

The Poticha Family of Kremenets
Written by Lee Zarfrans, Chicago, 1977
Submitted by Stuart Poticha, 24 June 2010

Russia,
Kremenets, ~~RUSSIA~~ until 1914, was a splendid small city, lying
in a valley surrounded by mountains, the ~~beginning~~ ^{beginning} of the
Carpathians. The population was not large. There was a State
University ^{Medicine,} in Kremenets with faculties in ~~Medicine,~~ ^{Medicine,} engineering,
and Art
Law, ~~Music~~ ^{Music} and courses for teachers in secondary
schools, but not for Jews. In Kremenets there was also a superior
school for priests, which was called Ecclesiastical Seminary,
but for Jews, only the Kheder and the parish school with a limited
number of places for Jewish children. Before the beginning of the
First World War, there opened in ~~Kremenets~~ ^{Kremenets} a commercial school,
where Jewish students were accepted equally with the orthodox,
but the ~~war~~ ^{War} discontinued its existence. In Kremenets there were
many wealthy Jews, among whom there were not a little poor ones.
Among the Jewish population there were doctors, M.D., lawyers,
pharmacists, teachers, merchants, artisans and specialists (maple
cabinet-makers), all relatives and they were rather many. Cabinet-
making ^{was} developed in Kremenets exclusively by Jews, thanks to
~~the~~ ^a growth which was around the mountains for centuries. I do
not know the name of this growth but it looked like dark green
sticks but with the strength of steel.
specialists,
The ~~maple~~ ^{maple} cabinet-makers, all relatives, ~~made~~ ^{made}
from this growth mouthpieces for ~~cigarettes~~ ^{cigarettes} and cigars as well as
pipes ~~of~~ ^{looks} of various ~~shapes~~ ^{looks} for smoking tobacco, handels
for ladies! umbrellas and canes for men. All finished goods were
shipped to Moscow where their representative, ~~was~~ ^{located} ~~was~~ ^{located} always, since in
days family names were given by their trade
those ~~names~~ ^{Potikhas} and so there belonged to
this maple all the (Potichas) and their relatives. From these cabi-
net-makers many generations were left; their names: Cabinet-Maker,
Potikha, ^{and} Gorenshstein, Brik, Komendant, ~~and~~ ^{and} Zashma. From these fathers
and great-
~~grandfathers~~ ^{grandfathers} remained children and grandchildren, among
whom there were doctors, M.D., engineers, ^{jurists,} ~~pharmacists,~~ ^{pharmacists,}

Shulimke Potikha (The Smart One) and his generation. He lived in the nineteenth century. Kremenets (Russia), in 1914 began the First World War and the Revolution until 1920. From 1920 until 1939 -- Poland, from 1939 the Second World War with the damned Hitler until 1945 and from 1945 the Ukraine. The nazis killed all the Jews in Kremenets.

teachers, musicians, artists, merchants, clerks, etc., but to our great Jewish grief ~~none of them~~ none of them remained alive in Kremenets after the brutal nazi Hitler attack on the Jews.

The first son of Shulimke, Kalman, died when I was a baby and I know little about him. From one daughter remained grandchildren. One granddaughter married a Russian-Jewish magnate, a sugar refinery owner, while a ~~grandson~~ ^{grandson,} a ~~ghghghh~~ named Mendel, was a poet; his poems were published in first-rate Russian newspapers; he was a comrade of my brother Avraam and was a frequent guest in the home of my parents.

6 The second son of Shulimke, named Pincas-Wolf, was a wealthy ~~phishuk~~ ^{man;}
his wife was our favorite ~~amman~~ ^{Aunt} Khaya.

Pincas-Wolf had two of his own houses; he had a factory of mouthpieces
for cigarettes and cigars, pipes for smoking tobacco, handels for ladies'
umbrellas and ~~schubak~~ ^{canes} for men. All of these articles were very much in
style in those days and all finished goods were shipped to Moscow where
they were quickly sold. Russia in those days was rich and was in need
of various luxury goods.

Pincas-Wolf had seven sons: Shulim, Nathan, ~~Amman~~ ^{Aaron,} Kalman, ~~Amman~~ ^{Ershel,} Avroom
~~and~~ ^{Josel} and three daughters: Golda, ~~Amman~~ ^{Riva} and Bella; all the children were
fortunately healthy, of good character and industrious but in Kremenets
the perspective for the youth was small and already before the First World
War they began to think about emigrating. Three sons, already before the
First ~~War~~ ^{World} War, emigrated to America. During the War ~~Amman~~ ^{Pincas}-Wolf and
Aunt Khaya died ~~and~~ ^{while} the rest of the children emigrated to America in 1918
where they lived out their lives and died. From these ten children of my
uncle, there remained ~~a~~ ^{of} splendid generations ~~and~~ children, grandchildren,
great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

The third son of Shulimke, named ~~Avroom-Ber~~ ^{Avroom-Ber} had four sons and four daughters and lived in Proskurov ^(Russia). The oldest son, ~~Avroom-Ber~~ ^{Kos}, was the vice-director of Siberia-Asia Bank; Moishe was a teacher in the secondary school, Sem emigrated to America where he died, while the youngest, I do not remember his name, drowned. Daughter Dvoira emigrated to America where she died; Zina worked as a typist-secretary in a city office; the two ^{younger} girls were studying in high school -- I do not remember their names.

