Israel, was founded in 1909 as a suburb of Jaffa.

They rented an apartment from the Leichtung family on Mohilover Street. There was no electricity in the town and the toilet was an outhouse. A family friend met them in Jaffa and borrowed from Alexander five pounds (probably Egyptian pounds). He planned to purchase a cow in Lebanon. Alexander gave him ten pounds for two cows to buy one for himself. Doba knew how to milk a cow since their days in Noviye Mlini.

In Petach Tikvah, they purchased a lot on Herzle Street, across the street from Rabbi Heller's house. First, they built a barn in which they lived for about six months until their house was completed in late 1924. They lived there for about eleven years. In the meanwhile, Yeshayahu and Sarah got married and moved to Netanya. Alexander signed a loan guarantee to a friend. The friend, Mr. Pisencher, went bankrupt and Alexander was forced to sell his house and lost a lot of money. They then rented an apartment on Hafetz Chaim Street.

Upon his arrival in Petach Tikvah, Alexander had purchased a citrus grove. He also was involved in planting groves for Lithuanian Jews who planned to make Aliya. His son, Shimon, worked and supervised the groves with several employees. In 1926, Alexander built, with Rabbi Heller, Mr. Yakov Schlank and Mr. Rosenzweig, the "Tifarah" Synagogue. (Today, it is called the Heller Synagogue.)

In the early 1930's, Alexander became ill and traveled several times to hot springs in Europe. In 1937/38, he built--in partnership with his daughter, Rivka, and her husband, Peretz Buch--a two story house on Rothchild Street. On each floor, there were two small apartments. Alexander and Doba lived in one apartment, and Rivka, Peretz and their baby son, Yehoshua (that's me), lived in the second. After Shimon married Yonah Slonim, they lived in the third apartment, and the family rented out the fourth apartment. Alexander lived in this house until he passed away in 1968.

## ***World War II***

In the mid 1930's, Doba was stricken with a fatal skin disease. In 1939, in a desperate attempt to find a cure, Alexander and Doba went to Europe. They were in Warsaw when the Germans began bombing the city. Since they had British passports, they were allowed to leave the city and pass through the German lines<sup>18</sup>. They were probably among the last Jews to leave the city freely rather than be shipped to the crematoria in Aushwitz. They went to Lithuania and, from there to Odessa and finally made it to Israel.

This was an extremely rough period. Doba was in terrible condition and the economic situation was beyond description. Peretz was unemployed most of the time. The citrus industry, in which he worked most of his life, was in total ruin due to the war.

During this period, Alexander spent most of his time with his daughter, Sarah Kaplan, in Ein-HaOved (today Avichail), near Netanya. Meanwhile, Doba was cared for by the youngest daughter, Rivka Buch. They brought to live with them a medical doctor who lost his practice permit.

Eventually, Doba was transferred to a hospital in Jerusalem. She died there in 1940 and was buried on The Mount of Olives. The Jordanians, who ruled that area from 1948 to 1967, destroyed many of the graves in this 2500 year old Jewish cemetery. After the 1967 Six Day War, Doba's gravestone was found broken in half some 50-60 feet

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<sup>18</sup> The British and the French joined the war against Germany just a few days later.

away from her grave. The family fixed it and put it back on her grave. I will never forget the family summer gatherings around the grave for her Yoretziets.

### ***Alexander and Doba's Children***

**Yeshayahu Schreier** (1902-1955), Alexander's older son, was an electrician. He was the contractor who built the first electric network in Petach Tikvah in the late 1920s. He was also active in the "Bnei Binyamin" movement, a group of young pioneers that founded Netanya in 1931. In Netanya, he had ice and soda factories. When Netanya eventually had a phone system, his phone number was "Netanya #4".

He married Shoshanah Machnes, a native of Petach Tikvah whose father, Aaron Leib Machnes, had been one of the founders of that town<sup>19</sup>. Yeshayahu and Shoshanah were among the ten founding families of Netanya. Shoshanah was already pregnant with their older daughter, Raya, one of the first children born in Netanya. Raya was named after her grandmother, Rasia, the daughter of Shlomo Schreier. Rasia, in turn, was named after her grandmother, Rasia, the wife of Gedalia. Several years later, Yeshayahu and Shoshanah's second daughter, Galia (Gaga), was born.

Netanya was built on the sand dunes, near the coast. The founders built their homes on the triangle of Smilansky, Herzle and Dizengof Streets, and they planted citrus groves. The groves were grafted by specialists from the capital of citrus growing in Israel, Petach Tikvah. Among them was Peretz Buch, Rivka's future husband.

On the hill east of the small settlement (the location of the Post Office and the Mall today), there was an Arab village named Um-Haled. One day, the sheik of the village asked Yeshayahu if he could purchase Yeshayahu's sister, Rivka, for a wife. (Lucky for me, Yeshayahu refused).

Yeshayahu was an active Haganah member who specialized in procurement of weapons from British officers<sup>20</sup>. He arranged parties in his house and befriended British officers. Somehow, he managed to purchase weapons from them. One day in 1940/41, one of the officers informed the British Intelligence about these illegal activities. Yeshayahu was caught with weapons in his van. He served in the prisons of Acre and Jerusalem for about a year and a half. When his step-mother Doba died, he was not allowed to attend the funeral.

**Shimon Schreier** (1908-1993), Alexander's second son, worked in citrus groves all his life. He managed and supervised the family grove and supervised the groves that they raised for the Lithuanian Jews. Later, he managed large plantations of almonds and vineyards.

Rivka and Peretz Buch introduced him to Yonah Slonim, Peretz's cousin. Yonah was born in Hebron to a family who had lived in the country for many generations. In 1929, during the pogrom in Hebron, Yonah and her family were saved from the slaughter by an Arab neighbor.

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<sup>19</sup> Petach Tikvah, "The Mother of the Settlements", was the very first Jewish town in modern times, founded in 1878. Up to that time, all the Jews in the country lived in the old Biblical towns of Jerusalem, Hebron, Safed, Tiberia, Jaffa etc. Petach Tikvah was established by Jews who decided it is time to work the land of Israel and to reclaim it.

<sup>20</sup> The Haganah (Defense in Hebrew) was the main underground defense organization.

Shimon and Yonah got married and lived in the house on Rothchild Street<sup>21</sup>. They had two children, Shmuel and Dalia, both of whom were born in Petach Tikvah.

**Sarah Schreier** (1912-), the older daughter of Alexander and Doba, graduated from Teacher's College in Tel Aviv. In the early 1930's, she was a teacher in Pardess Hagdood, a citrus plantation on the outskirts of Netanya. In 1933, she met **Eliyahu Kaplan**, the manager of Pardess Hagdood, and married him that year. A year or two later, they were among the founders of Ein-HaOved (a village that later became part of Avichail), just north of Netanya.

Eliyahu (1903-1982) was born in Bobroisk (Bielo Russia) to Menachem Mendle and Gitle Kaplan. The Kaplans were a very religious Lubavitz Chassidic (Habad) family. He was an active Zionist in his youth and was arrested, after a search in their house, but managed to escape. In 1923, he immigrated to Palestine with a family that had entry permits. He studied in the famous agriculture school of Mikveh Israel and, with the recommendation of the principal, Mr. Krause, became the grove manager of Pardess Hagdood<sup>22</sup>. He and Sarah's three children--Aviva, Menachem and Nadav—were born in Avichail (Ein-HaOved).

**Rivka Schreier** (1914-), the younger daughter of Alexander and Doba, wanted to become a nurse. Her parents refused her wishes. She rebelled, quit school in 11th grade and went to work in the citrus groves of Petach Tikvah. Later, she began working in a packing company and was the chief fruit selector in the group<sup>23</sup>.

Rivka was a great gymnast, often practicing at the Maccabi Avshalom Sport Club where she met Peretz. Peretz Buch (1913-1991) was born in Petach Tikvah. His grandfather's uncle, Dov Bear Buch, lived there since 1887 and was among the first fifty families in the town.

On his mother's side, Peretz's roots in Israel can be traced back to at least 1838. In that year, Ester Michle Berliner, the granddaughter of Rabbi Solomon Hirshel Berliner, and her fiancé, Rabbi Yohanan Zvi Hirsh Schlank, came to Jerusalem and were

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<sup>21</sup> Hanah, Yonah's mother, and Gila, Peretz's mother, were the daughters of Yehoshua Schlank, a prominent member of the Jewish community in the Old City of Jerusalem. He was born in 1857, in Jerusalem. His parents were Yohanan Zvi Schlank, the son of Rabbi Mordechai of Shoenlanke and Michle

<sup>22</sup> Pardess Hagdood was a citrus plantation owned by American Jews who volunteered to fight in World War I. The officers of this unit were the famous Zionist leader, Zev Zhabotinsky, and the legendary Yosef Trumpeldor (The One Armed Hero of Tel-Hai in the early 1920's). In 1933, these American volunteers founded the village of Avichail (in Hebrew: "My father is a soldier") where the Kaplans and the Buchs live.

<sup>23</sup> Citrus fruit was packed for shipment to Europe by a group of highly trained packers. Each chief packer had a group of about twenty individuals under him. The group moved from one grove to another and packed the fruit as soon as it was picked. They made wooden crates on the spot and carefully selected only the top quality fruit for export. The fruit was also separated by size for precision packing. The citrus industry was the only industry in the country at the time and the position of Chief Packer was a most prestigious position.

married there<sup>24</sup>. Their older son, Yehoshua Schlank, was born in the old city in 1857. His daughter Gila, Peretz's mother, was also born in the old city in 1892.

Peretz was a highly trained citrus grower and one of the veteran elite citrus packers. He was also active in the Haganah since age 16, and was a star soccer player. He was the captain of the Maccabi Avshalom soccer team when they won the Palestine Cup in 1935, and participated in the first and second Maccabia Games (The Jewish Olympics).

