

BIOGRAPHY PAMPHLET

The crown of age
is Grand-Children
The adornment of children
is Parents.

PREFACE

I am neither an author nor a writer, even my father, and my grand father were no writers. I write this small Biographical Pamphlet, for two reasons. First, because I was deprived for a couple of decades, from my children, when they were small, and did not have the chance to narrate or tell them stories, and legends, as my father did to me. The second reason, is because I was ill, and had to go to Lakewood N. J. for recreation. I was there for several weeks, and had nothing else to do, to pass the time. I therefore write this Pamphlet for my dear children, as a remembrance.

ELI MITRE

November 24-1930

Lakewood N. J.

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Biography

I

The City Where We Come From

Novogrodek is an ancient city and was built in the seventh century, at a time when Kings or Emperors were only a few in existence, Dukes, Counts, Gerchogs and Chieftans, were the only rulers known.

Novogrodek was the main city and a Duke lived there. All the willages and hamlets of the vicinity with in a radius of ten miles belonged to the Duke.. The place where the Duke lived was called the Zamok, meaning the lock. It consisted of a big artificial hill made of stones and cement covered with earth. Around the hill a deep dale was dug out and filled with water, as an artificial lake. On the hill, stood a big palace built from stones and bricks. The outside walls of the palace was more then

two yards thick. Two high towers of stone and brick, with very thick walls thicker than the walls of the palace, was built near it. Stairs were built in the walls, to get to the top of the towers where guns and fire-arms of the ancient times were kept, for defense. The Zamok contained also, a church for the Duke and his family.

A big edifice built of stone and brick with very thick walls and large cellars was situated in the city. It contained the main office for the administration like our city hall. A tunnel from the palace led to the administration office, it was specially made for the Duke, when he had to come to consultations with his officials.

A distance of fifteen miles from Novogrodek there is a city by the name Meer, not far from Meer, there is a place called Polonetz where Dukes,

lived, who had Zamoks with large palaces in the same model as the Zamok of Novogrodek, with tunnels connected one palace to the other. There was also a tunnel connecting the Dukes palace at Novogrodek to the palace of the city Meer.

One hundred years later the Dukes assembled in a conference and decided to make a federal government with a King as the head over the Dukes, with an army and every thing a government needs. This was done to do away with the fights, the Dukes constantly had among themselves, when the stronger and the richer invaded and attacked the weaker, and the poorer who always lived in terror and fear. A strong Polish government was then established. Her territory was the largest in Europe. East Prussia, Galisia, Ukraina were included in her territory. The largest farms with the best cultivated

land, the largest ranches with the best cattle, were in Poland's territory. Poland also had the best woods. The first capital was Croke, where the King of Poland lived. The second capital was Warsaw. The whole trade of Poland was with the foreign countries, such as Germany, France, Austria and Russia. The main trade or business was with Russia.

II

Our Fore-Fathers And The Name Mitre

At the end of the sixteenth century. Novorgrodek, was a poveyet, meaning a state, that was known all over the Poland State. It was famous because it was a poveyet, and because Mitchkewitz, the famous Polish author and Poet, was born there.

Not far from the outskirts of the city, there was a small farm called, Mitrepole, which is still in existance. That farm, with its twenty-five acres of land and ten slaves, belonged to a man by the name Labe, which in Jewish means a Lion. He was an educated and a very pious man. He was known in the city as Labe.... Mitrepoler, and was respected and revered, by every one. This man Labe Mitrepoler was my great, great, grand-father. And from that time we are carrying the....

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name Mitre, abbreviated from Mitrepole.

He died in the middle of the seventeenth century, survived by only one son whose name was Israel. He was my great, grand-father. A little legend about my great, great, grand-father Labe Mitrepoler. Though the farm Mitrepole, was not far from the city, he very seldom came to the city Synagogues to pray, only on particular holidays like, Passover, New Years, Yom Kippur or the feast of the Tabernacle. When he showed up, in the Synagogue, the worshippers would say,.... "The Lion came from Babylon". It is mentioned in the Talmud, that when the Jewish temple was destroyed the first time, and the land devastated, and most of the Jew's were driven away to Babylon, only a small part remained in Jerusalem. At that time, the famous Jewish sage and Rabbi, also went to Babylon. When at

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times he would come to Jerusalem, to see the rest of the Jews to learn how they were getting along, they would say..... "The Lion came from Babylon".

A short time after his death the Russian Czar Alexander the First, Friedrich William the Third, King of Prussia, and Francis, the First, the Emperor of Austria invaded Poland and conquered it, Abolished her government and divided the entire Polish territory, amongst them. Russia took the largest part of the Polish territory, and Novogrodek was in that Russian part.

III

My Great, Grand-Father Israel

After the death of Labe Mitrepoler his son Israel, being the only heir, took possession of the farm, the slaves, the cattle and all the other things that belonged to the farm, He lived on the farm for a long time. He had four sons who were named Wilton, Jacob, Joseph and Sam, and one daughter. Years passed by he became older and in the meantime many of the slaves, died, and he couldn't get.... other ones. It was hard for him to keep on with the farming bussiness, and as he also wanted to give his children a better education, he decided to sell the farm, and move into the city. Accordingly he sold the farm, and bought a house in the city of Novogrodek. It was a large house, with ample grounds surrounding the house.. This was in seventeen-hundred and seventy-

five. His occupation in the city, was buying grains from the Peasants, and from Farmers, and selling it to Wholesalers, big Buyers who dealt with foreign countries.

His four sons, were sent to other cities to learn. In Eighteen-hundred his wife died, and he re-married, and then another child a boy was born to him; he.... named him Abraham. On the next year, it was in eighteen-hundred and two, Israel died, survived by his wife, and six children, five sons, and one daughter.

When he died, he wasn't rich, the only thing he left was the House, which he had bought, but no capital. His four older sons, were in other cities where they studied, while at home remained the widow, the daughter, and the little boy Abraham. She made a hard living, and had little support from the older children.

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A few years later two of his four sons, Wilton and Joseph who studied in the other cities, married, and came to live with their Wives in Novogrodek, near their step-mother.

The other brothers Sam, went to the Caucasuses. He married there, opened a big Jewellery business, and became rich. Years later he was killed there. Sam left a wife, and a few children. Jacob the fourth brother, went to France he became a private teacher there, to one of the Rutchilds to his children. Then he married, and he opened a fur shop, and also became tremendously rich. Wilton, and Jacob, who lived in Novogrodek also have done big business and they were also wealthy. They had their own properties, and a considerable capital.

