

**Transcription of Esther David Cohen(daughter of Label David, half
sister to Brana David Markowitz and Sara David
Interviewer: (Antoinette) Toni Mattie Cohen Faibish & her sister
Hope(Adeline) Cohen Feldman
December 28, 1969**

My grandparents, they came from Russia. They run away from Russia to be free. That time was the Czar. He used to steal the children. He made them soldiers. They were 4-5-6 years old. He would steal them. My grandparents were living in Russia. They had three girls and two sons. Sons: Itzic, Cacir. Daughters: Baba Sacil, Mima Peril, and Fagil(Fanny). They ran away to Prut. They cross the border. They came to town and I was born there: Berazan. We lived there a while. They were passing looking for a Jewish town. When they were passing they passed Gooshitchay (sp). My father was Baba Ziecil son. They stopped in Verchin. All the Jews came there. They run away from Russia. They stay there together. They homesteaded there. They start to do business. They make a living. All of them.

My father grew up to 18 years and they married him. Baba Ziecil's husband died very young. She had lots of children. Five girls and five boys. My father was the eldest. My father was young and he was helping them. At that time Jews were permitted to have a saloon. They made a lot of money. My father, he didn't like this business. He start to be a moichier, a rancher to rent out land and graze cattle and sheep. He could not own it, he could only lease it. The law for Jews. My father used to help my grandmother to raise the children. Then came the time when they had to go in the army. My father was 18 years and not married.

His first wife was Adel. He had five children with her. Malka(m) Brana, Sarah, Arkin and Shepsil.

He had to make money, gold. He had 10,000 heads of sheep. He was a big man. He was a big Muchier, rancher! He had lots of Oxen. Lots of cattles. Lots of fields with the oxen plowing. The fields to grow grain, corn, rye, wheat, barley and oats. He was so good, very fine, then he had Avrum(*brother to Label David?*), the second son(*brother?*) to my father. Then the youngest(*sister of Label?*) married a Russian boy. They were very rich. They got rich in Husi. They had a mill. They were making flour. Grinding flour, rye wheat, the whole thing. At that time she wasn't married yet. She was still a girl. She met the Faibish family. His grandfather, Faibish, they were already rich. Avrum(*brother of Label?*) and Toba got married and they opened a saloon and they did very well.

Esther married very well, Schwartz. The Faibish's wouldn't talk to them, they weren't related. She was very rich. She had sister, brothers. She help too. She was a good woman, very good. Baba Ziecil (*Label's mother?*) still had children. My father used to keep her up

What happened to your father's wife? She died. *When did he marry your mother?* I don't know. He had 5 children with my mother: first son passed away and I am the second (Ernestina or Esther). Froike, Yankle, Israel and Cacile. *What happened to your brothers?* Since I am here they died. Cacile died in Verlot. The next child starting with youngest was Sila was the baby. From the top. The first one died, then Ernestina, then another girl, that died. My mother send her to her parents and she was very lonesome. She died. *She died from heart break?* Yes. *Why did they send her to the grandparents?* My mama had a brother Moishe. He came and visit and he said he is going to take her. He took her with him and she stay there and she die there. *She must have gotten sick. How old was she, a young girl?* Seven. After that came Froike. He married in America and went to Israel. Then came Asreal. He married a girl from Bucharest, a very rich girl. They were living in Verlot. Now he is in Israel. After came Cilo. He died in Romania. He was living in bunker near station and he is buried in Verlot. Chanahla, she was the ? doctor. My father married her twice because the first husband died. He took care of all the children. You had to give a dowry. The second time a Russian. Labe the Russian. At that time was a war with Russia and he didn't want to go to Russia so he stay in Romania. He married the Mamarishka.

My sister? Yiddish Also in the army but he stay there. Fetevumen. He open a business, a druggist. He did very well and got very rich and he got five children with her. Three boys and two girls named; one girl died, one girl was here, from Israel, Betty. She is daughter of Mima Dwardez. *Romanian* Three boys: Yankle, Chaim and David. He had a business in Husi, he didn't do so bad. *Romanian* They married the first cousin *Romanian* Chanala had five girls *Romanian*.....Family cemetery in Husi.