Rivka and Peretz began dating in 1932 and got married on the first of Nissan, 1936. Their son, Yehoshua, was born in Petach Tikvah on Lag Ba-Omer, 1937. In 1943, Rivka, Peretz and Yehoshua moved to Avichail where they purchased a house and a citrus grove. They lived half a block from the Kaplans. In 1944, their son, Ehud (Udi), was born, on the Holiday of Shavuot.

**Figure 4. Shimon Schreier Registration Certificate # 23614, Jaffa,**



<sup>24</sup> Rabbi Solomon Hirshel Berliner was the first Chief Rabbi of the British Empire. He served in London from 1800 to 1842. As I mentioned in the introductory chapter, the Berliner/Schlank family has a lineage going back to the 12th century. (see Footnote 1)

## Zvi Hirsch Sheinkman (Libin)

**Zvi Hirsch** was the second son of Rabbi Shaul Yehuda Leib Hakohen Libin. In order to avoid the draft to the Tsarist Army, he was adopted by the Sheinkman family<sup>25</sup>. As was explained earlier, if a family had only one son, he was not drafted. The Sheinkman's did not have children and, by adopting Zvi Hirsch, he avoided the draft. His older brother, Aaron, was also spared since he also was the only son (of Rabbi Shaul).

Zvi Hirsch was a Shochet (ritual slaughterer) and a Mohel. He was a wealthy man<sup>26</sup>, hence the authorities permitted him to live in a large city. He lived in the city of Kharkov in the Ukraine. He had at least three children, Chavah, Yosef, and Atara (Kriene).

We know about **Chavah** only from the stories of her sister Atara. Aunt Atara told her niece, Sarah Kaplan, that Chavah and she were very close. They traveled several times together to the Caucasus, the resort area on the Black Sea. Chavah was not especially pretty, but there was something unique about her. She was dark with large eyes, and painters liked to paint her.

She was married but her husband was a womanizer. He was a successful businessman and they had one daughter, Raya. Raya was very bright and played some instruments very well. She was married at a very young age, probably to a gentile. She had a daughter and returned to her parents' house. She died at a young age.

We know about the son **Yosef** only from the letters from Hebron. In the letters, Rabbi Shaul asked about the son of his son, Zvi. He wrote that he would go to pray in the Cave of Machpela (the burial site of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob and Leah) so his grandson, Yosef, would fail the Draft Committee hearings. We have no other information about Yosef.

**Atara (Kreine, Katia) Libin**, "The Aunt"<sup>27</sup>, was born to a very wealthy family. She was highly educated (a rarity for a woman in those days) and was also a certified midwife. She married **Abba Libin**, her first cousin, and worked in his business in Kharkov.

In 1905, she was pregnant, but when she heard about the pogrom in Kishenev, she had a miscarriage. She did not succeed in getting pregnant again. As I mentioned already, the plan was that she would adopt Shimon Schreier, the son of her cousin (and sister-in-law) Doba. Since Doba's older daughter died, they did not carry out the plan. Atara was very close to Doba and often visited her in the Schreier's town of Noviye Mlini.

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<sup>25</sup> The first name of Mr. Sheinkman was probably Chaim.

<sup>26</sup> His adoptive parents were probably rich.

<sup>27</sup> More details on Atara and her husband, Abba Libin, were given in the previous chapter.

## Other Family Members<sup>28</sup>

According to the family tree that Ela Slutskin sent, Rabbi Aaron had a sister by the name of **Leila Ponizovsky**. In the letters from Hebron, Rabbi Shaul mentioned a daughter named **Rachel Chanah** and her husband, **David Hanek**. He also mentioned their children, Tobe and Arie.

In his letters, Rabbi Shaul mentioned his sons-in-law. This again implies more than one daughter. He mentioned a son-in-law, **Faivish**, who lived in the U.S. Probably he was the husband of Leila Ponizovsky. If this is correct, they migrated to the U.S. prior to 1893 (the year Rabbi Shaul died in Palestine).

All of these are speculations. We have no information about these people. Rabbi Shaul also mentioned brothers-in-law, **Zvi and Dov Bear Patzkin**, who also migrated to the U.S. It is not clear if they were his brothers-in-law from his first wife (the mother of Rabbi Aaron Libin) or from his second wife, **Malka**, who moved to Israel with him. It is possible that there are distant relatives in the U.S., descendants of the Ponizovsky family and the Patzkin family.

## The Descendants of Dov Bear Hurwitz (Gurevitz) & Risa Zevin A Brief Historical Background<sup>29</sup>

**Dov Bear Gurevitz** was the younger brother of Bela Elka Libin. His father was Yosef Yermiyahu Gurevitz. His parents must have died at a very young age, since he and his other sister, Sose, were raised by Bela, who was much older than them.

Dov Bear and his wife, **Risa Zevin**, lived with their eight children in Alshan, in the Ukraine. He was probably a poor cattle and horse tradesman. They migrated to the U.S., arriving at Ellis Island on May 31, 1906. When they entered the U.S., the family name was changed from Gurevitz to Hurwitz<sup>30</sup>.

On the way to the U.S., they stopped in the UK where they had a medical examination prior to receiving the entry visas to the U.S. Their son, Max, was 16 years old at the time. He was diagnosed with glaucoma and did not receive the entry permit to the U.S. He was left with a local Jewish family who took him to their own doctor. He checked him and found no glaucoma. They rushed him to the port, the vessel with the family was still there, and he made it with them to the U.S.

In New York, Dov Bear became a butcher. He had a shop in Manhattan Beach in Brooklyn<sup>31</sup>. In 1924, when Atara and Abba Libin made it to the U.S., they met with their uncle, Dov Bear, and maintained old family ties. Shlomo Brook (the grandson of Bela Gurevitz Libin) came to New York in 1928-30 with the Hebrew speaking theater, Habimah. He established close ties with Dov Bear (his mother's uncle) and, later, when he lived in Israel, he told the family about the butcher shop, clients etc...

<sup>28</sup> In Israel we called her Hadodah. We have only minimal information about her family.

<sup>29</sup> See Appendix 6 for the family tree of their descendants.

<sup>30</sup> In Russian, the "H" is pronounced "G" (Kahan in Russian is Cagan, etc...).

<sup>31</sup> Aunt Atara Kreine Libin told Sarah Kaplan a story about the time Dov Bear went to a barber shop in New York and the barber cut his beard by mistake.



The family ties remained very strong. In the 1950's, Yoram Goren (a great-grandson of Sose Gurewitz Ilin) came from Israel to study in the U.S. He had a close relationship with the Agree family, who are descendants of Dov Bear and Risa. In about 1960, Max and his wife, Minnie, visited with the family in Israel. In 1962, I came to the U.S. and visited Max and Minnie several times in Lynchburg, Virginia. I also went with them to a Zevin family reunion. They attended my wedding in 1964 and my parents visited them. In 1980, Minnie and her daughter, Shirley, attended the Bat Mitzvah of my daughter, Nomi. Shirley's daughter, Jill Kramer, lives not far from me and we see each other once in awhile.

### **Dov Bear and Risa's Children**

**Yosef Hurwitz** married **Fanny Schuman**. Yosef worked in the textile district in Manhattan. He was probably a clothing designer.

**Abraham Hurwitz** married his cousin, **Sarah Zevin**. He also worked in the textile district in Manhattan. Later, he opened, in partnership with his brother Max, a store in New Jersey. They sold a variety of beach equipment and supplies. Abraham died at a very young age. During the years 1932-1945, Sarah and her brother, Irving Zevin, owned the Blue Mountain Lodge in Fixkill, New York. Shirley Levin, Max's daughter, told me that they spent many summer months in this hotel.

**Max Hurwitz** married **Minie Rubinstein**. Max started to work in the sweat shops of the Textile District in Manhattan, a day after they arrived in the U.S. Later, he founded his own clothing factory. Eventually, they moved it to Lynchburg, Virginia. As I mentioned already, Max maintained close ties with his family in Israel, and so did the Agrees.

**Mary Hurwitz** married **Isidore Agree**. Isidore probably also had a textile factory but, for the better part of his professional life, he was the Director of the Dress Manufacturing Association of America.

**Yakov Hurwitz** married **Sadie Shenkman**. Yakov was very young when they arrived in the U.S. and had the opportunity to complete his education. Yakov was a very successful lawyer and published several important legal texts.

**Nathan Hurwitz** also came to the U.S. as a child, and thus was able to study in his new country. He completed his academic studies and worked as an editor in several important publishing houses.

**Rose Hurwitz** married Mr. **Cornelius McGillicuddy**. He was an active union member in Connecticut. He was a nephew of Connie Mach, one of the founders of baseball in the U.S. Cornelius' cousin is Senator Connie Mack from Florida.

**Bela Hurwitz** married **Max Kopelman**. Max was an accountant.

### **The Descendants of Sose Gurevitz & Moshe Bear Ilin A Brief Historical Background<sup>32</sup>**

**Sose Gurevitz** married **Moshe Bear Ilin**. At the beginning of the 20th century, they lived in the town of Sosnitze. Sosnitze is in the Chernigow County in the Ukraine.

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<sup>32</sup> See Appendix 7 for the family tree of their descendants.

The Libin's village of Kodrovka was about five miles from Noviye Mlini, the town of the Schreiers.

Sose was a very wise woman with a strong inclination for business. In Sosnitze, she had a small candy factory. Undoubtedly, her son, Yosef, and her grandson, Ephraim, inherited their business skills from her.

Moshe Bear was a quiet and naive person who spent most of his time in the synagogue. They had three children, Yosef, Sarah and Bela.