In eighteen-hundred and twelve,... Napoleon the French Emperor suddenly dec-

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clared War on Russia, and began to invade Russia from three sides. Through Germany, Austria, and Poland's territory. It..... brought dark days. The French armies on their way to Russia, requisitioned every things which they thought it will be useful for them. The soldiers ransacked, pillaged, and plundered everything which came their way. The fear for Napoleon and his army was so great that no one dared to.... show out any resistance. But the War did not last long, due to the Russian strategy to burn, and to destroy all the cities,... hamlets and villages. This was done to... prevent from having any use for the French army. The Russians burned everything which within to reach of the French armies. The population ran away further and further into the Russian territory. Even Moscow, was burned by the Russians, so it should not fall into the hands of the French army..

The French army was therefore dragged far into the Russian territory, till Smolensk and Charcove. In France the climate is always warm, but Russia has winter for six long months, with cold weather forty and more than forty degrees below zero, Besides the whole Russian territory is covered for the six months with heavy snow. The French army when they left France, to make their attack on Russia, the whole army was clothed in thin summer garments, with not enough provisions to wage a long war. Napolen depended on his army to conquer Russia in a short time, and to get every thing there, or else he has forgotten about the six months winter, which Russia has. The result was Napolen and his army, was dragged deep into the Russian territory. They did not confront any resistance from the Russian troops, and every where they passed they found only burned cities, and

everything destroyed. The inhabitants ran away and left everything destroyed behind them. Then the winter started with a heavy snow storms and terrible cold weather, and the French army was far far into the Russian territory, around Smolensk and around Moscow on empty fields without any shelter and lacking provisions. Thousands of... French troops died from cold and starvation. The cold weather was in favor of the Russians. Napolen and his army got so terrified and demoralized, that they started to run back, to get out from Russia in great terror and disorder. Now the Russians started in pursuit and to make their attacks on the French armies. They killed tens of thousands of soldiers of Napolen's army. Hardly one third was left of the whole army, and Napolen himself narrowly escaped death.

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When Napolen came back to France the people revolted against him, and made him abdicate and sent him away to the Elba. After a few years on the Island, he escaped, and came to France, but he was captured and was returned to the Island.

A story that my grand father narrated to me. When the French troops passed through Novogrodek, they did not know how to go from one city to the.... other. They would catch a young man, any one, and they would give him a drum so that he should go forward and beat the drum to show the way. All the..... young men were afraid to be caught, so as soon as they saw a French soldier, they would hide themselves in cellars, or garrets. My grand-father was a small boy, only ten years of age, so he wasn't afraid to be caught.

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Once while he was sitting at the window, of his home, he saw two French soldiers with rifles pass by, and one soldier... carried a big bundle on his shoulders. He was eager to see where they were going. Behind his house was a empty lot. He saw the soldiers come on this lot and put down their rifles, and bundle, and they layed down to take a nap. Fifteen minutes later he came out from the house to see what they were doing there, and he saw that they were sleeping soundly. He told me that he took away the bundle, and carried it down into the cellar, and watched from the windows to see what they will do when they awake. He saw when they got up, that they were searching for the bundle, and when they saw that they could not find it, they took their rifles, and went away. Then he went down into the

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cellar, untied the bundle to see what it contained. He found there towels, window curtains, bed sheets, aprons, and other things which they robbed somewhere in the city. He told his mother about it, and she took the whole bundle and carried it away to the Rabbi, to find out to whom it belonged.

During the time of the war, untill Russia became rehabilitated, conditions were very bad and miserable. The export trade was cut, business was dull, starvation and diseases were all over. Israel's Mitrepolers widow, my great grand-mother with her little son Abraham who became my grand-father later on, and her step-daughter have suffered as every one and perhaps more than every one. Till the war, Abraham learned in a Jewish Chaider, but when the war broke out, and conditions became so bad and miserable, his mother could not...

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give him any more education. She gave him to a tailor to learn the tailor trade. He was at that time eleven years of age, then some years later conditions became better and better and people have quite forgotten about the miserable times.

During that time, the girl the only daughter of Israel Mitrepoler got married, and in a short time, she went with her... husband to live in Stambol, a Turkish city.. She was very seldom in communication with her brothers and step-mother. After many of years, we received tidings that she became very rich there, that she was the... richest woman in Stambol. The palace in which she lived had the beams under the ceilings and the frames of the windows... made of gold..

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About My Grand-Father Abraham

He learned the tailoring trade and became a good master, and earned good money. He was the only son left at his mother's house. He was a very handsome fellow, not tall, and not short of middle height. When he reached the age of twenty-four, he married a nice girl, from the same city. She was the daughter of a rich butcher, by the.... name of Avigdor. The bride's name was Adlie. As the custom in those days was to give dowry and board, his father-in-law Avigdor, gave him three hundred.... rubles in cash, and three years board. He had done the tailoring work, for very rich customers, even the Duke of Polonetz was one of his customers. During the three years which he had room and board by his father-in-law, he accumula-

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ted a nice sum of money. After the three years he hired rooms and was for himself, and lived happily with his wife. But the happiness was gloomed, because six years passed and they did not have a child. A year later a child was born to him, a.... baby girl, but the child did not live.... long. An other few years passed and an other child was born to him, also a girl, he named her Rosie. Three years later... after the girl, a son was born, and he named him David-Labe. The name Labe, was given after his grand-father, Labe Mitrepler, and the name, David was given after the famous Rabbi of Novogrodek, who's ... name was Rabbi David, and who died in the same year, most of the Jewish children.... that were born in that year, were named after him.. It was in eighteen-hundred and thirty nine.

When his children grew up a little..

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the girl reached thirteen years of age, and the boy, David-Labe, was ten years, he retired from his tailoring work. He had already accumulated a capital of ten thousand of rubles. For that days it was a very large sum of money. He bought a house, in Novogrodek, in the Jewish.... street, in which he lived the rest of his life.

It was rumored amongst the Jewish people, that my grand-father became rich, because he was the tailor for the Duke of Polonetzsk, and he sewed all his attires. Once the Duke gave him a suit to fix, and in one of the pockets a large sum of..... money, was found, which the Duke has forgotten to take out when he gave it to fix, and my grand-father found it. From that time he became rich. But my father told me that it was only an invention, it was not true. He became rich simply, because

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he was never extravagant, had a small family, and lived frugally, saving every kapaika meaning, every cent, over a ... period of many years, he save up a large capital.

His occupation, was to lend money to people on interest, He dealt mostly with gentiles and rich farmers, very ... little with Jewish people. Though he... could not read and write, and only knew to sign his name, and that not in full, he has given big loans, All his calculations were always correct even to the half of a kopaika. He was a very quiet man, and he never was in a court for litigation with any-one, even with a Jew, he never went to the Jewish Rabbi, for a ... trial. He was religious, observed to ... pray three times a day in a Synagogue, according the Jewish law. He read the Psalm every day, knowing the Psalm by heart.