~~Avroom-Ber~~ ^{Avroom-Ber} was an educated man; he worked as a book-keeper and secretary in a firm, the owners of which lived in France, and because of ~~which~~ ^{that} he conducted the correspondence in the French language.

~~Avroom-Ber~~ ^{Avroom-Ber} died in 1918 a natural death; three weeks after his death a ~~horde~~ ^{horde} (Ukrainian Petlurists) killed the whole family as Jews. From Sem and Dvoira there remained children and grandchildren in America.

8

The daughter of Shulimke, Bella-Golda Potikha-Gasner and her husband ~~Israel~~ ^{-Srool} Gasner died natural deaths. They had six daughters and a son.

The first daughter, ~~Makhlya~~ ^{Makhlya}, and her husband Isaac Aptik, he was a chemist and pharmacist, had two sons, Aaron; his wife ^{was} Polia and a daughter, ~~Tooska~~ ^{Tooska}.

He was the proprietor of ^a motion picture theater.

The second son, ~~Mooshia~~ ^{Mooshia} and his wife Liuba died and the son Khaskele.

~~Mooshia~~ ^{Mooshia} was a motion picture technician. The entire family was brutally killed by the hordes of the Hitler nazis.

10

The second daughter, Beautiful-Pearl, her husband, ^{Avraam} ~~Avraam~~ Erik (he died), ^{electrical} he was a wealthy merchant, he had a large warehouse of ~~electrical~~ and mechanical materials; he was also enterprising in ^{much} ~~large~~ work in arranging for electricity. Their son, ^{Mooshia} ~~Mooshia~~, was an engineer and was regarded as a big specialist in the branch of electricity; he was invited to America to the ^{Fair} ~~World~~ but could not go on account of some reasons. With his mother he continued to work in his deceased father's business; he was also in the years until the ^{War} ~~War~~, a specialist in the equipment of sound apparatuses ~~in~~ in motion picture theaters. Beautiful ~~Beautiful~~-Pearl had one daughter, Estherka, and one ^{grandson, Moonichka} ~~grandson, Moonichka~~ who, ^{when} ~~at~~ seven years, began to show talent in mathematics. The entire family was brutally killed by the damned Hitler n azis.

10

The third daughter was Braintsa, her husband was Samuel Shtif. Samuel was a professor in physics and mathematics; he was the director of the high school, Tarboot, teaching the Hebrew and Polish languages. He was highly educated and he was called ^{the} "Polish Einstein". They had two daughters, one by the name of Leah, was the director of a music school and a pianist. From her remained a daughter by the name of Rosa and a ^{grandson} ~~grandson~~ Endt-Ker. The second daughter, Pootya, lives in Israel; she is rich and has several children and grandchildren. The Shtifs died ~~in~~ natural deaths.

18

The fourth daughter, Kotya, a person ^{of} ~~which~~ good character, was the first ^{to} ~~which~~ respond to ~~her~~ help in misfortune, but could not help herself with anything as she was married to a bad husband who left her and the children but in return for that God blessed her with a splendid daughter ^{named} Zesenska, as well as a good son-in-law, named ~~which~~ ^{Kooba} and the only grandson to whom was given the name of our deceased father, Israel-Srool. Kotya also had a son, Yasha, He was fourteen years old.. They were all killed by the damned Hitler nazis.

P. S. The grandson of Kotya, named Israel-Srool, was six months old when the Hitler nazis killed him.

19

I, Lee Zafrans, who is writing these lines, was born in 1894, remember my past as well as all the relatives whom I personally knew and about whom my mother told me. My family, ~~which~~ ^{which} is, I, my husband, ~~Irving, to~~ ^{Irving, to} whom I am married fifty-seven years, and our son Adam or as we call him, Hobik; we lived through the Hitler period. When the ~~war~~ ^{War} finished, we reached the American zone and we were given the possibility of arriving in our splendid America, where we started to live from the beginning. I, by trade, was a milliner and I worked in my trade. My husband, highly educated, ^{and, in addition,} a linguist, ~~knowing~~ ^{knowing} eight languages, among them Esperanto, completed twenty-two years of work in one ~~bank~~ ^{bank} in the foreign department as well as cashier. Our son, Adam, works as ~~an~~ ^{an} an associate engineer at the University of Chicago; he is married to a good American daughter, her name is Sylvia and she works for our government. They have one son, sixteen year old, ~~Arilan;~~ ^{Arilan;} ~~he is studying in high school.~~