**Yosef Ilin** worked in his childhood as a laborer in a printing house. Yosef married **Ester Kunikov** and went into business for himself. He became very wealthy and was permitted to live in a large city. They moved to Kharkov. In Kharkov, Yosef established several factories. He had a factory that manufactured soap and toiletries, a match factory and a cardboard box factory. His two children were born in Kharkov, Batia in 1909 and Ephraim in 1912. Kharkov had a strong Jewish Zionist community. The BILU movement was founded there in the 1880's<sup>33</sup>. Many Hebrew and Yiddish papers were published in Kharkov. Conventions of "HaChalutz" and "HaShomer Hatzair" (Zionists organizations) also took place in Kharkov. In Kharkov, Yosef was among the founders of the Hebrew school system "Tarbut". Among the founders was also Tuvia Brook, the son of Yosef's cousin, Gitle Leah Libin Brook. Among the textbooks used in this school were books written by Musia Yefman, Tuvia's sister.

The Ilins' house was filled with hope and anticipation for the Aliya to Israel. They had a maid who taught the children Hebrew. The Communists revolution destroyed the family wealth. Later, in the early 1920's, private enterprise was again encouraged and Yosef managed to succeed in business again. In 1924, Sose and Moshe Ilin made Aliya. Yosef, Ester and their children, Batia and Ephraim, also came to Israel in 1924. With them came Yosef's sister, Sarah Grabov, and her husband and his niece, Mary Malerowitz. They lived in Nes Ziona, about 8 miles south of Tel Aviv. In Nes Ziona, Yosef planted and raised a citrus grove for his cousin, Abba Libin, who migrated to the U.S. in 1923.

**Batia Ilin** married **Mordechai (Gorenshtein) Goren**. Their son, Yoram, is a maritime engineer.

**Ephraim Ilin**, Yosef's son, is the major source of information about the Ilin family. Ephraim sent me a letter with a lot of information. He also published a very interesting biography from which I took a lot of data<sup>34</sup>. Ephraim married **Tzfira Entin**. They lived in Rishon LeZion and he became a successful businessman. With the birth of the State of Israel in 1948, Ephraim was very instrumental in weapon procurements for the young state. He was key link in the purchase of weapons from Czechoslovakia. These weapons were crucial for the Israeli success in the Independence War. In the early 1950's, Ephraim established the first automobile assembly line and factory in Haifa. Ephraim's book is in Hebrew. I strongly urge those who can read Hebrew to read it. At this point, I would like to tell one story related to my mother and one of my earliest

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<sup>33</sup> BILU stand for the Hebrew "Beit Yakov Lechu Venelcha" or "The House of Jacob, lets go (to Israel)". Members of this group founded the early Jewish settlements in Palestine such as Rishon LeZion, Nes Ziona, Zichron Yakov and more.

<sup>34</sup> Ephraim Ilin wrote a biographical book named "Al Hachatum", published by Maariv, 1985. A probable Hebrew translation of the title is "The Undersigned".

memories in life. During World War II, Ephraim was a uniform supplier to the British Army in Palestine. I remember that my mother used to sew ranks and insignia on her sewing machine. I was about three years old. Recently, I asked her about this work and she told me that my father was unemployed and she needed a job. Her aunt, Atara Libin, knew that Ephraim had the uniform contract with the British and she received the work from him. This piece work was our major source of income in those days.

**Sarah Ilin** married **Mr. Grabov**. Sarah was a dentist. They made Aliya in 1924 and had no children.

**Bela**, the daughter of Sose and Moshe Bear Ilin, married **Israel Malerowitz**. They had four children, Mary, Fanya, Katya and Yosef who died as a child.

**Mary Malerowitz** in her childhood was an active Zionist and a member of “HaShomer Hatzair”. There was danger that she would be arrested due to these activities and might have even been sent into exile to Siberia. In order to avoid this problem, she went with her uncle’s family to Israel in 1924. Her parents and sisters remained in Russia. On the way to Israel, in Riga, she met her future husband, **Volodia Itzkowitz**. A year later, they met by coincidence, again in Israel. They both were members of “HaShomer Hatzair” where this group settled Kibbutz Kinneret, near the Sea of Galilee. Volodia Hebreized changed his name to **Zeev Hayam** (The Sea Wolf). They were married at the house of the Ilins, in Nes Ziona. Ephraim wrote in his book that, “the bride and the groom held their heads outside the Hupah because they objected to a religious ceremony”. Ephraim wrote that Zeev Hayam was born to a family that did not maintain any Jewish identity. He hardly knew that he was Jewish, yet, he turned into an active Zionist. He was a sea captain in the Russian Merchant Fleet. Eventually, he left Russia and entered Palestine illegally. After his marriage, Zeev completed Marine Captain education both in France and Great Britain. In the late 1920’s and early 1930’s, he was the captain of the only Jewish owned vessel in Palestine. The vessel was owned by the Neshor cement factory, in Haifa. Zeev was among the builders and founders of the port of Tel Aviv and, in World War II, served in the British Navy. After the war, he founded a maritime school in Haifa, and, was one of the founders of the young Israel Navy when the state was born. During the Israeli War of Independence, he was sent by Ben Gurion to Europe in order to procure vessels for the young navy. Ephraim Ilin, his wife’s cousin, was in Europe at that time and helped him with the purchase of Italian torpedo boats. These boats played a major role in the sinking of the Egyptian flag ship, “The Emir Farouk”, and another military vessel. This event had a major impact on the outcome of the war. Tel Aviv was spared from being shelled from the sea by the Egyptian Navy.

**Fanya Malerowitz** married **Yitzhak Zabarsky**. All of their descendants came to Israel in 1990.

**Katya Malerowitz** married **Aron Roiseman**. Her descendants live in Tashkent Uzbekistan.

## Comments and Conclusions

As I mentioned in the introduction, I wrote three booklets on the Schreier, Libin and Buch families. I reached the conclusion that there is a lot to learn from the history of

these three families. This chapter is identical in all three booklets because it is based upon the experiences of the members of all three families.

The study of the history of these three families is a good personal presentation of the history of the Eastern European Jewry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

**For example:**

- Jews were murdered during pogroms. They were killed as soldiers in the Russian-Japanese War (1905) and in World Wars I & II. Jews were executed during the Stalinists trials of the 1930's. Others died of hunger during the German siege on Leningrad etc.
- There are many stories about forced military service of Jewish children. There are also many stories about the Russian Military Draft Committee.
- The Immigration waves to Israel are classified by the years or the period of immigration. The First Aliya was during the last quarter of the 19th century. The Second Aliya was around 1905 etc. The immigration to the U.S. was also in specific time periods. There were reasons for these waves of immigrations.

The history of the Schreier, Libin and Buch families is filled with specific examples for each of these events.

### ***1. Family Members Victims of Pogroms, Political Events & Wars.***

1904/5, The Russian-Japanese War: Nahun Buch was killed in the front. He was a Russian soldier.

1905, The Pogrom in Kishinev<sup>35</sup>: Atara Libin was pregnant and lost her baby when she heard of the pogrom. Leon Friefeld (Buch family) told about the slaughters by the Cossacks in the family town of Tokmack.

1914-1918, World War I: Abraham Schreier (son of Nathan) was a Russian soldier and was captured by the Germans. His brother, Yakov Schreier, served in the Russian mounted Battalion. The third brother, Shlomo Schreier, was in the Russian infantry. Arie (Lova) Libin also served in the Russian Army in World War I.

1917: The Communist Revolution: Both, the Tsarist Army of General Danikin and the Ukrainian gangs of Petlura, slaughtered and maimed Jews. Among their victims in Noviye Mlini were: Zeev (Vele) Schreier and his son, Ziama Wilcher, and Yehoshua Liflandsky. Yakov Schreier was murdered in Baturin.

1936/7: The Stalinist Trails: Several members of the Pismani (Libin) Family were convicted and executed.

1939-1945: World War II: The following were killed as Russian soldiers: Arnold Libin, Yakov Pismani (Libin), Alexander Ziskind Schreier (Shaya's son), the son of Rachel (Shaya's daughter), the son of Sarah Rivka Finkelstein (a Russian pilot). Shlomo Schreier, the son of Abraham and Friede, was killed as a British soldier in Italy. Ben Zion Schreier was a major in the Russian Army and served during the war. Shmuel Libin and Israel Slotskin were wounded in the war. Hayah Binder (Schreier) was killed by the Ukrainians, in 1940. Sidney Tronic was a decorated American soldier who was killed in Burma in 1943.

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<sup>35</sup> The Pogrom in Kishinev is vividly described by the famous author Chaim Nachman Bialik in "In The City Of Slaughter".

1941-1942: The German siege of Leningrad: Shimon Binder(Schreier) died of hunger during the siege.

The Holocaust: The entire family of Rachel Schreier (Wife of Shlomo) were killed by the Germans. Ben Zion mentioned to me several cases of mass murders by the Germans and the Ukrainian during the war but did not elaborate.

1948: The Israel War of Independence: Yishai Buch (the twin brother of Peretz) was killed commanding his unit in Rosh-Haayin.

## ***2. Jews and the Draft to the Tsarist Army.***

Jewish literature is filled with tragic stories about this subject. Abrasha also wrote about it in his book. The Jews were invited to the “Prizawe”, the Russian Draft Board. Many Jews maimed themselves rather than serve in the army. A popular technique was to bend and tie one of their fingers, until they lost its use permanently. The reason that they attempted to avoid the draft was because they were abused, were not allowed to practice their religion, and often, forced to convert.

In 1890, Hebron Rabbi Shaul Hakohen Libin wrote a letter to his son in the Ukraine, “Thank God that my grandson Isaac Libin failed the Prizawe. I prayed for this in the Tomb of the Patriarchs”.

Abraham Buch practiced limping for a long time. He managed to convince the Draft Committee that one of his legs was shorter than the other. His son, Chaim Buch, told me that his father used to show him how he faked it.

Abrasha Wilcher’s grandfather served in the Russian Army from age 14 to age 24.

When Alexander Ziskind Schreier was invited to the Draft Board, he was advised to maim himself. He refused to do so and served for about four years

The author, Yosef Chaim Brener, served from 1901 to 1904. In 1905, at the outbreak of the Russian-Japanese war, he defected and escaped to London. He described his military experience in his story, “One Year”.

