

THE STORY OF THE GROSSBARD FAMILY

BY NACHUM KAPLAN

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Contents:

- 1. Dedication**
- 2. Introduction to the second edition**
- 3. Preface**
- 4. The search for the family of Moshe Aharon & Bluna Chane**
- 5. Addendum**
- 6. The family of Moshe Aharon & Bluma Chane Grossbard**
- 7. The family of Rachel & Yoseph Shiffman**
- 8. The family of Lea & Shlomo Shiffman**
- 9. The family of Maine & Moshe Dov Fisher**
- 10. The family of Abraham & Sara Bloomberg**
- 11. The family of Nachum & Raize Magid**
- 12. The family of David & Rachel Frida Grossbard**
- 13. The family of Minnie (Minucha) & Marcus (Mordechai) Becker**
- 14a. The family of Ida (Chaya Yente) & Mordechai Yackob**
- 14b. The family of Ida (Chaya Yente) & Louis (Eliezer Tzvi) Bonner**
- 15. The family of Zusman & Grossbard**
- 16. Family Tree**

Dedication

The work is dedicated to my great grandfather, the late Rabbi Nachum Magid.

Due to the books he wrote and the names he mentioned, I was able to begin this quest and carry it on to this stage.

Thanks to the late Rabbi Noach Kaplin for reprinting "Nechamot Israel".

His preface, listing the books that Nachum Magid wrote, intrigued me enough to find and buy the books. Too bad he could not have enjoyed the results.

Introduction to the second edition:

This work concludes six years of research, which I undertook in order to find out where my family came from, who they were, and where are they now.

With the aid of members of our family, the Internet, Libraries and many people whom I met during those years. I was able to carry on the task, and present to all of you this comprehensive study.

It begins at the turn of the 19th Century in Lithuania, and covers the families of 8 out of the 9 brothers and sisters, the families are located today all around the Globe, we can find them in New Zealand, Australia, Thailand, Israel, England, Canada and the USA.

The changes, corrections and additions to the first edition are typed in red ink, this will help those of you who had the first edition and would like to look at the changes only.

Preface:

This document concludes three wonderful years of research. During that period I met people and visited places that otherwise I would never have done. I discovered people strange to my world: they were kind, pleasant and helpful.

My reward was the discovery of a very large family, scattered all over the globe. I know that I surprised many of you with my phone calls, some of you were suspicious at first, most of you co-operated from the beginning, each with what he or she knew. Your answers helped to nearly complete my task.

I'm sure that many times I had got on your nerves asking questions again and again, but every bit of information was needed. Thank you for your patience and for putting up with my stubbornness.

I know that some of my questions opened up old wounds for some of you. To you I apologize.

Many thanks, to a wonderful lady from the Waldheim Cemetery who co-operated and helped. Without her this work could not have been done.

Last but not least, my wife Tzipa who helped me all those years. She deserves a salute for her patience with my work, for bearing with my trips to Jerusalem, with my endless phone calls, local and overseas, and for typing and retyping this work. She is great.

Many of you wrote to me. You mentioned names of people whom you thought are related to the family. So far I did not find the connection. Maybe someone would have an answer. All those people were in the States:

1. **Joe Ralph:** **Isaak Jonas Raus** (see page 82)
2. **Ben Gross and his daughter Roslyne:** (see page 34).
3. **The Rappaport family:** Mrs. Rappaport was the sister of Sara Bloomberg and Rachel Grossbard.
4. **The Mandel family**
5. **The Block family:** Lena Block was sister of Jennie & Gertrude Blumberg (page 81).
6. **The Fisher family:** (see page 71)

I'm certain that you'll have many additions and corrections. Please send me every bit of information that you might come up with. I would also like to have the dates of arrival to the U.S.A for the Bloomberg, Bonner and Becker families, as well as copies of their naturalization certificates. They might contain valuable information about their parents and origins.

I intend to continue my research in order to find information about the three sisters whose names I know, but have no knowledge of their whereabouts or of their descendents. I just read old Hebrew newspapers published in Russia. In Hamelitz of 1895, I found a list of donors in a local synagogue in Shavile, among them were Y. Shifman & A. Bloomberg. In Hamelitz of 1901, I found another list of donors from Shavile. In the list I found Shlomo Shifman and A. Bloomberg. Was Abraham Bloomberg in Shavile in 1901? Jack Blumberg thinks he was. So I'll continue my search for the other relatives mentioned.

The Archives of Lithuania are now open to researchers. With the knowledge about; Moshe Aharon and Bluma Chane Grossbard, as well as the names of their children. It might be possible to locate in the files some information about their ancestors and origin. I'll try to continue my search after that as well.

