



*This letter, now in the possession of Sim Barr Fidel, was sent to his grandfather, Sam Fidel. It was translated into English for Roy Gerber by Dr. D. Herman and Rabbi Oser.*

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September or October, 1917. Ozeran

(The date is given in traditional Hebrew terms: the second day of the week that starts with the public Shabbat reading of the portion of the Torah (Jewish bible) called "Lekh-Lekha" containing the verse "and Abram believed in God and this was reckoned as tzedakah [charity] in Genesis XV, verse 6. The rabbi author quotes here only the second half of this verse, probably because he considered it fitting the contents of the letter. This portion of Genesis is read at the beginning of the Jewish New Year. The year is traditionally given as an acronym, [this is sometimes called "the minor reckoning" because it leaves out the thousands], which translates as the Jewish year 5.678, which would be the year 1917, either September or October.)

To my honorable friend from the land of his birth,

May God bless the health and honor of our friends of the village of Ozeran who now live in America. And now I will say the names of the benefactors in the order in which they were written in the letter. Yosef Fidel, Michael Barr, Ben-Tziyon Barr, Meir Adshen(or Odshen?), Bentziyon Brashil(?), Leib Graber, Avraham Graber, Godel Kanfer, Leibish Klotz, Berel Ridnik(or Rudnick?)

May God bless them and give them life and peace and comfort. I want to thank them for their good hearts and great kindness for helping many people (souls) survive with their great donation. And now I wish to inform you that the giving (distribution) of their charitable funds has been carried out as they prescribed in their letter. The ten people that were stipulated in the letter were all present at the same time and witnessed the distribution of the money according to your wishes without any changes.

It seems my first letter that I wrote about distributing the funds was not received so therefore I now send it again with all the blessings and gratitude to you and your friends.

Rabbi Eliyahu, son of Joshua, Blumenzweig

(The seal or stamp reads as follows in Hebrew and Russian):

Rabbi Eliyahu, son of Joshua, Blumenzweig

Head of Jewish Court (in the holy community) of Ozeran.

Ozeran, Dubno