If there was only one boy in a family, he was spared the military service. Rabbi Shaul Hakohen Libin had two sons. The name of the older son was Rabbi Aron Hakohen Libin. His second son was adopted and raised by the Shainkman family. His name was Zvi Hirsch Shainkman. Due to this arrangement, both sons escaped the draft.

## ***3. Aliyot (Immigration Waves) to Israel.***

During the period covered by my family research, Jews went to Israel for two reasons. Some made Aliya for religious reasons while others did so for national Zionist reasons. This is the period of the First, Second and Third Aliyot.

The First Aliya: Rabbi Shual Hakohen Libin went to Israel in 1887 for purely religious reasons. He lived in Hebron and in Jerusalem and was involved only in religious affairs. Dov Bear and Pessie Buch made Aliya in the mid-1880’s and were farmers in Petach-Tikvah, the first Jewish settlement in modern time. Chaim Nahum Buch came to Israel, in the late 1890’s, and was employed as a farmer by the Baron Rothchild.

The Second Aliya: Abraham Buch made Aliya in 1904 and was a farmer on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. His brother, Shalom Michle Buch, came to Israel in 1905 and was a citrus farmer in Petach-Tikvah<sup>36</sup>.

The Third Aliya: After World War I, the British conquest of Palestine and the Balfour Declaration, a large wave of Jewish immigrants came to Israel. Alexander Ziskind Schreier and his family made Aliya, in 1923. The rest of the Schreiers also came during the same period. The Libins and the rest of the Buch family also came to Israel, in the Third Aliya.

The Russian Immigrations to Israel: A small number of Jewish Refusenicks managed to come to Israel, in the 1970's. Musia Yefman (Libin), Bela Libin and their families came at that time. With the rise of Gorbachov to power and, later, with the collapse of the USSR, many Jews came to Israel. Yulia Bolotnikov (Libin), Firah Tamarin (Libin), Ben-Zion Schreier and their families came in the late 1980's and early 1990's.

#### **4. Immigrations to the United States.**

The Jewish immigration to the U.S. was also in waves. These waves were related to political upheaval in Europe and the opening of the gates to the U.S.

The first large wave of East European Jews was in the 1890's, due to worsening conditions in East Europe. Dov Bear Gurevitz (Libin family) and his wife, Risa Zevin, came to the U.S., at that time. Naftole and Max Shraiar also came to the U.S., at that time.

In 1905, after the pogrom in Kishinev, the Russian-Japanese War and a failed revolution in Russia, many Jews left. Menuchah and Leon Friefeld (Buch) migrated to Canada, at that time. Shlomo Shraier migrated to the U.S. in 1906.

During 1913/4, due to the deteriorating political situation in Europe, another Jewish wave came to the U.S. Gershon Wilcher and his family came in 1913. In many cases, the husband immigrated to the U.S. alone planning to save some money to bring the rest of his family. Shlomo Shraier came to the U.S., in 1906. His wife and children came in 1909. Rabbi Yosef Lifland came in 1914. Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of World War I, his wife and children came to the U.S. ten years later<sup>37</sup>.

After World War I and the Communist take-over in Russia, another wave of Jews came to the U.S. The Liflands and the Wilchers came in the mid 1920's. Abba and Atara Libin came in the late 1920's.

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<sup>36</sup> Ben Gurion and most of the founding fathers of Israel came to Israel at the same time as part of the Second Aliya.

<sup>37</sup> The scenerio of the grandfather of my ex-wife Rita is identical. Nathan (Nochum) Braverman came to the U.S. in 1913. He left in the Ukraine his pregnant wife and a two year old boy. He worked as a carpenter and sent her his savings. His wife gave the money to family members who were about to be drafted. They came to the U.S. but his wife remained in Europe untill 1913. My mother-in-law, Ida Braverman Rosen, saw her father for the first time when she was ten years old.

## **5. The Faith of the East European Jews**

If a portion of the East European Jews would not have left for the U.S., Israel and other countries, the total number of Jews today would have been much smaller than it is now. This fact does not refer to the six million victims of the Holocaust.

About a third of the Schreiers of Noviye Mlini immigrated to the U.S. About fifteen percent made Aliya to Israel. Over fifty percent of the family stayed in Russia and the Ukraine. Today, however, approximately forty-five percent of the Schreiers live in Israel. A similar number live in the U.S. and no more than ten percent are in Russia.

The case of the Libins is more extreme. About fifteen percent went to Israel and the same number came to the U.S. Seventy percent of the family remained in Russia. Today, however, no more than ten percent of the Libins live in Russia.

The reasons for this phenomena are obvious. It is not due to a high Jewish birth rate in the U.S. and Israel. Many family members who stayed in East Europe perished in the Holocaust, were killed by Stalin and the KGB, married gentiles, were killed during World War II or were killed during other tragic anti-Semitic events.

## **6. Zionism**

I found it to be interesting that some family members were active Zionists while others were not. Some dared to make Aliya before World War I while Palestine was under the Turkish rule, while others came to Israel after the Balfour Declaration of 1917. Many family members immigrated to the U.S. but the majority remained behind. I am not trying to analyze this phenomena, rather, I just want to emphasize it. The following quote is from the section on Alexander Ziskind Schreier. He wrote in a letter:

<p>“Forty two years ago, I left a factory in Saratov without receiving a penny for my third of ownership. I earned there a very good living. We lived very well. I did so in order to leave this impure city. I was afraid that my children will be assimilate and will lose their Jewishness. Many members of my wife’s family gave me a hard time. ...her sister Sheine Libin Shneorson told me that they would not allow me to take Doba and the children away. She said, “Do you think that you have the right to take your wife like the farmer takes his cow...”</p>
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In the case of the Buch family, most of the family immigrated to Israel. Their relatives, the Friefelds, moved to Canada and the Weismans moved to Brazil. Only few remained in Russia.

In the case of the Schreiers, of the six children of Gedalia and Rasia, only their grandson, Alexander Ziskind Schreier, and some of their great-grandchildren (the children of Nathan Schreier) made Aliya. About a third of the family immigrated to the U.S.

In the case of the Libin family, only three of the eleven children of Rabbi Aron Hakohen Libin came to Israel. Several grandchildren also made Aliya. A small percentage of the family members moved to the U.S. and the bulk of the family stayed in Russia.

## **7. The Religion**

The Schreier and the Libin families were members of the Lubavitz Chassidic sect. The Buch family were Mitnagdlim (those who opposed Chasidism). In the Ukraine, the

members of all three families were very orthodox. All the boys studied in the Heders and other synagogue related schools. In Israel today, only the family of Rabbi Shaul Brook (Libin) are orthodox Jews. The others are non-observant Jews. I assume that most of the family members in the U.S. are either Conservative or Reform and a large percentage are probably neither.

### **8. Professions, Occupations and Education in Russia, Israel & the U.S.**

In Eastern Europe, most of the three families members were small storekeepers and some had various trades or had small farms. Few were wealthy and were allowed to live in the large cities<sup>38</sup>. The following were allowed to live outside of the restricted area: Zvi Hirsch Shainkman (Libin), Abba and Atara Libin, Alexander Ziskind Polonsky (the grandfather of Alexander Schreier), the Finkelstein family (the husband of Nechamah Schreier) and the Ilins (Libin). On the other hand, some family members were extremely poor. The poorest were probably Yosef Schreier and his descendants.

In Noviye Mlini, most of the Schreiers had small stores. Shimon Schreier had a very large store in the middle of the town. In most cases, the women worked in the stores. The husbands often studied Talmud or were engaged in various communal activities. Some, like Alexander Ziskind Schreier, were small businessmen. Alexander purchased raw material from the farmers, processed it and sold the finished product (ropes and strings) in the surrounding towns.

The classic gentile description of the wealthy Jew taking advantage of the poor clearly is incorrect in the case of these families. The reverse is probably more accurate. Doba Schreier often did not collect the debts of the poor gentiles (she ran the family store). After they established a coffee factory in Saratov, Isaac Libin began distributing meals to the employees free of charge, etc.

It is interesting to analyze the occupations and careers of the family members, after they left the Ukraine.

In Israel, most of the Schreier, Libin and Buch generations, who made Aliya, were citrus growers and farmers. The citrus industry was the most important industry in Palestine. Its center was the town of Petach Tikvah where the Schreiers and the Buchs settled. Working the land was also part of the fulfillment of the Zionist dream of reclaiming the Land of Israel. As far as I know, only the Ilins (Libin) became businessmen in Israel. The family members who came to Israel as children usually completed eight grades of school. Few completed twelve grades. Sarah Kaplan (Schreier) graduated Teachers College and Ephraim Ilin (Libin) graduated from a university in Belgium. Almost all of their children (the generation that was born in Israel) went to college and are engaged in various professions.

In the U.S., the adults who immigrated to the U.S. often worked in the sweat shops of the textile industry, and, some had small stores and a variety of trades. The younger generation went to college. They completed various academic degrees. Most of them owned or managed textile and textile related plants. Their children (the generation

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<sup>38</sup> The Jews in Eastern Europe were forced to live within restricted areas and were not allowed to live outside of these set boundaries.



born in the U.S.) went to college and many have completed graduate and doctorate degrees and are engaged in various professions.

### **9. Economic Conditions in Israel: Late 1800's and the Early 1900's**

From sources of all three families, we can learn about the economic hardship in Palestine, at the turn of the century. The letters of Rabbi Shaul Hakohen Libin and those of Bear Buch describe unbelievable harsh economic conditions, during the years 1887-1902. The correspondence of Shalom Michle Buch (Petach Tikvah) with his father in Tokmak (the Ukraine) indicate the desperate situation, during the years 1905-1923. In the 1920's, after few years in Israel, Freide Schreier wanted to return to the Ukraine, due to the same reasons.