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In the main Bazaar of Novogrodek there was a line of numbered stores, thirty-three on one side and thirty-three on the other side. He bought two such stores, one store was NO. 14, and the other, was NO. 42. The Jewish population, of the city, envied him, and his two brothers, because they were rich. They called them the "Achim", which ... means the brothers. My grand-father... Abraham was known by his nickname, "ACH". more than by his name Mitre.

When his daughter Rosie, became nineteen years of age, she got married with a ... fellow from the same city. His name was Chaim Issac Butensky. He was a very.... handsome boy, and also an educated fellow. His father, Messes Butensky, was a Sexton by the Rabbi Issac-Elchonon, who was the Rabbi of Novogrodek. He gave her, thousand of rubles dowry, and they open-

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ed a flour store. They lived very happily. They had three daughters, who were named Sarah-Esther, Fannie, and Elka and one only son, named Labe. Four years.... after his daughters marriage, his son..... David-Labe, also married a girl, from a small town, Rubzewitz. This town lies between, the town of Koidonof and the city... Minsk. After his marriage he came to live in Novogrodek with his wife. He opened a dry-goods store, in one of his fathers own stores, in the store NO.14.

It was in eighteen-hundred and..... sixty three, my grand-father, had loaned five hundred rubles to a polish woman, who had a big farm near the city Lido, which was between Lido and Vilna, At that time, the government, kept a vigil eye on the Polish subjects, because rumors were being circulated, that they were preparing to make a seditious against the Russian government

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When the time was due to receive payment of his money, he came to her. She paid him the five hundred rubles, in a single bill, and he came back home. On the ... next day, he heard from somebody, that the woman, from whom he received the ... money, was arrested for counterfeiting. He was afraid to use the five hundred rubles, which he got from her, and held it separately in his pocket. It happened that a few days later he stood near his house where he lived, and he saw a secret service officer walking up the .. street. A man passed near him, and said in a joke, "Abraham you see the officer, is going to search you for counterfeit money". He got so frightened, that he took out the five-hundred rubles, and .. tore it to pteces, and went into the.... house. A small boy came and told his son about it.

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He came and picked up the little pieces, and kept them. The money wasn't lost, because as he was acquainted with the cashier of the government treasury, and he changed it for other money. But he became ill, and got an nervous breakdown, and was sick for a long time. He had an illusions, that every-one is an enemy of his, and was against him. He was afraid to be alone in the house, and even to go out into the street. He stopped going to the Synagogue, not only the week days, but even on Saturdays and holidays. When he was asked why he didn't go to the Synagogue he would say, "Some-body will throw down the Torah and they will blame me for it. He was treated by two great doctors----- Ozichowsky, and Seameratsky, to whom people were coming for treatment, for a distance of twenty-five miles. Stories and Legends of miracles were told, about

him. They could not find a remedy how to drive out the fear, and terror of his ... mind.

A story that I heard from one of the doctor Seameratsky's assistants by the ... name of Yavel Klubok. Once a young girl, of about twenty-two or twenty-three years of age, a farmer's daughter, was brought to the hospital. Her sickness was that she stoppedspeaking, was always drowsy, and lost her appetite. She was treated by many doctors and none of them could ... find out what caused the sickness, and how it should be treated. She was in the hospital for a few months, and Doctor..... Seameratsky could not obtain better results. Once he said to me, "I am going to make an experiment on her, but you should not tell it to any-body. I will Hypnotize her. So he took out a golden rendle, it means a ... golden three ruble coin, and gave it to me

to hold. He placed me opposite her, and told me to hold it up, while he went over to the girl, and said to her. "Listen... girl, look straight at the coin, and keep your mind on it, and don't even wink your eyes. In case you do, you will die immediately." And to me he said, "When you will hear an audible groan or a cry, call me in." I took the coin, and did exactly as he told me. The doctor left the room. She was staring at it. Half an hour later, she fell asleep with an out cry, "Oh", I called in the doctor. As he entered, he took her wrist and started to ask her the reason of her sickness. And while sleeping she told him how it happened. This is what ... she said, "While, standing near an open..... cellar with one of the house-hold servants he pushed me, and I fell into it, and he came down after me and attacked me there. I was uncountious for quite some time.

As soon as the Doctor learned the cause, she was cured in a short time, and her speech came back to her.

At that time in Novogrodek, then was a Rabbi by the name Borooch Mordchy, who in years later, was the Rabbi in the city Sedlitz. Every educated Jew heard of him. He was a misterious man, and he never took a bath, when other people were there. Days and nights he learned or ... wrote his books. He also answered questions through letters which other Rabbis asked him. He slept very little, two... hours during the nights, He never slept in a bed, or undressed except Friday.... nights. He slept on the on a chair in his study most of the time. People said, that his blessing or cursing are effective. As the medical treatment did not bring.... results, his son David-Labe, went to the Rabbi, and told him about his fathers sick-

ness, and how it came to him. He asked the Rabbi, to pray for him, and to bless him, he should get well. The Rabbi, listened to the whole tale then took out from his pocket his hand-kerchief, and went to a nook of the room, and said some prayers very silently, holding the handkerchief near to his mouth. It took about ten or fifteen minutes. He then handed over the hand-kerchief to David-Labe, and said, "Go home, and put this under his head, and tell him that I blessed him, that he tell him that I get well. He went home and did as the.... Rabbi told him. The whole night my grandfather slept soundly, he awakened in the morning it was about nine o'clock, he yawned, and said, "How is that I am late to-day. It is late already to go to Synagogue to pray. He got up from his bed, dressed and washed himself, then put on his Talice, and prayed. Then my grand-...

mother gave him his breakfast, which he ate, and after he finished, he went out to the street for a walk. He came back, as if nothing was ever wrong with him. After this sickness he lived twenty-five years more, and wasn't sick during that time, and never visited a doctor. He .. continued his loaning business, and from year to year he became richer and richer. If a grand-child got married, his custom was to give a thousand rubles for dowry. His wife died ten years before him, at the age of seventy-one. After her death he gave a donation of five-hundred rubles, to the Jewish hospital in her name. My grand-father died, in the year of eighteen-hundred and eighty seven, at the age of eighty-five years. He left two thousand rubles for charity. One thousand for the Jewish Hospital where his name and the amount was engraved on a Tablet in that

hospital. And the other thousand was distributed between other institutions. His capital, a sum of forty thousand... rubles in cash, and his House, with his two stores, he bequeathed to his two ... children, Rosie and David-Labe.

