

Letter dated January 14, 1959.

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Dear Thelma;

My mother was my grand<sup>m</sup>father's third child. My mother and my father, each were exactly 20 years old when they got married. My father's name was Alter-Shmuel and my mother's name was Gndel.

My father was a "melamed" (Hebrew religious teacher. SM) He was teaching boys of 12-15 years.

I was born the 17-th of April 1875. After me there was a girl named Sheine - Gittel. She was in very poor health and suffered for 11 years. She died on Simchas Torah day. After her came a boy named Yidela. He did not suffer very long, and died before he was one year old. I was 7 years old when my brother Hershel was born. After Hershel came a girl named Idacia. She, too, did not live very long and followed after Yidela. Then came my brother Yankel. After him came my sister Frieda. After her came my sister Malka. Then came my brother Froyka, and after him came my sister Chana.

You know my brother Hershel and his family. I was not present ~~at~~ at his wedding. He was married during the Russo-Japanese war, and at that time I was out of the country. I was present at the wedding of my brother Yankel. He, and all of his family perished <sup>(destroyed)</sup> by the Hitlerites.

I was not present at the wedding of Aunt Frieda. She was ~~not~~ married in America while I was still in Zhitomir.

My sister Malka was married after I was already in this country, and of course I was not at her wedding, either. She died and left one son. I do not know what his fate is.

My brother Froyka also got married after I left Russia. He was a cap (hat) maker by profession. I do not know how many children he had. <sup>(B)</sup> He, too, and all of his family were annihilated by Hitlerites. <sup>(B)</sup>

Chana, the youngest, was married too, but later on they were separated. I knew of only one <sup>(C)</sup> child. She too, perished during Hitler's time.

All this information was passed on to me by ~~my cousin~~ David Goffstein, the poet, who at the time he wrote to me was living in Moscow. But since the time of



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of Stalin's murder of all Jewish Intellectuals, I have not heard from ~~z~~ David, or from anyone else.

My father died three months after my wedding, and my mother was left with many small children. I advised her to remarry and she did. She married a fine elderly man with whom she lived only two years. But she had a better life during these two years, than in the previous 26 years with my father.

But she had no luck. After two <sup>years</sup> ~~years~~ of marriage to this man, he had a fatal accident. He fell off the second ~~floor~~ roof of his house and was killed. This happened the same day he led his son to the "Chupeh" (wedding canopy) . My mother struggled on till her 75-th year. She died in June of 1930.

My mother had " a brother named Ziskel Miklarsky. He was married to a "blonde " modern girl from the town of Brusiler ( Brussilow ? ). He was the owner of a furniture store and was doing very good bussiness. He had a son named Berel, who was an advokat. (Lawyer .) He used to correspond with me. He became a revolutionery and was caught by the Tzarist Police. He was setenced to prison, and was serving in Turma (Jail ) in Zhitomir. We were allowed to bring him occassional packages. He ~~was~~ died in Jail. What became of his parents I do not know. Next will be about aunt Yochwed.

Your Fatehr Gershon.