### **10. An Epilog: The Ukrainian Petlura and Shalom Swartzbard**

The Ukrainian, Petlura was mentioned many times in this booklet. He led gangs of Ukrainians during the period of the Communist Revolution (1917), in an attempt to gain independence for the Ukraine. Instead of fighting the Russians, his gang often committed incredible atrocities against the defenseless Jews. Numerous members of our family were slaughtered by him. In 1921, Petlura was forced to leave the Ukraine and settled in Paris. There, he became a newspaper editor. The main theme of the paper was anti-Semitic propaganda. Shalom Swartzbard, a Ukrainian Jew, experienced the pogroms led by Petlura. On May 25, 1925, he assassinated Petlura, in Paris. His trial began on October 18, 1927. This was a very long trial that received tremendous media coverage. Eventually, Swartzbard was found not guilty. He lived in several countries and died in South Africa, in 1938. In late 1967, he was re-buried with national honors, in Avichail (my home village in Israel).

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1. The Schreier Family Shtetle of Noviye Mlini: History & Background**

Probably sometime in the 19th century, a German engineer built five wooden dams on the river Seim, in the Chernigow County in the Ukraine. The location is less than 200 miles north of Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, near the borders of Russia and Bielo-Russia. On the waterfalls that were created due to the dams, he built flour, oil and sugar mills and a small town was established called Noviye Mlini, "New Mills". The Schreier family generations known to us came from Noviye Mlini and its neighboring towns, in the Chernigow County of the Ukraine.

As I indicated on page 10, most of the following material about Noviye Mlini is from Abrasha Wilcher's book. Abrasha was born in Noviye Mlini, in 1908. His mother, Luba, was a granddaughter of Gedalia and Rasia Schreier, the first Schreier generation known to us. According to Abrasha, "Noviye Mlini, a shtetle in the Ukraine, had a population of some two-thousand souls and forty-five Jewish families". I estimate that at least one third of the Jews in the town were the descendants of Gedalia and Rasia Schreier. The Liflandsky family, the in-laws of the Schreiers, lived in the nearby city of Konotop. Nathan Schreier and his family lived in the village of Baturin. The Libin

family, the in-laws of the Schreiers, lived on a large farm near the small village of Kodrovka. Kodrovka was between Noviye Mlini and Snovsk. The Brook family, the in-laws of the Libins, lived in the city of Snovsk. In Sosnitze lived the Ilin family, the in-laws of the Libins. As the enclosed map indicates, all these cities, towns and villages were in the Chernigow Country and were close to each other.

We know information about the Schreier family of Noviye Mlini from the great-grandchildren of Gedalia and Rasia: Abrasha Wilcher, Sonya Fingold, Bessie Appel, Martin Lifland, Gidon Schreier, Dvorah Gidalewitz, Ben-Zion Schreier, Sarah Kaplan and my mother, Rivka Buch. The author, Yosef Chaim Brener, was also born in Noviye Mlini and he mentioned the Schreier family in his stories about the Shtetle.

Noviye Mlini had two main streets, "one from the river Seim, leading from east to west, was known as Sosechnaya Ulitza, the paved street, although its bricks were buried under a cover of mud and sand. Along Sosechnaya Ulitza were lined small wooden buildings, mostly occupied by Jews, housing the stores and markets of the shtetle. The second main street, running perpendicular, south to west, was Zerkovnaya, so called because at each end and in the middle there were churches".

### ***The Heyder ("The Room", The Hebrew School)***

"The north end of Zerkovnaya opened onto a large estate with a high fence and an iron gate. The only such fence in the town." On this estate, beside a large stately house, there was a straw-roofed cottage. This cottage was rented to the Jewish community for their use as a school. "It contained two large rooms, one for the Heyder, the other for the residence of the Melamed - the teacher - and his family". In the summer, the Melamed and the children often went swimming naked in the river. "Sometimes, gentile youths hid behind a fence to watch the circumcised boys disrobe". Often, they hid the boys' clothing. At times, they climbed the wooden blades of the water mills and jumped to the water. "To make up for such pleasurable excursions from learning, the boys studied one hour later for the following few days". Their favorite winter sport was skating on the frozen river. At age seven, Abrasha got one skate made by the local blacksmith. His father was not able to afford two skates. His mother told him, "with God's help, next year you'll get another skate". Abrasha never got the second skate but skated well on one.

Ben Zion Schreier (my mother's first cousin who made it to Israel in 1989 at the age of 82) and Martin Lifland told me that in the town there was a complex of three Shuls (synagogues). They were connected in the shape of the letter "U". They also told me that one of their Hebrew teachers was the brother of the author, Brener.

### ***The House***

The kitchen was on the first floor. "Two thirds of the kitchen was occupied by a huge brick oven, large enough to accommodate burning logs to one side and with room for as many as eight loaves of baking bread and a few cooking pots. On the upper level, above the oven, was an opening about four feet high, seven feet wide and five feet deep. This place was known as the pripotchick and, during the long winter months, it served as a warm gathering place for the small children." This was the only heated place in the house and they often fell asleep there.

### *Jewish Life in the Shtetle*

Once in a while, a Mogid (a traveling Jewish lecturer) visited the town. This was a special occasion. He told the community about events in the outside world and often delivered summons about the pending arrival of the Messiah.

The Jews usually lived in houses that they rented from the gentiles. Most of them were small store-keepers. Luba and Motle Wilcher had a small grocery store. Yosef Schreier, Ben-Zion's father, had a small oil and lubricants store. Shimon and Feige Schreier, Alexander Ziskind's parents, had a large general store at the center of the town. Other Jews were tailors, blacksmiths, fixers, shoemakers, carpenters, etc.

Many Jews had nicknames such as:

- ◆ Shlomo "Der Tarpochnick", the rags person (I guess he dealt with shmates).
- ◆ Abraham "Pipke". He had two large lumps (pipke) on his nose.
- ◆ Kalman "Bal-Du", or in English "soon-here". He was very tall and arrived fast when called.
- ◆ Yankle "Der Blekher", the Tinsmith.

It was easy to identify the wealthy Jews. They wore gold watches on chains. The town police officer was called by the Jews "Der Knepul". The Tsarists officials wore uniforms with epaulettes and gold buttons, hence, the nickname "The Button". The officer spent most of his time around the Jewish stores where he received food and drink free. He was illiterate and signed documents with the letter X.

### *Anti-Semitism*

Abrasha's book is filled with stories and anecdotes on Jewish life in the shtetle. Most of them are about anti-Semitism and the daily struggle to survive economically and physically while maintaining a Jewish identity. For example, he tells how the gentile boys tried to catch him on his way back from the Heyder to smear pork meat on his lips. He also describes the impact of World War I and the Communist Revolution on the family. During 1917, the town kept on falling from one hand to another. When Petlura, the Ukrainian gang leader, took over the town terrible pogroms took place. The White Russian soldier of general Danikin committed endless atrocities. The Schreier family paid dearly. During these dark days, Vele Ze'ev Schreier (Alexander's brother), one of his sons, Zيامa Wilcher (Abrasha's brother), and Yehoshua Liflandsky (an uncle of the Liflands and the Wilchers) were killed in Noviye Mlini. Yakov Schreier (Nathan Schreier's son) was killed in Baturin. Many women were raped and property was destroyed.

### *The Rabbi*

The Schreier Family was a very religious family and followed the HABAD (Lubavitz) branch of Hasidism. Clearly, the Schreier men spent most of their free time in and around the Shul. The Rabbi fulfilled a central position in the community. Abrasha tells the following wonderful story about their Rabbi. Some merchandise was missing from the Jewish store. Each night someone broke into another store. The officer did not pay attention to the owner's complaints. They went to the Rabbi for his advice and he asked them if any of the regular customers stopped buying from them. The storekeepers reached the conclusion that one of the gentiles did not purchase groceries any more. It

was too dangerous to blame him with no actual proof. The Rabbi advised them to hire this guy as a night guard. He told them that a person steals suddenly if he cannot afford to buy. The gentile accepted the job and the thefts ceased.

### *Military Service*

The Russians forced the Jews into the military. Abrasha's grandfather served from age fourteen to twenty-four. In the military, their life was most harsh and miserable. The Russians did all that they could to order the Jewish boys to convert. In one of his numerous stories, Abrasha writes about the Tsar's visit to a military camp. The camp commander decided that twenty Jewish soldiers would be baptized in the river in honor of the Tsar. The Jewish soldiers held hands, entered the river and dived in. They did not come out. All twenty of them committed suicide rather than be baptized.

The Jewish boys were instructed to appear at a hearing before a military review board (Prizau in Russian). The purpose of this board was to determine their physical profile and suitability for the military service. Many used to maim themselves in order to escape the service. Some used to bend and tie their finger so they would not be able to use a rifle, etc. Chaim Buch, my father's cousin, told me that his father practiced how to limp and numerous Russian doctors examined him. They finally decided that he was really limping.

When my grandfather, Alexander Ziskind Schreier, was ordered to appear before the military committee, he sought the advice of many. Everybody recommended that he should maim himself. He was a tall handsome man. He decided not to maim himself and served in the Russian army for several years (enclosed is his picture from about 1890 which was taken prior to joining the army). He told us that the Jewish soldiers were allowed sometimes to spend the Sabbath with Jewish families that lived near the camp's location.

The Jewish author, Yosef Chaim Brener, served in the army from 1901 to 1904. He described his experience in his story "One Year." At the outbreak of the Russian-Japanese war in 1904, he deserted and escaped to London<sup>39</sup>.

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<sup>39</sup> In 1921, large scale Arab riots took place in Palestine. Many Jews were murdered, among them Brener. Yosef Chaim Brener was murdered in Jaffa by Arabs on May 21, 1921. Kibbutz Givat Brener, the largest Kibbutz in Israel, is named after him.