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About My Father David-Labe

My father was born, in eighteen-hundred and thirty-nine. He was the only one son of his parents. When he was six years old, his father send him to Chaidar, it means a Jewish School. He was a clever and a good Kid. At eight years, he knew the whole Bible by heart. Though his ... father did not want to spend big money for him to hire good teachers, the best teachers wanted to have him for a pupil. He had a name for a good kid and many fathers wanted to send their children in the same Chaidar where he was learning. The best teachers taught him for less money than was paid for others children. When he was twelve years of age he entered in Rabbi Zalik's Talmud Torah in Novogrodek which was famous in many other cities, for fifty miles around. He was one of the best

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pupils there. The secretary of the police head quarters of Novogrodek by the name of Bartnowsky who was secretary for many, many years had lived in the same street where my grand-father lived, and they were very well acquainted and often he borrowed money from my grand-father. He thought my father, the Russian language gratis twice a week. At sixteen years he finished Rabbi Zalik's Tolmud Toroah. Then he learned and studied for himself, and was known as the best boy in the city.

A story my father told to me. It was at the time of the reign of Czar..... Nicholes the first, when military service was required for twenty-five years, and every village, hemlet town and city had.. to give a certain amount of young men to the military service, they picked up recruits from the poor class of the inhabitants and from the peasants who were

slaves on the farms. The Jewish people also had to give some of their Sons for the military service not much only a few every year. Not only young men, but ... children, kids from the ages of four to ten years, were picked. Novogrodek had to give some times four or five kids a year, and some year five and a half kids. Near Novogrodek at a distance of one mile there is a small town by the name Salib. They also had to give some times one kid, and some times one and a half. It was stipulated between the Jewish people of Novogrodek and Salib, in case when Novogrodek will have to give the half a kid, the town Salib should give a kid, and in case Salib will have to give Novogrodek will give it for her. The time to pick up the kids for the government was in the month of August. A special room with iron - ed barred windows was in the yard of the

police head quarters, where the children were kept till November, untill all the children of the surrounding towns were grought to Novogrodek. From Novogrodek they were sent to some wheres far in ... Russia, and there they were distributed among Russian farmers, to rear, and to use them for their farm work. They were to be kept untill the kids became eighteen of years old. Then the farmer was required to bring him to the nearest city to a police station. There he was examined for fitness and he was sent to a military regiment to serve there for twenty-five years. If he were found unfit he was exsempted from military service.. Many of those children, the farmers converted to christianity. If they did not want to accept the christan religion, they were tortured by the farmer with whom they lived. The Jewish people of Novogrodek hired a

special man for catching those children. His name was Bentzy, He was known as Bentzy the catcher. Most of those children were from poor parents who did not give their child to learn, or a naughty children who did not want to learn.

Once my father was sitting in the Synagogue and studying. It was in August, a small boy of seven or eight years of age ran in, pale haggard and breathless, and was looking for a place to hide himself. He hid himself under the bench on which my father was sitting under his feet. Five minutes later Bentzy the catcher came in, and searched for the kid. He found him under the bench and pulled him out, and picked him up on his shoulders, and went away with him. The kid was crying and ... kicking with his little feet, but Bentzy carried him away. When my father told me this story, it was about forty-five years

after it happened. He said the whole picture was in front of my eyes. I remember his pale haggard face and his crying.

In Novogrodek many Synagogues were there, Two of them were the main Synagogues. One was built in the fifteenth century, and was called the cold Synagogue, because it was built without ovens. It was kept open twice a day only for praying. In the morning, and when the sun set. The rest of the day, it was closed. The second was built at the beginning of the ... eighteenth century and was named the new Synagogue. It was for praying, learning and studying. A society in Novogrodek by the name Chavrie Shas, it means society .. for learning the Gerara for an hour or more every day was organized. A large table .. with benches around were placed in the new Synagogue where all the members of this

society were sitting there and learning the Gemara. Members were taken in only of those who know how to learn, and who were married. None of the members were taken in, without initiation fee of not less ... than twenty-five rubles. It was considered a pride and a honor by the Jewish nation to be a member of the Chavrie Shas. The Gemara is divided in six parts, after finishing a part Banquets and feasts were held for three nights in succession, and tremendous sums of money were spent. There were such societies in all the cities where Jews lived. When my father was a boy of eighteen years the society took him in for a ... member as an exception though he was not married, and without initiation fee.

Because he was known as a boy who knew well the study of the Gemara.

When my father has passed twenty years of age, his parents wanted he should get

married. A matchmaker recommended a match for him from the city of Slonim, which is only ten miles from Novogrodek, with a ... girl of wealthy business man who, wanted to give one thousand and five hundred..... rubles dowry and five years board and room. He and his mother went to Slonim to see the girl and her parents, to see if it is just as the match-maker recommended. They were there for a few days and found out, that ~~everything~~ is just as the match-maker.... said. The girl was a beautiful girl, and her parents were very nice people, and ... wealthy too, with a big business. But my father and his mother rode back home without an engagement an account of superstition. The house where the girl with her parents lived, it was their own house, and was not far from an old cemetery. Through one window of the house it could be seen, so as my father was an only Son,

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to his parents his mother did not consent to the match, to let him remain in this house.

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My Maternal Ancestors

In the small town of Rubezwitz, which lies between, the town Koydanof, and the city Minsk, there lived a man by the name Issac Gurian. He claimed that he was a descendant from Joseph Ben Gurian, who lived in Jerusalem before the Jewish government was destroyed. The name Joseph-Ben-Gurian, is mentioned in Jewish history, in the book of Ben Searah.

That man Issac was a big merchant and tremendously rich. He had two large houses in Rubezewitz with big lots of ground behind the houses. He also had a small farm near the town with many cattle. A large library, with the best Jewish.... books, and a Torah were in his house. He lived in one of the houses in the town, and the other house and farm were hired to some-body else. His business was to buy

goods from Minsk, and other large cities, and ship them on his own schooners to ... Hamburg, and Laipzig, and there sell them to store-keepers. The Rabbi of Hamburg by the name Raphiel, who was known by the ... Jewish nation from his many books which he wrote was a close kin to him.. He died,... (I don't know precisely the year) and left over his capital with the Estate to his... children. The two houses with the farm, and the library with the Torah were bequeathed to his Son William and his wife Mary. That Issac Gurian was my mothers .. grand-father.

William Gurian or better known as Willian Issac's had six children four.... daughters , named Gitel, Bayle-Ester,..... Nachama and Chanie-Sarah, and two sons .. Abraham and Lippe.

A short time after my fathers coming back from Slonim not betrothed, an

other Match-maker recommended the match with a girl, by the name Gitel the daughter of William Gurian from Rubzewitz. He want to give five hundred rubles dowry and three years room and board. My father ... and his mother went to Rubzewitz to see the girl and her parents, to find out whether every thing is just as the Match-maker said. They were there a few days, and consented to the match. An engagement was made and my father and his mother went back home. Then through communication it was decided, when and where to make the wedding. It was not postponed for a long time only for six months. The wedding took place in Rubzewitz with great pomp and ceremony.

