

2-d letter dated February 3, 1959.

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(late afternoon).

Dear Thelma:

We have had rain now for several days, and it is impossible to walk out of the house. The letter I wrote to you this morning is still here, and since I have nothing to do I will continue the letter from where I left off.

I forgot to mention in the earlier letter that Grandpa's brother was a Roov. (A Roov or Rav is a Rabbi ^{HANDLING} ~~handling~~ secular problems of the Jews. SM) His home was in a border town (name ?) between Russia and Austria. He was still living at the time mamma and you came to this country. His wife's name was Pearl. (What was his name ?) She was the daughter of a Rav. They had no children.

About mamma's brothers Hershel and Shaia and the sisters Sheindle and Meske you should know more than I do since you were with them about 8 years longer than I was. Those were the years you remained in Europe after I left.

Your grandfather on mother's side was named Shaia. (Probably our mother's grandfather SM) . I do not know his last name. Everybody called him " Shzia the Shenker." He was a dealer in spirits. (~~in~~ Bronfen.) (Was he a saloonkeeper ? or a distiller ? SM.) They were not a poor family.

The parents of your grandmother betrothed her to your grandfather "Alter ". At that time his family also was well to do. He was a very ardent learner. (A studious person.) With us (the Jewish People) learning was considered better than riches. I am sure you have heard the old saying " Toire is the beste Schoire". (Knowledge is the ^{best} merchandise).

Grandma Sarah was only 9 years when she was betrothed to grandpa Alter. She was 14 when ~~was~~ she was married. Of all their children : Dweira, Esther (your mother), Hershel, Shaia, Shendel and Meske, there is not even a trace left.

Grandma Sarah had two sisters: Mindell and Dobe. Mindell's husband was ~~was~~ named Motel. ^a He was a very studious and intelligent person; both in Yidish and in Russian. They had 3 children: ~~xxxxxx~~ 2 girls and one son. When I came into the family, their son Aaron was a student at the academy (university ?) in Petersburg. Their daughter Esther was of the same age as your mother.

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She fell in love with a watchmaker whose name was Chaim . However her parents were not happy (about this match ?) and arranged a "quiet wedding. " Even your mamma did not attend the wedding. But I did. Chaim died in the first year after ~~the~~ the marriage, and Esther (the widow) went to Canada. More about her later.

Aunt Dobehe was very poor. Her husbands name was Motel, and he was a dealer on the market. (Dealer of what ? and at what ^{market}arket ? SM) They had 2 girls: Pessie and Taibel. ~~Te~~ Their father died while I was still in Zhitomir and both of the girls went to Canada.

When mamma died (in 1942 SM) the girls somehow found out about it, and began to correspond with me.

Taibel married a bookkeeper. He was also a writer for a paper. (Yidish newspaper ?) Pessie could not write in any language. She remained an old ~~old~~ maid.

Taibel ~~was~~ wrote to me about everything. She has one son. He went to Israel and took part in the fighting there. He settled there and got married there. His children were born there and they all live in Israel now. His father , whose name is ~~is~~ Moishe Horvitz and his mother Taibel also went there and now they are all together (in Israel). They used to live in Toronto.

I know nothing at all of Pessie , now.

Aunt Mindell's daughter Esther lived in the north of Canada : Winnipeg. She was married to a cattle dealer and they were well off. They also had a large family. I have pictures of Esther by ~~herself~~ herself, her and her whole family, and of her and Taibel.

Esther's husband died shortly after mamma died. Esther began to write to me quiet often and also to send me pictures. Once her son came to see me. He and his wife were on a trip to Mexico , so they stopped off in Houston and spent a couple of hours at my house. But what they related to Esther about me ~~was~~ was as if they had spent at least a month with me.

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Two months after this she wrote to me the following " I love you and you love me, than why should ~~not~~ ^{we} be united ? " and this was my answer : " we are 3000 miles apart. Both of us have our own lovely families. If you should move to Houston , you will miss your family; and if I move to Winnipeg, than I will miss my family, and than our "love " may turn to " ^{haterd} " . So let us be friends from ~~xx~~ afar rather than enemies so close. "

This was her answer to my letter " I knew that you were a fine and good man, ~~and~~ but now I found out that you are also very wise. My only regret is that I did not know you for all this time. Right now, I am very sick, and if I should recover, the first thing I will want to do is to come to visit you as a " cousin " .

However, she did not recover. She died 3 years ago. I have her photograph. She is "straight and pretty as a tree. " (?).

This is all I can recollect about our families. If anything is not clear to you, ~~that~~ ^{than} write and I will expalin.

Love to the children.

Your father ^{er} Greshon.