**Appendix 2. Family Pictures**



LIBIN AND BELA GUREVITZ (CONT)

Issachar Bear (Boris) and Ester Libin  
and their children Bela & Shmuel, 1928



**Doba Libin, her husband Alexander Ziskind Schreier  
and their three children, Shimon, Sarah & Rivka  
Kovno, 1920**





**Yeshayahu Meir (Sahaya Issai)**  
**Libin, 23 years old, 1910**





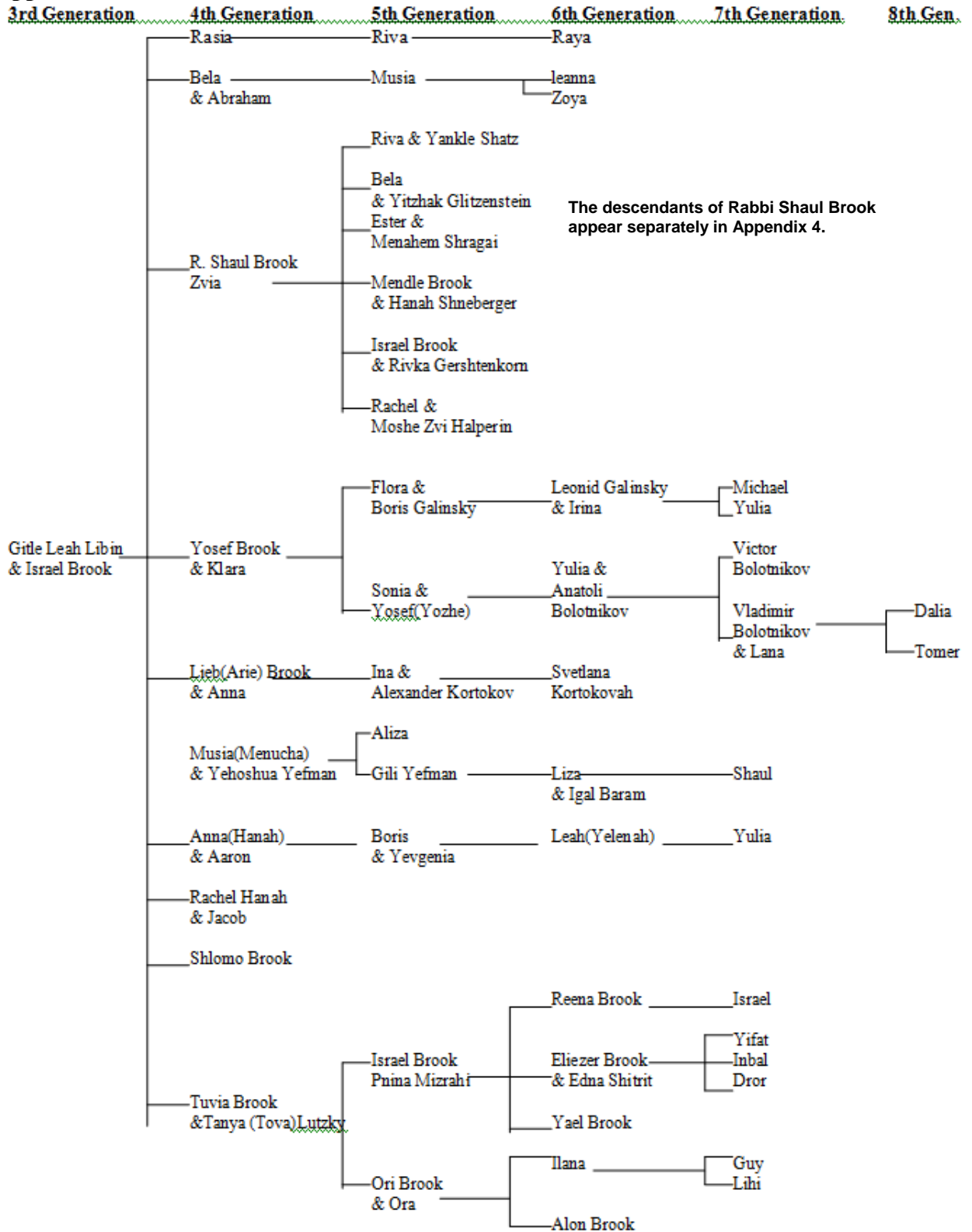
**Yakov Yasha Libin & his wife Tzeite Margolin**



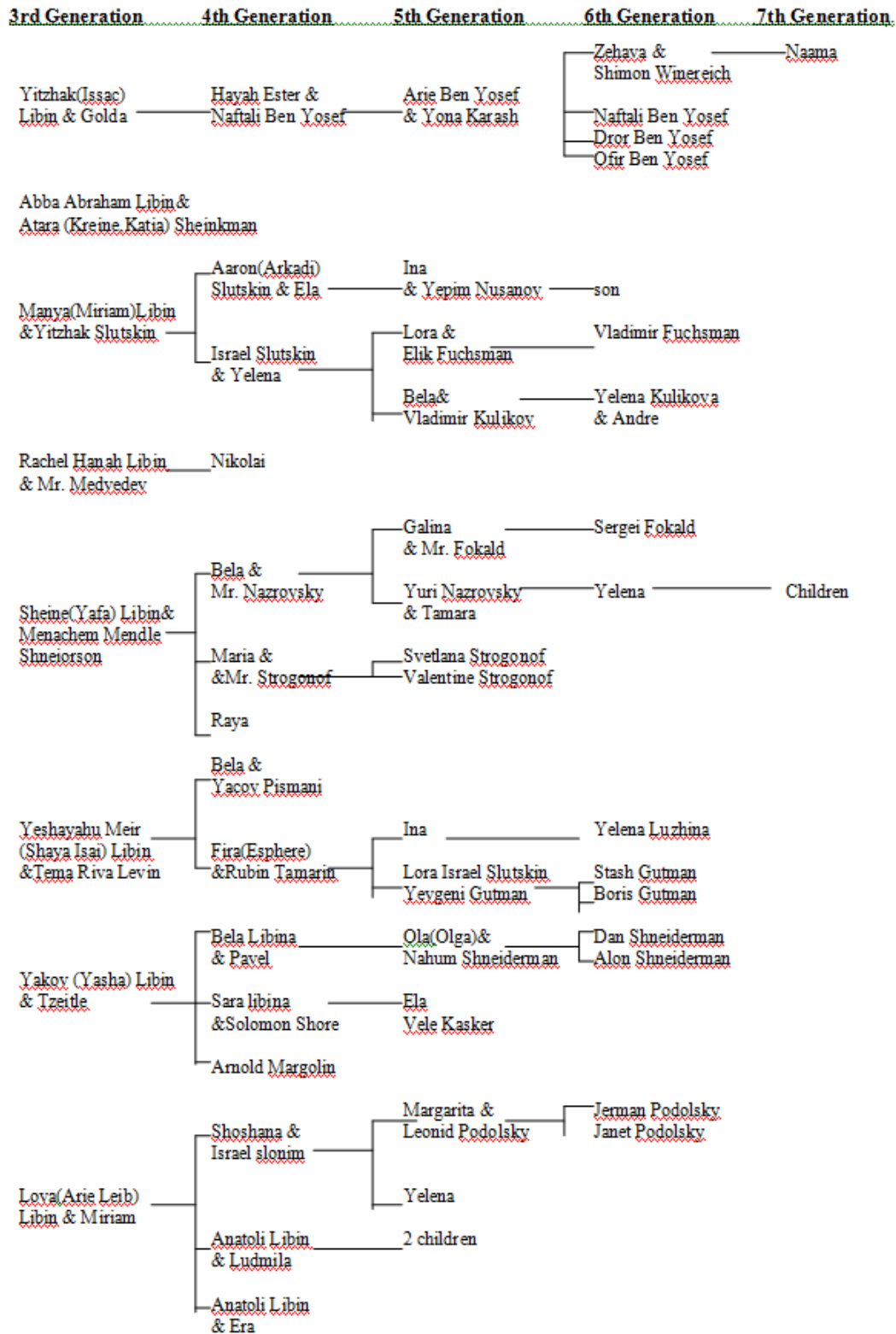
Zvi Hirsch Sheinkman Libin

J. W. Mumford & Co. S. A. Fox Co.

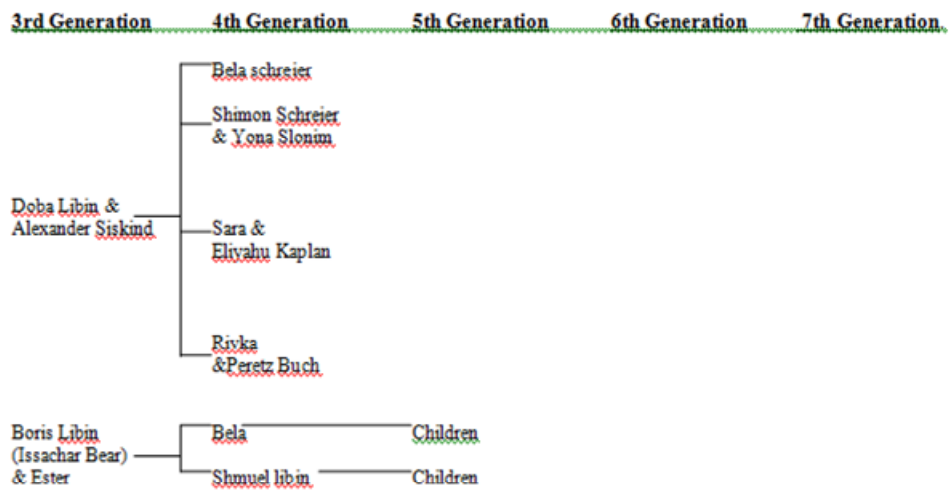
**Appendix 3. The Descendants of Rabbi Aharon Hakohn Libin & Bela Elka Gurvitz.**



## The Descendants of Rabbi Aharon Hakohn Libin & Bela Elka Gurvitz (cont.)



## The Descendants of Rabbi Aharon Hakohn Libin & Bela Elka Gurvitz (cont.)<sup>40</sup>



A Comment: The children of Rabbi Aharon and Bela Libin are not in the correct order due to editing reasons. As stated already I counted Rabbi Aaron and his wife Bela as the second generation.