A story which my father told me about the backwardness and the bashfulness between boys and girls of his time. During the six months between his engage-

ment and the wedding. He invited his bride to visit him and his parents at Novogrodek and to stay a few days, to become better acquainted with his friends and relatives. She came, and was in his house for a whole week. At that time, in Novogrodek there .. ought to be a military parade. A general, came from Willno to review the soldiers. It was on a Saturday most of the inhabitants went to see this parade. My father took his bride and also went to see it. But he was bashful to walk alone with her, therefore he took his Mother with them. They... went through side streets, to the place where the parade was. He was even bashful to go abreast with his bride, so his Mother walked between them. Such were the seclusion between boys and girls in that time.

After the wedding my fathers parents with his relatives, and all the guest went back to their homes.

My father remained in Rubzewitz with his wife, to stay there for three years on... board which his father-in-law promised him. But he was there only for two years, because he got tiresome of sitting idle. He took... his wife, and moved to Novogrodek near his parents. He hired rooms and then he opened a dry-goods business in one of his fathers stores, NO.14. In a few years later he... bought his own house. It was in eighteen-hundred and sixty-three, in the year when Alexander the II the Czar of Russia made free the peasants from slavery. He was in the dry-goods business for three years. Then he changed it for Grocery, and was in it for eight years. During that time, my Mother gave birth to twelve children, but seven of them died, when they were small, and only five remained. They were two... girls named Bayle-Esther, and Nachama, and three boys-- Jacob-Chonon, Eli and Moses.

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Every child was nursed by strange a strange woman in different towns, till three years of age. Every child was called by superstitious nick names such as Zadel, Babel, Alter. My indulgent parents had to travel periodically to the towns where the children were reared, to see how they were ... getting along.

A story that my father told me.

In eighteen hundred, and sixty-five, the Polish Subjects planned to make a uprising against the Russian government. They were prepared with amunition, provisions, and men. The forest Nolibok which is over three Russian miles wide, and tens of miles in length. There was the meeting place, and the storage for amunition, and provisions. In the same forest they drilled their men and trained them to shoot. But the government found out and everything, was confiscated.

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A mass of Polish Subjects were caught and arrested. In that time the governor general of Villno was Muravyove. He was a very stern .. man, and had the heart of a Tiger. He was the governor general over the entire Zone. The States of Minsk, Grodno, and Kovno were included in the Zone of Villno. He gave an ... order to arrest every Polish Subject on whom the Police had the slightest suspicious, and to bring them to him in Villno. Hundreds of such subjects from the whole zone, were brought to him, without any investigations, and without trials, he ruthlessly shot them. The name Muravyove was a terror to everyone. Near the town Loobtz, there was a very rich farmer, a Polish subject, his name was Poslavsky. He had a son who was also one of the insurgent. He had the title of officer by the rebels, and was caught. But his father spent money not to take his son, in Villno to Muravyove. He was put in prison in Novogrodek and was held for a long time.

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Once in the middle of a summer day, a ... squad of soldiers from a hundred and fifty men with six officers, marched through the Bazaar straight down to Slonim Street, where the prison was. A mass of idle ... people went to see where they were marching. The squad came to the prison and stopped there. Four soldiers with one officer, entered inside the prison, and returned:.... with a prisoner. It was the son of Poslavsky. He was clad in his own attires, and not fettered. They placed him in front of the squad, and marched back to the Bazaar, and from there, to Zamok Street.

A rumor was that they were going to shoot him. When this occurred, my father and ... Mother were in their store, and my father asked my mother to be in the store, and he went to see where the soldiers were leading Poslavsky. Near the end of Zamok Street there was a small farm, Fortunca, with a

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a large lot of empty ground. It was ... called the Vien. When the soldiers came to this place, they stopped, some of them made a cordon, not to let anybody in. My father had many acquainted soldiers, and they let him inside the circle. He saw from far a pole the height of five feet, which was digged into the ground. Behind the pole, a plain wooden coffin .. was there. Two soldiers stood by, and one of them kept a white thing under his arm. The officers with Poslavsky stood in the center of the cordon. One officer took out a cigarette, from a silver case, and offered one to Poslavsky too. The officer lit a match, and both lighted their cigarettes, and while they were smoking they were chatting together. In a few minutes later, a Polish priest, came he walked over to the group of officers where they stood, and shook hands with them.

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Then one of the officers took out a paper from his bosom pocket, and read it. As it was finished the officers retreated a little on a side, and left Poslavsky, with the priest alone. Meanwhile one officer, drilled the soldiers. The priest, and Poslavsky sitted on the grass, and spoke together. It took only a few minutes, then they stood up. The two soldiers who were at the pole, and the one who kept the ... white thing under his arm, proceeded to .. Poslavsky, and they took him under his arms and led him over to the pole. There the.. soldier took out the white thing, it was a white shirt, and they put it on him. A ... white handkerchief tied around his eyes,... and with a rope they tied him to the pole. One of the officers gave the command, "Sharp Shooters Out." Twelve soldiers stepped out to the front, then he gave the command to shoot and they discharged the rifles.

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Stains of blood streamed down through his white shirt, and his head was drooped, Then he was untied and was put into the .. coffin, and interred there near the pole. A soldier with a rifle left there for guard and all went back home. The guard stood there for three days only. In a few months later his father hired a man, and payed a large sum of money, to steal his sons body out from the grave, and to bring it over to his farm, to be buried there. In the middle of the night he was digged out from his grave, and was brought to his father's farm for interring there.

During the eleven years which my... parents were in Novogrodek my grand father and grand mother from Rubzewitz, with my mothers three sisters and two brothers very.. often came from Rubzewitz to wisit us.. Once my mothers youngest sister by the name OHanie-Sarah came to wisit us. It was in

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eighteen hundred and sixty seven or sixty eight. i dont know ecxactly. A disaster happened to her. She was two weeks by us, and got sick contracted Typhus-fever, The best Doctors of Novogrodek were called in to attend her.. But she died and was buried in Novogrodek..... You can imagine the sorrow and the grief which my parents had..

Not far from Novogrodek, a distance of three miles, there were a small town with a farm near by, by the name Delatitz. The ground of this town, and the fields with the forest around the town, and the farm, had belonged to a very rich farmer, by the name Margelewitz. He lived in his gorgeous mansion in Vayneva. It is only one half a mile from Delatitz. All the inhabitants of the town, had to pay taxes to Margelewitz, for using his ground. In the middle Bazaar of this town, there was a inn for selling Vodky. Near the end of this town, there was a

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water-mill. The Inn to sell the vodky, and the water-mill were built by Margelewitz, and had belonged to him. None of the inhabitants of the town, had the right to open or to build neither an other Inn or a mill. It was stipulated between Margelewitz and his taxes payers that every-one has the right to sell vodky only in retail in small quantities from one eighth of a quart to a quart. But not in whole-sale not more than a quart. The wholesale selling of Vodky, must be only in the Inn by the man who rented it.

