



## THE VAGMAN FAMILY OF AKKERMAN (BESSARABIA)

Here is a very short summary of my genealogical and historical research between 2007 and 2009 about my Vagman familial and bessarabian roots.

Please note that a complete book in French language is available at Yad Vashem library in Jerusalem.

See: Vincent VAGMAN, Elie Vagman et ses descendants : persécutions, migrations et assimilations au cours d'un siècle de diaspora. Aftalyon (Israël), Gruissan (France), Jambes (Belgium), 2007-2009.

The Vagman family lived in Akkerman (46°12' N, 30°21' E) , or Belgorod-Dnestrovskiy (Russian Empire), also called Cetatea Albă (Romania 1918-1940), Weißenburg, and now Bilhorod-Dnistrov'skyi (Ukraine).

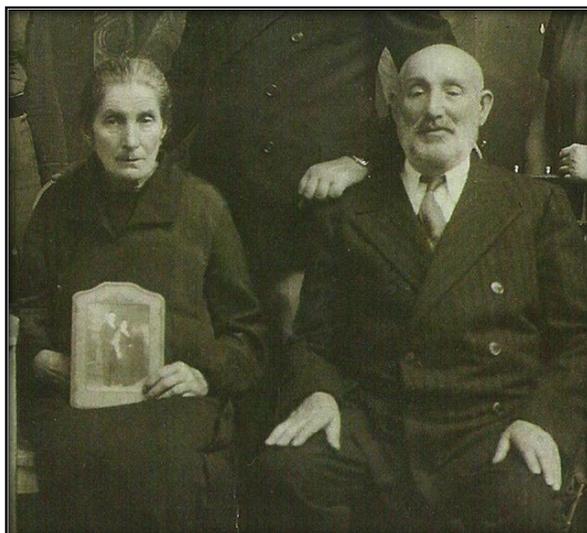
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.**Usher Vagman** and ?(not found) were living in Volhynia (probably Saslav) during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They had at most three children:

- **Elie (Ilyie) Vagman** (1860/1964 ?-1941), tailor, was my great grandfather. He came in Akkerman and has been married to Ghenia Shmoukler (?- 1933). During the Romanian period, they lived at Strada Regele Ferdinand (*King Ferdinand Street*). Ghenia Shmoukler had at most a brother (Khaim) and a sister (Esther, married with Khaim Beilis), all of them living in Akkerman. My other great grandfather, Ghennia's father, was **Shmouel Shmukler**.

Esther Schmoukler and Khaim Beilis had 6 children : Meiz Beilis (Meiz Beilis + ?) had two children: Natacha and ?), David Beilis (David Beilis + ?) had two children who left to Israel : Isaac and Ioseph), Yoël Beilis (Yoël Beilis + Sima ?) had three children : Isaak, living or dead in Israel, Gregory, died in Moscow, and Mina living or dead in Germany), ? Beilis and a daughter Mariana living in USA, Yosef Beilis was murdered in 1941 on the road from Akkerman to Odessa, and Motel Beilis (who left to Israel before 1941).

- Rysia Vagman (1881- ?) married in 1907 in Kishinev to Gersh Shnayder (1867-?), tobacco merchant.
- Golda Vagman (1876-1876).



Ghenia Shmoukler and Ilye Vagman

(Akkerman, 1932)

**Elie (Ilyie) Vagman and Ghenia Shmoukler** had 12 children. Four of them died during the first days or weeks after birth. The other ones were: Saül (Sholik) (1897/8 ?-1978), Khaim (1899-1956), Mendel (1903-1966), Rivka ( ? -1966), Esther (1910-1991), Ethel (? -1941), Tsypa (1910- ?) and Sarah (? - 1941).



Sol and Flora Wagman

Saul (Sholik) Vagman was served in the Russian imperial army during WWI. After the war, the young tailor joined his brother Khaim in New York. He embarked on the steamship « Polonia » in Dantzig in 1923. After his arrival in Ellis Island, he was called Sol Wagman. Sol lived in Brooklyn and worked as tailor. In 1939, he married to Flora ? (?- 1966). They went to live in Port-Washington (Nassau, NY) where Sol managed a cleanshop. They had no children. Flora died in 1966. At the end of his life, Sol was living in Miami Beach (Dade, FL).



Hyman Wagman and  
Frima Zilberman

Khaim Vagman and Frima Zilberman (1901-1987) migrated to USA just after their wedding. They embarked on the steamship «La Lorraine» in Le Havre (France) in 1921. After his arrival in Ellis Island, he was called Hyman (Hymie) Wagman (and his wife “Fannie” – reporting Census). Hyman and his wife lived in Brooklyn. He was merchant and managed a car business (Marvel motors, Bushwick Avenue) after WWII. They had no children. Hyman helped almost all the members of his family when it was possible.