<sup>40</sup> The details of Doba Libin's descendants appear in Appendix 5.

### Appendix 4. The Descendants of Rabbi Shaul Chaim Brook and his wife Zvia.

<u>5rd Generation</u>	<u>6th Generation</u>	<u>7th Generation</u>	<u>8th Generation.</u>
		Zvia & Gavriel Rosenberg	Ben Zion Rosenber David Rosenberg Haim Meir Rosenb Malka Rosenberg
	Avraham Aaron Brook & Bat Sheva	Pinchas Zvi Brook & Ester	Bracha Brook Rachel Brook
		Yosef Brook	
		Chaim Saul Noyshtat Shabtai Noyshtat Nechama Noyshtat Zvi Noyshtat Malka Noyshtat Israel Noyshtat Rivka Noyshtat Nathan Noyshtat Havah Noyshtat Miriam Rachel Noyshta Sarah Noyshtat Tovi Noyshtat	
	Lea & Pinchas Noyshtat		
Mendle Brook & Hannah Shneberger		Saul Wilhelm Sarah Wilhelm Levi Itzhak Wilhelm Israel Wilhelm Yehiel Yakov Wilhelm Chaim David Wilhelm	
	Yocheved & Pinchas Wilhelm		
		Pinchas Zvi Siroka Arie Siroka Saul Siroka Yehoshua Siroka Israel Siroka Yitzhak Siroka Zvia Siroka Yaffa Siroka Miriam Rachel Siroka Bela Siroka Hayah Siroka	
	Sarah & Chaim Siroka		
		Yohanan Brook Chaim Saul Brook Yakov Yosef Brook Miriam Rachel Brook Hayah Mushka Brook	
	Levi Yitzhak Brook & Hannah Lea		

**The Descendants of Rabbi Shaul Chaim Brook and his wife Zvia. (Cont.)**

**5rd Generation**

**6th Generation**

**7th Generation**

		Shmaryahu Brook
		Zvia Brook
	Yosef Brook & Zehava	Adina Brook
		Hayah Brook
		Rachel Brook
		Rivka Brook
		Hinda Brook
		Chaim Saul Brook
		Shaine Bashe Brook
		Hayah Rivka Brook
	Shmuel Brook & Rachel Lea	Yehoshua Brook
		Miriam Brook
		Levi Yitzhak Brook
		Mishka Brook
		Dvora Brook
		Ben Zion
		Shneor Zalman
		Malka Lishner
		Shneor Zalman Lishner
		Rachel Lishner
		Tzila Lishner
	Zvia & Israel Lishner	Lea Lishner
		Pnina Lishner
		Saul Lishner
		Hayah mushka Lishner
		Rivka Lishner
		Yosef Chaim Lishner
		Chaim Saul Ravkin
	Hayah Rivka & Mordechai Ravkin	Shneor Zalman Ravkin
		Levi Yitzhak Ravkin
		Shneor Zalman Brook
	Chaim Saul Brook & Bluma	Hayah Mushka Brook

**The Descendants of Rabbi Shaul Chaim Brook and his wife Zvia. (Cont.)**

<u>5rd Generation</u>	<u>6th Generation</u>	<u>7th Generation</u>	<u>8th Generation.</u>
	Shmuel Brook & Yael	Nechama Brook Shneor Zalman Brook Asaf Brook	
		Chaim Shaul Shteinmintz & Sarah	Baruch S. Shteinmintz Hayah M. Shteinmintz Zeev Shteinmintz Levi Y. Shteinmintz
		Yitzhak Shteinmintz & Hannah	Eleh Shteinmintz Yehudit Shteinmintz Zvi M. Shteinmintz Levi Y. Shteinmintz
	Yafa Brook & Micha Shteinmintz	Shlomo Shteinmintz & Dikla	Sarah Shteinmintz Simcha B. Shteinmintz
		Tzipora Shteinmintz & Tuvia Yatkin	Levi Yitzhak Yetkin Eleh Yatkin Chaim Shaul Yatkin Shalom Dov Yatkin
		Nechama Shteinmintz & Mr. Levitin	Menachem M. Levitin
		Sarah Shteinmintz & Yosef Bar	
Israel Brook & Rivka Gershtenkorn		Zviz Shteinmintz	
		Yakov Avraham Brook & Nechama Frieda	Shterne Brook Menachem M. brook Hannah Brook
	Shalom Dov Brook & Tova	Sarah Brook & Avraham Nagalsky	Nehemia Nagalsky Ehuda Nagalsky Sneor Z. Nagalsky Chaim Shaul Nagalsky
		Zvia Brook & Meir Yehezkel Holtzberg	Mordechai Holtzberg Hannah S. Holtzberg Nechama Holtzberg
		Menachem Mendle Brook Dani Brook	
		Zehava Brook Nechama Brook	
	Avraham Abba Brook & Yocheved	Meachem Mendle Brook Ziesha Brook Yehoshua Brook Levi Yitzhak Brook	
	Yosef Brook & Sarah	Orli Brook Menachem Brook Mordechai Brook	

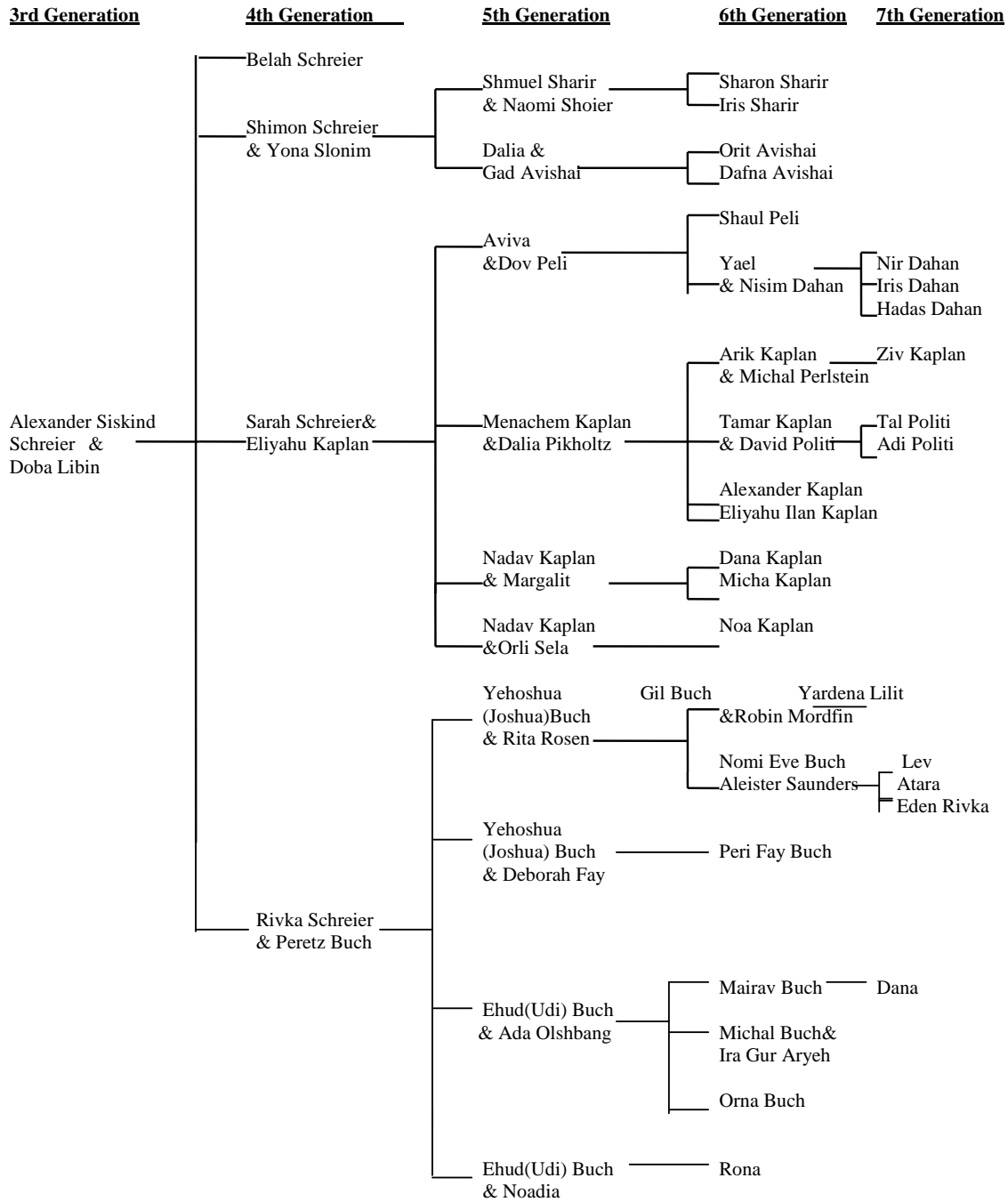


**The Descendants of Rabbi Shaul Chaim Brook and his wife Zvia. (Cont.)**

<u>5rd Generation</u>	<u>6th Generation</u>	<u>7th Generation</u>	<u>8th Generation</u>
Riva Brook & Yankle Shatz	Boris Isachar Dov Shatz	Daughter Daughter	
	Victor Shatz	Son Daughter	
	Hayah Glitzenstein & Nathan Viner	Shimon Viner & Nechama Zvia Viner & Yosef Yoel Viner	Mendle(?)
	Zehavah Glitzenstein & Aaron Gold	Shalom Dov Glitzenstein Menachem mendle Glitzenstein Shmuel Glitzenstein Shneur Zalman Glitzenstein Shimon Glitzenstein Yosef Glitzenstein	
Bela Brook & Yitzhak Glitzenstein	Israel Glitzenstein & Feige	Hayah Mushka Glitzenstein Levi Glitzenstein Meir Shlomo Glitzenstein Bela Glitzenstein Moshe Glitzenstein Nehemia Glitzenstein	
	Menachem Glitzenstein & Hanna	Ester Glitzenstein Shmuel Glitzenstein Chaim Shaul Glitzenstein Bela Glitzenstein Hayah Mushka Glitzenstein Rivka Glitzenstein Shalom Dov Glitzenstein Gavriel Glitzenstein Levi Glitzenstein	
	Dvora Shragai & Yitahak	A Child A Child A Child A Child	
	Ester Brook & Menachem Shragai	Shoshana Shragai & Shlomo  Chaim Shragai	Shaul Arik Asaf Itai

