

Letter Dated January 28, 1959

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Dear Thelma:

I hope the weather will be good, and that my hands won't hurt too much, so that I could continue with what I have started. This time I will write about my aunt Yochwed. When my grandfather Hershel died Yochwed was about 15 or 16 years old. My grandma Chaia - Dvora was not yet well known as a midwife, and Yochwed had to go to work in the paper factory in our town. ( korostyshev.) She married uncle Nothe when she was 19 years. (Their family name is Nathan. SM)

In addition to the 7 children living here in Houston, she had a boy named Yosele, whom I remember very well. He died from Diphtheria, which is a throat illness. He was 3 years old when he died. There was no known remedy for this sickness at the time, and the boy suffocated as I was holding him in my arms.

Uncle Notch, could never make a living, not in Europe nor here, and so aunt Yochwed had to earn a living. She worked harder than any man or woman that I know of. When I arrived in Galveston in 1914 she was renting two large houses with 16 rooms each, and all the rooms were filled with roomers. In addition she used to serve meals (dinner) at 35¢ each. For Sabbath we would butcher a dozen chickens, and she would do all the cooking; for the strangers and for the family.

I believe you know all the children. Their names are: Max, Simon, Toby, David, Sheindel, Annie and Sarah/. All the sons are in the clothing business, and that is all I know about them.

After aunt Yochwed there was another daughter named Rissie- Feiga. When my grandmother died she was about 12 or 13 years. She was married when she was about 18 or 19 years. Her husband was a brother of aunt Essie. He traveled ( by horse and wagon ) from village to village and buy from the peasants such things as cattle hides ~~xxxx~~ bristle and similar articles. They lived in Lefkief, which is a village about 12 versts ( 10 miles ) from Zhitomir. They were frequent visitors at our house in Zhitomir. I do not know exactly how many children they had. Their oldest son was named Hershel. He was serving in the Russian Army when I left for the United States.



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Aunt Rissie-Feiga's second child was a girl named Gittel. She became engaged in our home in Zhitomir, and was married 3 weeks before I left for America. Her husband was a dealer in butter. (Something like Tevie Der Milchiger of Sholom Aleichem? SM).

Aunt Rissie-Feiga also had twin boys but I do not know what became of them. However, it really does not matter. All of them perished. Hitler took care of that.

I do not know the dates of the "Yahrzeit, and am unable to say Yarith for any one of my entire family.

I can not continue any more about this. Let's hope that God will bless us all with good health here.

Your Father Gershon.