Mendel Vagman and Mariette Deregge

My grandfather **Mendel Vagman** studied in the Akkerman gymnasium and left in 1924 to go to the University of Liège (Belgium). After his studies of chemical engineer, Mendel became a walking merchant till his wedding with Mariette Deregge (1910-2008) in 1933. They had a store and lived in Charleroi (Belgium). During WWII, Mendel lost his store but escaped. At the end of the war, all from his family were hidden in Charleroi area. Mendel was called “Marcel”. He became a merchant. My grandparents had 5 children: my father **David** (1934- ) married with Bernadette Gosselin (1938- ), Nicole (1940-2008), Annie (1943- ), Jean (1945- ) and Luc (1948- ). As my father, Jean and Luc have children too. Together, our generation, my Vagman cousins and me, we have today 4 children. Everybody lives in Belgium.



Rivka Vagman

Rivka Vagman was not married. She lived perhaps a few years in Kishinev. In 1941, she escaped before Romanian troop’s arrival in Akkerman and had to go to Buguruslan (Ural mountains) where she worked during WWII. In 1946, she came back to Akkerman, living alone. Rivka was a dressmaker.



Esther Vagman and Falik Vinderman

Esther Vagman was working with the chemist Mar Feldman until her wedding. She married to Falik Vinderman in 1937. Falik worked in a dairy. They lived in Paris (Tarutino, Akkerman area) till 1941. Before Romanian troop's arrival, they escaped with their daughter Anneta (1938- ) and spent a large part of the war in Kuibyshev. A second daughter, Dora, died because of hunger and illness (she was one or two). After Falik's disarmament, they were living in Kuibyshev (Sverdlov street) till 1961. A third daughter, Lily, was born in 1946. Falik died in 1966. Anneta left to Kishinev for studies and married there with Aleksandr Magalnyk (1938 - ). Their first child Ilyia is a famous klezmer accordionist. ***You can see and hear Ilyia Magalnyk on this Bessarabia SIG website at the Bessarabia music section at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/Music.html>.*** Lily married too. In 1978, Esther was allowed to migrate to Israel where she died in 1991, just after Anneta and her family joined her. Anneta and Lily (who lives in Israel too) have together 4 children and 5 grandchildren. Anneta's daughter (Ilyia Magalnyk's sister) is now living in Canada with her husband and their 2 children.



Samuel Wolf, Tsypa Vagman and



Iancu Wolf

Tsypa Vagman left Akkerman to Bucharest a few years before WWII. She was a seller of clothes in a shop and married to Samuel Wolf (from Bolgrad in Bessarabia). Their son Iancu was born in 1938. All of them came back to Akkerman a few months before the attack of 1941. At this time, Samuel was an accountant in Akkerman's newspaper (Znania sovetov). They escaped in 1941 and had to go and work to Uzbekistan in Fergan (Bagdadsky area). In 1945, they came back to Bucharest (11, strada Metropolitul Nifon) via Czenowitz. Without food and money, in 1947, because the help of her brothers, Tsypa and her family left Romania and arrived in Charleroi (Belgium) in Mendel Vagman's house(1947)(rue Broucheterre). From this time, Tsypa was called "Silvia". One year later, Silvia, Samuel and Iancu embarked on the ship "Queen Mary" in Cherbourg (France) to New York. Sol and especially Hyman helped them to install in Brooklyn.

Iancu was called “Jack” and married to Freya in 1961. It seems that he died in Middlesex County (NJ) in 1994 and did not have children.



Sarah Vagman

It was impossible to find a photo of Ethel Vagman. It seems that she was divorced and that she came back to Akkerman where she was living with Sarah Vagman and her father Ilyie when the Romanian troops entered the city in 1941. Reporting the archives of the trial of the killers (USHMM Romanian Information Service-Bucharest (SRI) records. (MANUSCRIPT rg-25 004M) reel 25 20725 11, and reel 26 20725 11: Trial of gendarmes accused of killings of Jews in Cetatea Alba,1941. Statement of the accused and of the witnesses,1945 153 pages et 149 pages) and a paper (1940-46 - The Storm Gathers (Excepts from « The Destruction of Bessarabia » by Israel Schildkraut, translated from the Hebrew by Philip E. Katz, in Akkerman Benevolent Association 1905-1955, 1955), the sisters and their father were killed near Akkerman (Liman).

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