Margelewitz had a poor Nephew by the name Dubowsky to provide him with a living, his uncle authorized him to collect the ... taxes from the inhabitants of the town, and to rent the Inn with the water-mill.

My father after being three years in the drygoods business, and eight years a ... grocer, an agent came , and recommended him to hire the Inn from Dubowsky which, is

located in Dalatitz. My parents went there to get acquainted with the business, and .. the terms. They were there a few days, and an agreement was made between them. My ... parents came back home, and sold out the .. grocery things,---- rented their own house which they had in Novogrodek, and moved to Dalatitz. They opened the Inn with large barrels of all kinds of Vodka. The business was very good and profitable.

During that time, my mothers sister, Bayle-Esther got married, to a very nice, handsome fellow from the town Valozen. His name was Judah-Gershen Wisboard. As he became a brother-in-law to my parents they .. took him in to the business as a partner. As he was a young man, full of life, and qualifications, had loathed to live in a small town such as Dalatitz. He desired to live in a large city.

Over the whole great Russia, there

were only two factories of rubber-goods one in Petersburg, and the other in Rego. The rubber from the Petersburgs factory were of first class, and from Rego were seconds. The rubber-goods of Rego, were sold for half price. The factory of ... Petersburg was monopolized to a man by the name Smarle Gurian, and his partner Luria. Smarle Gurian was a son of one of the brothers of my grand-father from Rubezewitz-(A nephew to my grand-father). He and his partner Luria were tremendously rich. The names Luria, and Gurian were known all over great Russia, because in every large city, they had whole-sale stores under the name of Luria and Gurian. In ... many large cities they had Bank Institutions.

Judah-Gershen Wisboard applied to ... Smarle Gurian for a job, and he offered him a job in his rubber factory in Petersburg. He accepted the job, and went to Petersburg.

He left over his part of the business, in Delatitz to my parents,,and my parents continued with the business for eight years. It was a very good and profitable business, and my parents accumulated a nice sum of money, and we lived in luxury. Only one thing had worried my parents, that was to give the children a better education. They determined to give up the business from .. Dalatitz, and to move back to Novogrodek. They decided to buy ahouse which should.. be suitable for business, because the wooden house which they had in Novogrodek, was a living house only, and was burned off in eighteen hundred and eighty. My Mother went to Novogrodek, and bought a two story brick house, which was in the center of the City, for the price of Five Thousand rubles. It took nearly a whole year till the (Kupchie) it means the deed was made. When she took possession of the house, she opened a Saloon,

and she rented the second floor to a tenant. Meanwhile my father gave up the business from Dalatitz, and moved to Novogrodek. One year afterward, my Mother.... died, it was in eighteen hundred and eighty two survived by my Father, and five children, two girls, and three boys. In a year later in eighteen-hundred and eighty-three, after my Mothers death my father remarried. He took my Mother's Sister. Nachama, who .. gave birth to a baby girl named Getel after my Mother. Six weeks after her confinement, she died, and left over a child of six weeks. In eighteen-hundred and eighty-five, my ... Father remarried, and the third wife was a very nice looking girl from Dzatil. She was from a nice family, the daughter of Joshua Alperin. In a few years later, she gave birth to a boy named Benjemin, and a girl named Adlie.

In the year of eighteen-hundred and

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eighty-six, my older sister Bayle-Esther, got married, with a nice fellow from ... Slonim, he was a Son of Rabbi Chaim-Joshua Feinstein, a grand son of Rabbi Faytel Feinstein, who was known from his books which he wrote. My father gave her fifteen hundred rubles dowry, and three years room with board. After being two years on board, she moved to Slonim, and opened ... there a big wholesale business from Groceries.

In eighteen-hundred and eighty-seven my grand father Abraham died. He bequeathed his capital a sum of thirty-four thousand rubles, with his house, and the two... stores to my father, and eight thousand to his daughter Rosie Butensky.

In a short time, after my grandfather's death my father gave up the Saloon business, and his occupation was to lend money, to people on interest.

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He made a very nice and rich living.

In eighteen-hundred and ninety-three my second Sister by the name Nachama got married to a cousin by the name Labe. He was the only Son of our uncle Chaim-Isack Butensky. My father gave her two thousand and five hundred rubles dowry with a richly outfit of clothing and Jewellery. The wedding was in the same Month of the death of the Russian Czar Alexander the Third, when the whole great Russia was mourned on his death. Music was not allowed to play for the whole month, but the wedding couldn't be postponed because invitations were sent out. The chief of the police, of ... Novogrodek took one hundred rubles, and .. gave his permission to play Music on the wedding after twelve o'clock in the evening.

In the same year, of eighteen-hundred and ninety-three, my older Brother, Jacob-Chonon had to appear to the local....

board for military examination, He appeared and was accepted and was sent to Kovno, to serve there. He was there for only ... three months, and came back home released from service, because he paid fifteen hundred rubles to a politician.

Two years later, I had to appear to the local board for military examinations. I went to an other city, and pretended that I am sick. Two doctors, of that city for a hundred rubles sent a paper to the military local board of my City certifying that I am sick and can not appear in due time. In eight months later, I came home and was exempted with the aid of a politician, and nine hundred rubles.

In eighteen-hundred and ninty-eight, my younger Brother Mosses appeared for the military service, and was exempted for the sum of fifteen-hundred rubles. In three months afterward, some-body squealed; and

was recalled, and was accepted for service. He was sent to Dvinsk, but he was there only for a half a year and was released for other fifteen-hundred rubles.

In the year of nineteen-hundred and two, I got married my father gave me seventeen-hundred rubles in cash, and nice jewelry for my bride. In nineteen-hundred and three my father died at the age of sixty-four survived by his third wife, and eight children--four Sons, and four Daughters. He left over a will in which he donated ... seventeen-hundred rubles for charity institutions, and his capital with the estate for his wife and children. It was devided among them according his will. He was buried in Novogrodek near the grave of his parents.

In nineteen-hundred and four after my fathers death my younger brother Mosses got married, to a nice and educated girl from Ledo, a daughter of Shloma Berkawitz a niece

of Archie Gavyer who was very rich, and lived in luxury, known in many towns.

In nineteen-hundred and six, my older Brother Jacob-Chonon got married, with a .. girl from Ekaterinoslave. In a year later she died childless, and he remained a widower. He adopted a baby girl, which was abandoned by her parents, on a railroad station in Baranowitz. He raised her, and gave her a nice education. She is with him still, and she respects him as a real father. When she was found on the station, a slip was pinned on her, saying that she is a Jewish child, and her name is Tible.

VII

Your Father Eli

I was born in Novogrodek, in the year of eighteen-hundred and seventy-four, in September. It was the third day of the Jewish Holiday, the feast of Tabernacle.