14

The sixth daughter, Inda, was married to Victor Kamerman who was an officer in the Polish army. At the finish of the First World War and until the Second War, a ^{the} ~~whowhwh~~ for ~~the~~ period of twenty-two years, he was the principal of a high school, ^{the} Mayor of a city by the name of Ostrog and a high official in the municipal administration of the city ^{of} Lvov, the second in size in Poland. When the Second War began, he was mobilized by the military commandant of the city of Lvov and when the Soviet authorities occupied ~~this~~ ^{that} city, he was arrested as a high Polish officer and was banished to the gulag ^{Kalina;} his wife, Inda, and the daughter, ~~Tooshia, XXXXX~~ ^{whereabouts} were banished to an other gulag ~~whwh~~ in Kazakstan. My sister, Inda, did not know of the ^{with the} of her husband; he also did not know anything about his family. However, ~~whwhwh~~ Polish Army of Anders, they all moved to England and they were sent to the English colony, Palestine; and succeeded to wait for they lived there ~~whwhwhwhwhwh~~ the liberation and regeneration of the Jewish State of Israel, where they lived the last years of their lives. From sister, Inda, there ^{were} ~~whwh~~ left a daughter, ~~Shasha~~ ^{Tooshia, XXXXX} son-in-law, Iasha, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Inda and her husband, Victor, died and are buried in the holy earth.

15

The only son of Bella-Golca was ^{Avroom} ~~whwh~~ Casner, who was in the electrical and mechanical business. He finished the technical school in Vilna (Latvia) and was married. His wife, ^{Esfir, XXXXX} ~~whwhwh~~ worked in a hospital as the head nurse. ~~whwhwh~~ They had one son, Itzhok, and three daughters, Riva, Mara and Lyalka. ^{Avroom} ~~whwh~~ and his family emigrated in the beginning of the thirties to Palestine as a Zionist. His children were educated in two languages, Hebrew. ^{Avroom} ~~whwhwh~~ and his wife, ^{Esfir,} ~~whwhwh~~ lived out their years in the holy land; they died there and are buried in the holy earth, ~~whwh~~ leaving after themselves ^{many} ~~whwhwh~~ generations of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

16

Bella-Golda Potikha-Gasner and her husband, Srool Gasner, lived through "Fiddler on the Roof". They were removed from Kremenets with hundreds of Jewish families at the wish of the ~~XXXXXX~~ Governor of Kiel, the Pole Kvyatkovko, who made his career at mocking the Jews. They suffered extremely morally, materially and physically, losing all of ~~their~~ ^{their} fortune and with the death of the children who could not survive the chaos, the removal, as well as, that in this period, there died the mother of Bella-Golda, named Inda, the wife of ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{Shulimke,} who was also removed with them, being an extremely old ~~lady.~~ ^{lady.} In Kremenets, during ~~their~~ ^{their} absence, hooligans (Black Hundreds) set on fire the splendid house of Shulimke which was closed by reason of the removal of Bella-Golda and her family. Incidentally, this house was regarded as a rarity. The walls and ceilings of the inner rooms were sculpturally adorned by the hands of Shulimke. In spite of everything, I do not know from which disease my ancestors died. My mother died from diabetes, but I, ~~in spite~~ ^{in spite} of everything, ~~XXXX~~ ^{XXXX} presume that several of my ancestors died of cancer. Several of the children of Bella-Golda died natural deaths, the rest were brutally killed by the Hitler nazis. In a given time, of all those living in Kremenets or Rovno, ~~XXXXXX~~ where my parents lived after their removal, there remained alive only I, who writes these lines, my husband, Irving, ~~and~~ ^{Avroom} our son, Adam, and cousin ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{XXXXXX} - Ersh ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{XXXXXX} his wife, Sarah.

Lee Zafrans

Chicago, 1977

P. S. In spite of everything, I live in the hope that somewhere in this wide world ~~there~~ ^{there} still live the rest of the Potikha generations. This postscript is for my son, Adam Zafrans. ~~zh~~ The parents of my husband were named Solomon and Zlania Zafransky. Their first son, Mark, a doctor, ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{M. D.} perished during the time of the war; the

union,

17

second son, Leo, instructor in the tailors, the third son, Irving, did not ~~zh~~ complete the Kiev Polytechnical Institute because of the revolution and the war; the fourth son, Chaim-Zalman, was shot by Stalin in 1937 during the purge; he was a construction engineer in building railroads. The entire Zafransky family lived in Chernigov ~~XXXXXX~~ ^(Russia) with the exception of Irving, who lived with me and our son in Rovno, Poland.