Can you clarify the relative in Paris that married Dreyfus's daughter? My father had a brother Mottel (Mordechai) in the wine business and store keeper. He was very rich. The eldest son he looked just like my father. They married him and bride was very rich and he got plenty of nuttin. She wasn't Jewish. The father was very rich. *Romanian* The wife is married to her fathers brother, she was a niece. Very close. My papa's aunt. Mima China.

Mordechai's son David from France. Bella is a Dr., Moichala is a lawyer. *Romanian*... Mottel made his son a clinic, Bella. The Dr. married

Dreyfus's niece. He had only one child and his wife got killed in WWII. He raised the baby. He raised her very nice and they still live in Paris. His grandmother coming to America stopped at his place by Beril in France. *What would be his last name? Riter. Why Riter instead of Faibish?* *Commentary from Sara Scher: Esther's father was Label David, therefore his brother was Motel or Modechai David, changed to Motel or Mordechai Riter* In Russia their name was Riter and then they came to America and were called Riter. He went in the Army as David and they changed it to Riter. *Romanian.... So what happened to the attorney with the schiksa wife?* She died and they buried her in Romania. He went to Paris and became a lawyer and the doctor, his wife was killed in the war and he raised the child. He sent his daughter to America. *Who did she come to visit?* From her mother's side. Her mother was Dreyfus' niece. She had family there.

Papa's side of the family. His grandfather was Mima Toba's father. The grandmother was Mima Jeanie Schandel. They had children. Your father in law. First he married my mother's first cousin. Her mother, they were sisters. She passed away. She had one child. Roha. She grew up. Romanian... Papas parents. After she die he still young. Her father, Baba Sarahs, father. She had four or five five sons and one daughter: Label, your husband, Avrum, Oyzer, David and Frima(daughter) and one son who drowned. These are papa's parents. Papa was born in Brinzin. Your father was a very educated man. Every Shabbos he was reading from the Torah. He spoke German Yiddish, Greek, and Portuguese, and Spanish. He was second in his class. We had a cousin Dr. Herscovitz. They were in the same class. Herscovitz was first and Papa was second. That was in Iasi. It was a boarding school in Iasi. Papa went to University and studied languages. Herscovitz was first and Papa second. First he was a Dr. and then he was a businessman. Herscovitz was a Dr.. He went to the First WW and they got many sickness. Then the flu. He had the sisters. He used to have malaria, lice came out of him when he perspired. Pain day and night and they wash and clean him. It may have been The Plague. He was already married. He had a son. Herscovitz died of that plague. Liza went to their wedding. She was a nice woman and he had a lot of money. He lived in a beautiful home. He was part of the elite. *How was Herscovitz related?* My father's first wife (Adel). She was a niece to his father. Papa went to school with him in Paris. Your grandmother's mother was also from that family.

Ardelaide, how was he related to family. They were erschter cousinas. His father and my mother were brother and sister. He was older than my mother was. *Ardelaide married Rebecca, where did she come from?* She come from Gourger. When my father made a shiduch with me and he came

home he brought him with him to go to see her and my father came to tell me Mazel Tov. And I nearly fell dead. She was there with me. My father was hitting me and she helped me to take him away so he wouldn't hit.

I want a little intimate info on papa, husband of Esther. He was educated, smart a big business man, his parents were rich people, they left him lots of money. *Describe papa.* He was OK. He was blond, big black eyes. Beautiful complexion. He was OK, not for me. *Moma was that boyfriend of yours related to you in any way?* Yes, we were cousins, Fisher. Explain the relationship: His father was a brother to Papa's, on papa's side. When you got married you were related to papa, *Were you already related to Papa before you married him?* Mina Tova was my Husbands aunt. She was my aunt also. Motel is a cousin with Papa through Mima Charna. *Why did you all marry relations?* We were all nice people. *Would you clarify?* *Your fathers, mother and father were brother and sister.* Yes. *Who would permit Jewish people to marry a brother and a sister?* No. *They were not related, they were from Russia.*

Tell me about your father: Ohh, I can't tell you. He was A-1 in that generation. He was a moichier, a beautiful, rich good businessman. *Romanian...* He was a very special man. He lived to the age of 95. I was living in _____ I received a letter from Froike, I went crazy. I wrote a letter. He died with all his teeth in his mouth. *End of Recording*