<b><u>5rd Generation</u></b>	<b><u>6th Generation</u></b>	<b><u>7th Generation</u></b>
	Menachem Mendle Halperin & Ester Rachel	Hanna Halperin Shimon Halperin Tehila Halperin
	Shneur Zalman Halperin & Ester	Pnina Halperin Lea Halperin Chaim Elimelech Halperin Saul Halperin
	Pnina Halperin & Mordechai Moskowitz	Ahuva Moskowitz Havah Moskowitz Zvia Moskowitz Shimon Naftali Moskowitz Chaim Sau Moskowitz Israel Moskowitz Hayah Briene Moskowitz Hanaya Yosef Moskowitz Yehiel Moskowitz Malka Moskowitz Hinda Moskowitz Hadasa Moskowitz Moshe Zvi Moskowitz
Rachel Brook & Moshe Zvi Halperin	Aaron Halperin & Reizie	Menachem Mendle Halperin Nechama Dina Halperin Levi Yitzhak Halperin Shmuel Chaim Halperin Moshe Zvi Halperin
	Shimshon Halperin & Nomi	Briene Halperin Dvora Lea Halperin Menachem Mendle Halperin Shmuel Halperin Moshe Zvi Halperin
	Israel Halperin & Dvora	Pesach Halperin Hananya Yosef Halperin Moshe Zvi Halperin
	Zvia & Yehezkel Yungrize	Pnina Yungrize Ester Yungrize David Yungrize Lea Yungrize
	Chaim Saul Halperin & Miriam	Menachem Mendle Halperin Hananya Yosef Halperin

### Appendix 5. Descendants of Doba Libin.



**Appendix 6. The Descendants of Dov Bear Hurwitz (Gurevitz) & Risa Zevin.  
The Family Tree**

- |   |                                                                 |                                                                            |                                                                                |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Dov Bear (Behr) Hurwitz<br>+Risa Zevin                          | b: 01 May 1863 in Russia<br>b: Abt 1865 in Alshan, Russia                  | d: 11 Sep in Bronx, New York<br>d: 12 Nov 1944 in Manhattan, New York          |
| 2 | Abraham Hurwitz<br>+Sarah Zevin                                 | b: 01 Apr 1888 in Alshan, Ukraine<br>b: Abt 15 Apr 1892 in Alshan, Ukraine | d: 01 Mar 1930 in Manhattan, NY<br>d: 18 Jun 1966 in New York, NY              |
| 3 | Esther Hurwitz                                                  | b: Abt Sep 1913                                                            | d: 1918 in New York, NY                                                        |
| 3 | Mildred Hurwitz<br>+Henry Kruger                                | b: 16 Dec 1915 in Bronx, NY<br>b: 19 Apr 1907 in Manchester, England       | d: 07 May 2000 in Needham, MA                                                  |
| 3 | Vivian Hurwitz<br>+Hank Shor                                    | b: 27 Jul 1921 in Bronx, NY<br>b: 05 Feb 1920 in Bronx, NY                 |                                                                                |
| 2 | Joseph Hurwitz<br>+Fanny Schumann                               | b: 15 Aug 1885 in Alshan, Ukraine<br>b: 15 Mar 1894                        | d: 24 Dec 1969 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY<br>d: 14 Mar 1993 in Jamaica, Queens, NY |
| 3 | Leon Hurwitz<br>+Beatrice Holzer                                | b: 26 May 1913<br>b: 23 Dec 1916                                           | d: 07 Nov 2006 in Laguna Hills, CA                                             |
| 3 | Eli Hurwitz<br>+Doris Samuels                                   | b: 13 Oct 1919<br>b: 03 May 1930                                           | d: 03 Oct 2000                                                                 |
| 3 | Claire Hurwitz<br>+Robert Winter                                | b: 13 Apr 1929<br>b: 04 Sep 1924                                           | d: 10 Oct 2000 in Hollywood, FL                                                |
| 2 | Max Hurwitz<br>+Minnie Rubenstein                               | b: 20 Aug 1890 in Alshan, Ukraine<br>b: 09 Jun 1893 in Minsk, Russia       | d: 20 Jan 1969 in Lynchburg, VA<br>d: 26 Aug 1979 in Lynchburg, VA             |
| 3 | Jack Hurwitz<br>+Hannah Steinberg<br>*2nd Wife of Jack Hurwitz: | b: 31 Oct 1914                                                             | d: 17 Jan 1987 in Hawley, Wayne, PA                                            |
|   | +Ruth Kalish                                                    | b: 09 Jun 1913                                                             | d: 03 Sep 2003 in New York, NY                                                 |
| 3 | Shirley Iris Hurwitz<br>+David T Levin                          | b: 08 Oct 1921 in New York, NY<br>b: 13 Mar 1920 in Hartford, CT           |                                                                                |

**The Descendants of Dov Bear Hurwitz & Risa Zevin (cont.)  
The Family Tree**

- |   |                                 |                                     |                                              |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 2 | Mary Hurwitz                    | b: 20 Apr 1893 in Alshan, Ukraine   | d: 03 Aug 1967                               |
|   | +Isidore Agree                  | b: 20 May 1894                      | d: 28 Feb 1987 in Washington, DC             |
| 3 | George E Agree                  | b: 25 Jun 1921                      | d: 11 Dec 2001 in Washington, DC             |
|   | +Lee Stamm                      | b: 17 Dec 1920                      |                                              |
| 3 | Betty Agree                     | b: 06 Oct 1923                      | d: 25 Feb 1998 in New York                   |
| 2 | Jacob Eli Hurwitz               | b: 05 Jan 1895 in Alshan, Ukraine   | d: 13 Oct 1964 in New York                   |
|   | +Sarah Deena Schenkman          | b: Abt 1897                         | d: 02 Jan 1961 in New York                   |
| 3 | Martin Hurwitz                  | b: 20 May 1923 in Brooklyn, NY      |                                              |
|   | +Fayette Goldstein              | b: 05 Oct 1923 in Brooklyn, NY      |                                              |
| 3 | Monroe Hurwitz                  | b: 05 Mar 1927 in New York          | d: 04 May 2004 in Boynton Beach, FL          |
|   | +Sarah (Sunny) Wiener           | b: 13 Nov 1921                      | d: 31 Jul 1992 in Delray Beach, FL           |
| 2 | Nathan Hurwitz                  | b: 07 Sep 1899 in Chernigov, Russia | d: Sep 1984 in Washington, DC                |
| 2 | Rose Hurwitz                    | b: 18 Jan 1902                      | d: Jul 1986 in Astoria, Queens, NY           |
|   | +Cornilius McGillicuddy         | b: 20 Nov 1901                      | d: 04 May 1994 in Astoria, Queens, NY        |
| 2 | Belle Hurwitz                   | b: 15 Apr 1904 in Alshan, Ukraine   | d: 12 Mar 1994 in Larchmont, NY              |
|   | +Max Kopelman                   | b: 21 Jun 1898                      | d: 08 Feb 1977 in Larchmont, Westchester, NY |
| 3 | Janet Kopelman                  |                                     |                                              |
|   | +Murray Todras                  |                                     |                                              |
|   | *2nd Husband of Janet Kopelman: |                                     |                                              |
|   | +Daniel Bernstein               |                                     |                                              |

**Appendix 7. The Descendants of Sose Gurevitz & Moshe Bear Ilin.  
The Family Tree<sup>41</sup>**

<u>3rd Generation</u>	<u>4th Generation</u>	<u>5th Generation</u>	<u>6th Generation</u>	<u>7th Generation</u>
Yoram Goren & Rubi	Batya & Mordechi Goren (Gorenstein)		Niki Goren	
			Leora Goren	
Yosef Ilin & Ester Kunikov	Ephraim Ilin & Tzaira Entin	Arnon Ilin & Noya Hakohen	Orion Ester & Boaz Bismut	May
			Ariel Ilin	
		Rami Ilin & Sara Kalish	Uri Ilin	
			Ortal Ilin	
		Rami Ilin & Gili Hirshenson	Itamar Ilin	
			Elinor Ilin	
Sarah Ilin & Mr. Grabov				
Bela Ilin & Israel Malerowitz	Mary Malerowitz & Zeev Hayam	Galia Hayam & Beni Nachshon	Orit Nachshon & Ofer Kantor	Yuval
				Hilah
				Eyal
			Yael Nachshon & Rami Arbel	Shirah
				Roni
		Erelah Hayam & Dani Pri-Har	Shachar Pri-Har & Yotam Shaham	Amitai
				Mirael
				Eliyahu
				Abraham
				Yeshayahu
			Zohar Pri-Har	Hilah
			Leor Pri-Har	
	Fanya Malerowitz & Yitzhak Zabarsky	Michael Zabarsky & Lara	Lana Zabarsky & Rudolf Weinstein	Alina
				Pavlik
		Nela Zabarsky & Anatoli Shefman	Ina Shelfman & Boria Zaid	Igal
	Katya Malerowitz & Aron Roisman	Lili Roisman & Roma Pruzherko	Lili Roisman & Roma Pruzherko	

<sup>41</sup> The generations are counted from Rabbi Shaul Hakohen Libin and Yosef Yermiyahu Gurevitz.