In the beginning of this year, Alexander the Second the Czar of Russia, gave a decree, that every male of the age of twenty-one, should appear for a military local board to be examined for fitness to serve the army.

When I was born, my father said, ... "Till he will reach Twenty-one years of age, Massia will come before." but it was not as he said. Massia didn't come even yet.

I was named Eli, after the name of Rabbi Eli, from Ledo who died in the same year. Many Jewish Children who were born during that year, were named after him. The name of Rabbi Eli is known to every .. educated Jew, from his famous book by the

name, "The Eye Of Eli". I also carried an other name, "Babel", it was a nick name of superstition. I was the eleventh child to my parents, but only the fourth child to those who remained alive. Till the age of three years, I was reared by my grand-parents from Rubeswitz, under the care of a strange woman, who was hired to nurse and to take care of me. When I was only one year old, the woman who took care of me, sitted me once on a chair, and she went .. out for a while. I fell down, and broke a foot, just near the hip. It took nearly a whole year till it was cured, and it ... hindered my growing. When I was three years old, my parents took me home. They lived in that time in Delatitz. At the age of six years, my parents hired a Jewish teacher for me, to take me to Chaider. I remember when the first day came to go to Chaider, I did not want to go, because I was afraid the

teacher should not hit me. I wanted my .. parents should by a leather strop for me for defiance, in case the teacher will hit me. My mother bought it for me, and she went with me to the Chaider. In the Chaider there were ten or more other children of my age. Some of them, were sitting around the table, and some of them were playing in the middle of the room. When I came in with my Mother, the teacher approched to me, and .. told me to sit down by the table. On the table, were lying a few open books which the letters of them were printed in big type. The teacher wrapped me in a Talice, then he took a wooden peg with a sharp point, like the shape of a pencil. He turned over a few pages of one of the books, and with his wooden peg pointed an a initial, and said "Say Aleph". I repeated the word, then he said "Say Baze," and I repeated the word. My Mother stood behind me, when I repeated

the words "Aleph, Baze," my Mother tossed some coins and candy on the Book, and I grabbed it. The teacher then closed the book, and he said to me "If you will come every day, to Chaider, and also be a good boy, the angel will through more money and candy for you. The lesson was finished for the first day, and I went home with my ... Mother. And from that day on, I continued to go to Chaider every day, but the good angel stoped to throw coins and candy. When I was eight years old, we moved from Dalatitz to Novogrodek, in our own large brick house, which was located in the ... center of the city. My Parents hired for me an other teacher with an other Chaider. He also hired two private Teachers to teach me the Russian Language, and Hebrew. One year afterward my beloved Mother died, and I was left an orphan. My two older Sisters, Bayle-Esther, and Nachama, took

the place of our dear Mother. The older one helped out my Father in the Saloon Business, while the younger one took care of us. Though we always had a servant girl, the younger sister gave us her special attention. Till Fifteen years I learned in Chaider, ... and by private Teachers. For five years straight, I learned in one Chaider by one Teacher. He was the Teacher to Rabbi Es-sac's Elchonons Son, when he was the Rabbi of Novogrodek.

The Teachers name was Berry-Joseph , he was a mysterious man.

It is a legendy by the Jewish people that thirty-six pious men are in the world, that they are the protectors of the World. Some people said, that Berry-Joseph is one of them. He was a very wise man. It was a great pleasure to have a chat with him. He was a very pious man, and very seldom he slept in his own house. Mostly in the

Synagogue of the street where he lived. In the day-time he taught with his pupils, and night-time, till late in the night he learned and studied for himself. Every Saturday he preached in the Synagogue. He was poor, he only had his own house, which was worth about Three Hundred Rubles. Years later he sold the house, and went to Jerusalem to die there.

When I was Fifteen years old, I entered Rabbi Zalic's Talmud Torah, the same who taught my Father when he was a boy. To Eighteen years I finished Rabbi Zalic's ... Talmud Torah; It was in the year of eighteen hundred and ninty two.

In the small Town of Valozin, in the State of Vilno, there was an Jeshivah, which was known among the Jewish people over the whole World. It was established near the end of the sevebteen century. It was the greatest institution ever established by

the Jews. Nearly two thousand boys, and young married men, studied there. Three to ten rubles a week were given support to them. Some rich fellows were there whos parents supported them with twenty-five rubles a ... week. The expense was over a half a million a year. Donations and benefits by wills ... from rich and poor people came in from all over the World. Solicitors in the hundreds were sent over the whole world to gether... money for the Jeshivah. The Jeshivah was in existance, nearly one hundred years. The... whole town Valozin made a nice living from the Jeshivah. At the end some-body squealed to the Czar, that the Jeshivah is a nest of Socialism, and Alexander the third, the Czar of Russia closed the doors, and chased out all the boys from Valozin, and was not allowed to re-open. It was in eighteen-hundred and ninty-two, just in the year when I finished Rabbi Zalic's Talmud Torah.

In the City of Meer, in the State of Minsk, and in the City of Slonim, in the State of Grodno, there were also Jeshivahs, which were known all over. The Jeshivah of Slonim was called the Jeshivah of Rabbi ... Joudal. When I finished the Talmud Torah, of Rabbi Zalic's I wanted to go to the City of Meer, to study there, but my Father advised me to better to go to Slonim, because my older Sister Bayle-Esther, lived there. It will be more convenience for me to be on board and room by her than by strange people. So I went to Slonim, to study there. Also, two other boys, from Novogrodek went along with me to study there. One by the name of Essac Gurewitz, and the other was Nephew to Mosses-Mordchy Stolowitzky, his sisters a Son. They failed the examination of Rabbi Joudal, and were sent to learn in the Talmud Torah of Rabbi Oser. I was qualified, to study in the Jeshivah of Rabbi Judal.

I was there for the whole season, from the first week, after Pass-Over till the week of the holiday the feast of Tabernacle. When I came home, I was nineteen years of age. Till Twenty-one years of age, I learned and studied to six and eight hours a day, in the Synagogue at home, and in the leisure time, I spent in company with friends.