17

Relatives

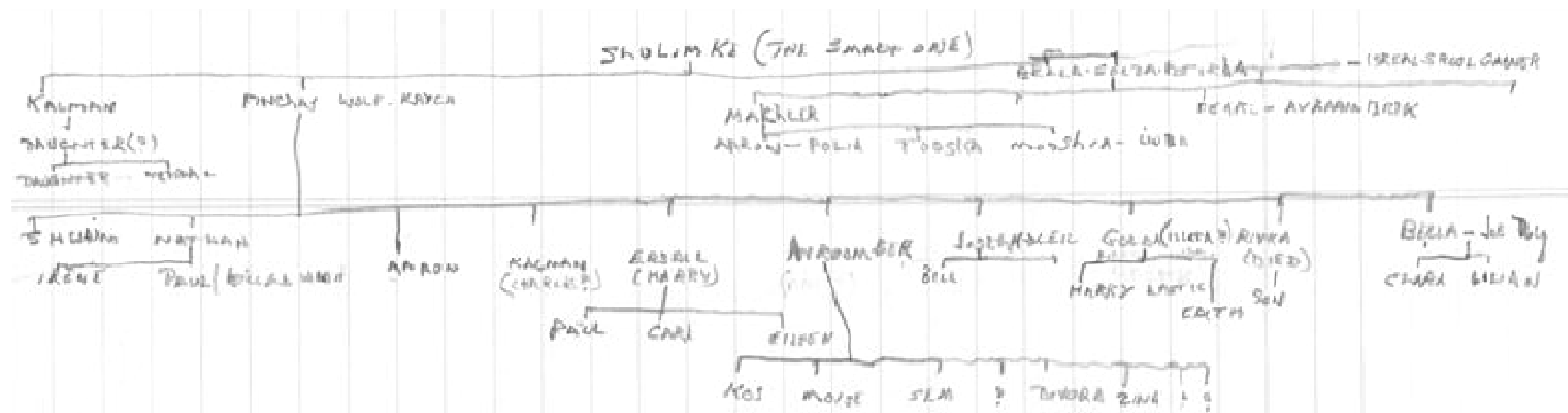
Maple cabinet-makers were all relatives

Cabinet-Maker the
Dudi was located and conducted business affairs of maple in
Moscow, where he had an office for this. To Moscow were shipped
all finished goods which were prepared by the cabinet-makers in
Kremenets. Dudi had one son by the name of Shlomo, who was a
pharmacist. Daughter Vitya and her husband, Mikhelyan, a lawyer,
did not have children. The daughter was rich; she the proprietor of a
printing house; she had five children. One of the sons lived
through the Hitler period and emigrated to Israel with his family.
Two daughters worked in a hospital as nurses; their names
were Zelda and Ila. The youngest daughter emigrated to America in
the thirties; she and her husband were teachers; her name, her
Rachel: I do not remember the family. The rest of the children of
Cabinet-Maker, at
Dudi, excluding Rachel who left for America, perished at
the hands of the damned Hitler nazis.

18

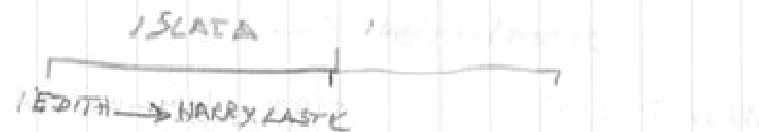
cabinet-making production,
Pincas-Wolf Potikha had a factory of mouthpieces
pipes
for cigarettes, for smoking tobacco, handels for umbrellas and
canes. Two of these items would demand
for men. were in great demand in Russia and all
finished goods were shipped to Moscow to the representative, Dudi Cabinet-
Maker, who sold them throughout Russia. Pincas-Wolf had two of his own houses and
a family of seven sons and three daughters. Several of his children, before
the First World War, emigrated to America. During the War Pincas-Wolf and
his wife, Khaya, died, while the rest of the children emigrated to America
at the finish of the War. In America, these ten children of Pincas-Wolf
lives, leaving after themselves
lived out their where they died, a large
succession of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-
grandchildren.
great-

The Poticha Family of Kremenets



THIS IS FROM ZARRANS LETTER. I KNOW PINCHAS WOLF HAD A SON CHARLIE. HE IS KALMAN
ANYWAY CHARLIE HAD A DAUGHTER RENEE SUE & A SON OTTO
ALSO I KNOW THERE WAS ANOTHER SON ABSE. I NEVER KNEW OR HEARD OF
ARON-BER

ALSO - THE OLDEST DAUGHTER OF PINCHAS WOLF WAS CALLED ISLATA WAS THIS
GOLDA? HER TREE IS



The Poticha Family of Kremenets

