

## A story of Rav Avraham and his son Asher Zvi Zack, ancestors on the Landa side of the family

This story was excerpted by Josh Ginsparg, from Zeidi Mordecai Landa's book.

Zeidi Mordecai Landa writes about his ancestor, Rav Avraham Zack. Rav Avraham was 60 years old and studying Torah one day with the Baal Shem Tov (died 1760). The serving girl, a 20-year-old, is asked to bring coffee. She brings in three cups, and when asked why, she states she sees three sages. The B'esht tells Rav Avraham that she sees Eliyahu, and so suggests that Rav Avraham marry her because she is special.

They marry, and a son is born. The Bris is a major affair with six Rabbonim in attendance, and Rab Nahum of Chernobyl was the Mohel. The shamos passed the word that everyone should attend and see Eliyahu in his chair. When the baby was brought in, the crowd panicked at the thought of seeing Eliyahu and ran off, leaving one man short of a minyan. So, they had to wait until an ordinary stevedore (tregger) came by, who was pulled in to make the tenth man.

Zeidi Mordecai says that in the late 1920's he visited Rav Avraham's grave in Shargarad, and next to his tombstone was another that they say belonged to the tregger, Moishe.

The son was Asher Zvi, who grew to become an established Rebbe. He was approached during a great drought by the owner of the territory, Count Branitzka. The count owned Pogrobisht and the surrounding villages, and asked Asher Zvi to pray for rain. Rain came, so the count gave Asher Zvi a bonus, a concession to log a forest in Sharmavka. The rights to log this forest were passed down all the way to Nahum Eliezer Zack, Zeidi Mordecai's grandfather. Zeidi lived in his grandparents' home when he was between the ages of 5 and 13 years old and says he saw logs hauled out of the forest in the wintertime.

Born circa

1690 Avraham Zack

1750 Asher Zvi Zack

1780 Shmuel Zack

1800 Avraham Moishe Zack

1825 Nahum Eliezer Zack; married Yura

1850 Hanna (Enya) Zack; married Klanimus Kalman Landa

1873 Mordecai Landa; married Fayge Ginsparg

1896 Gitel Landa; married Nahman Joseph Ginsparg

1921, 2033 Josh, Harold (Asher Zvi) and Colman Ginsparg