I had a friend a boy, by the name of Borish Srebnik. He was a student of the City School, and a very smart fellow. His Father Gersh Srebnik, was a Tin Smith, and his Mother Tayba was distantly related to my Father. The year when I studied in Slonim he was in Odessa, and when I came home, he returned from Odessa. We were close friends. I often visited his house, and he often came up to my house. He had a Sister a girl by the name Dinka. She was a nice looking, attractive and clever girl. She was a smart girl too, and well read. She spoke a good

Russian, and Polish Language. It was a pleasure to chat or to debate with her. She was a business girl, she had a millinery shop. Two three times during the year, she went to Vilno or Belistok to buy the goods for her shop. She always had money, and was dressed stylishly. For the two years since I came from Slonim, till the time I had to appear for the military local board, I kept company with Borish Srebink and his Sister. We were in a very close friendship, but not with any intention about marriage. Because in Russia none of the boys thought about marriage, before he knew his results about the military service. Also none of the girls... would marry a fellow who didn't pass the military local board examination. To be married before twenty-one was a rare thing. It happened only among poor boys with the intention to leave the country, and to go

somewhere to a foreign country.

a story which sounds like a miracle... that my father told me about Dinkas an older sister by the name Rosie Selubsky. Rosie was an exquisite nice girl to twenty years she... got married to a nice looking and honest fellow. He was a copper smith his name was Essack Selubsky. Two years after their marriage, he went to America, and was there for a few years. Then he returned home, and brought three thousand American dollars. It was six thousand Russian rubles. Having such a sum of money, he gave up his work, and dealt with woods, and made a success, and they lived happily. But their happiness were marred, because ten years nearly passed, and they were childless. Once it was on a Friday, ... Rosie came home from Micwa (it means from a swimming pool) and she took a nap. While .. she was sleeping she had a dream, that my grand-mother Adly, my fathers Mother came ..

to visit her, and asked how she and her Husband were getting along. Rosie, retorted..."Every thing would be alright, but the main thing worries us, is that we have no children." My grand-mother said..."Don't worry my daughter, about it. From tonight you will become pregnant, and you will give birth to a baby boy. I brought here a grass take this grass and put it in water and ... drink the water out." When she awakes she told it to her husband. In a few days later her husband came to my Father, and narrated to him about the dream. Though my Father didn't believe in dreams, nevertheless he ... marked down the date and also that a baby boy has to be born. He marked it to see if the dream will come true, but indeed it was ... true. She gave birth to a baby boy, and later on, she had other children.

In Russia there was compulsory military service. November the first of every year was the time for those who .. reached the age of twenty-one to appear for examination before the military local board in the city where he was born. Those who could not come November the .. first an account of some reasons, could appear on the twentieth of each month till the next October, after October he was ... counted as a deserter. The Jewish subjects were discriminated, they had to come just on November the first or pay a special .. fine of three hundred rubles. Save if he sent in a certificate of a city Doctor .. which was certified by the police, that he was sick. None of the Russian subjects .. were eager to serve in the army for four years, because the discipline was strict, the clothing were shabby, the money which a soldier received was seventy-five Kopecks.

(it means cents) for four months. A boy who didn't have his own money, or was not supported by his parents endured great .. hard-ship. The Jewish fellows, mostly .. tried their best, with bribe and other schemes not to serve. The greatest happiness was to a boy when he was exempted from service.

November the first of eighteen-hundred and ninty-five, I had to appear for the military examination. I didn't want to be to-gether with the thousands of fellows on one time. I went to the city Volkowisk in the State of Grodno, and for seventy-five rubles I obtained there a certificate from the city Doctor, which was certified by the police, that I am ill, and I sent it to the local board of Novogrodek. I was in .. Volkowisk for three months till the end of January eighteen hundred and ninty-six.

I came home when every thing was smoothed out already, that I was sure to be exempted. For the time which I was absent from Novegrodek, I used my friends (Borish Srebnik) passport because we resembled each other. I appeared for the examination, ... which was in February and was exempted. The happiness of my Father was not to describe. Not less Dinka Srebnik and her ... Brother Borish were happy to see me liberated. The whole Summer I was home, and to pass the time, I started to learn the watch making trade, how to fix watches, to which I had a tendency from Childhood.

For the entire Summer that I was home, Dinka Srebnik designed to see me or to be in contact with me almost every day. At the begining I took it for mutual friendship, but later I felt that she was infatuated, and with intention about marriage. Though I gave many hints, and ..

even once I told her plainly, that I am gone to remain a bachelor, all my life. She feigned not to understand it. I .. wanted to eliminate the pretense of friendship, and I decided to leave the City for a while. I had a desire to see the World, and to try my ability at making a living .. without the support of my Father. The end of September, I went to Rovno in the State of Volin. I was there for six months till the Holiday Passover. I got there a job by a watch-maker for a very small salary, but with the condition that he teach me the trade. I worked from nine O'clock in the morning till five in the After-noon. From six o'clock till twelve in the evening, I gave lessons in Russian and Jewish Languages. I made out very nicely. I saved up a few Rubles. I bought watch-making .. tools for thirty-five Rubles, and dressed my self nicely with a new Suit, Hat, Shoes

a spring over-coat, and still had a few rubles in my pocket. I came home for the Passover Holidays, and my Father was very delighted to see me Home, and was glad .. that I could exist in a strange City among strange people, without his support. A few days after Passover I went to Warshow, and I found there a job by a watch-maker with a salary of twenty-five rubles a month, with room and board.

Dinka Srebnik always twice a year .. went to Vilno or to Byalistok to buy goods for her millinery store. This time she ... came to Warshow to buy. Once I was sitting by my work, a messenger boy came in, and .. handed over a card to me. I glanced at the card, it was from Dinka. On the reverse .. side, was written with a pencil, "I came to day, please call to see me in Hotel Ginzburg 21 Nalevsky". In one way I was glad, because I'll receive personal regards from home, but

on the other, I was peeved, because it was obvious that she fell in love with me.

Nevertheless, I changed my clothing immediately, and told my boss that a cousin of mine came here for business, and I wanted to be off for the few days, of her stay .. here. I took a horse and boggy, and went to the hotel to see her. She was in Warshow for six days. During her stay in Warshow, I treated her the best I could. I took her to the best theaters, amusement places , and the best restaurants. I helped her in buying the goods, and was busy with her. The last day I provided her with a rail-road ticket, and escorted her to the train, and she went home very delighted.

In a few days afterward I sent a letter inquiring about the journey, and whether the goods were delivered completely. After her living Warshow, I was there for one Year, and a half, then I came home with the

determination not to see her often, to avoid rumors that we were in love.





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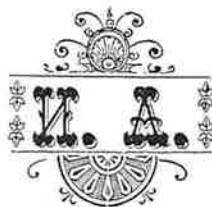
APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF
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WITHIN THE 30 DAYS PRECEDING
THE DATE OF ITS EXPIRATION

Eli Mitre

Signature of Licensee.

JOHN J. DIETZ
Commissioner.

[Signature]
Chief Engineer of Light and Power



Давидъ Митрополитанскій | Вихна Гершеновичъ

съ супругою



покорнѣйше просятъ Васъ почтить своимъ присутствіемъ бракосочетаніе

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съ 2-мъ

Анной Гершеновичъ

Ильею Митрополитанскимъ

имѣющее быть въ пятницу 29 Марта (4 Нисанъ) 1902 г. въ г.

Новогрудкъ въ домъ Митрополитанскаго.

Адресъ для телеграммъ: „Новогрудкъ“, } Митрополитанскому
Гершеновичъ