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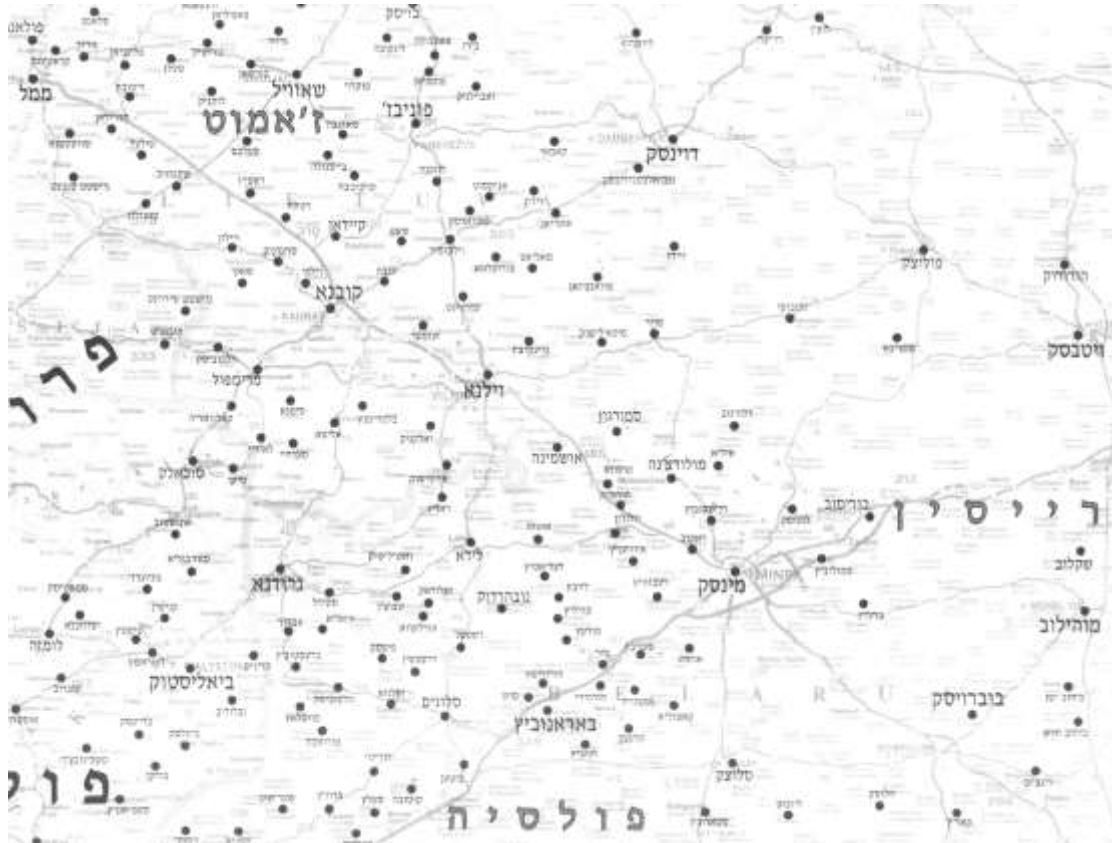
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Map of Jewish Lithuania



Boundaries of Jewish Lithuania include areas that belong today to:

Belarus, Latvia and Poland

THE SEARCH FOR THE FAMILY OF MOSHE AHARON & BLUMA CHANE

This is the story of a research for the descendants of Moshe Aharon & Bluma Chane, which began 3 years ago, by pure chance.

Until 3 years ago I had very little knowledge about our family. My father told me that our last name was not always Kaplan, and that his father had adopted it because he was never given a last name. His grandfather escaped from the Russian army, called himself Nachum Magid (preacher), because that was his occupation.

Nachum Magid came to Palestine around 1890 with three daughters and one son (that son also adopted Kaplan as his last name). He left his elder son (my grandfather) who was a scholar, with his brother in law The "Chafetz Chaim", to study in his yeshiva in Radin.

I knew that one of his daughters immigrated to New Zealand, another daughter and a son moved to London. Only one daughter, whom I knew personally, remained in Palestine.

My father told me that his grandfather was a famous preacher in the old city of Jerusalem. That he was supported by his sister who lived in Chicago. And that he's buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. That was all I knew.

In the spring of 2000 I received a phone call from a cousin whom I had never met, Rabbi Catriel David Kaplin from London; he had recently moved to Jerusalem, and wanted to visit my father who was recovering from an operation.

I met Rabbi Kaplin in Tel Aviv in order to drive him over to my father. As he entered the car, he gave me a present: A book written by Nachum Magid in 1902, reprinted by Rabbi Kaplin's late father, Rabbi Noach Kaplin, who added a preface. The book "**NECHAMOT ISRAEL**" was a commentary on the Song of Songs with the approval of the greatest rabbis of that period.

From the preface that Nachum Magid wrote, I learned about the name of his parents, the late Moshe Aharon & the then living Bluma Chane, about his doings in Lithuania & Poland, and his arrival in Palestine around 1890.

I became curious and ambitious. I decided to try and buy all the books. That decision took me into a world that I never knew.

At first I called a friend in Jerusalem. He knew dealers of old religious books (not book shops), from the Orthodox community. He gave me a few names and when they heard my request, they passed it around. In no time I received calls asking me to come to Jerusalem to get books. A few I visited at home, but most of them met me on street corners, entered my car, showed me the books and took their money. I never asked about the source. Most books were in good condition considering the time that had passed since they were printed. By now I've 3 copies of each book and am looking for more.

In each of the books Nachum Magid wrote a preface. In the preface he mentioned names of family members and other people who had helped him with the printing costs. These pages were inserted in different places and one had to go through the books in order to find them.

Nachum Magid wrote in the preface to his book, printed in 1911, that he had prepared for print 2 more books. They were never found. I think that because of WWI he did not publish them. I tried to locate the manuscripts in archives but had no luck. The Titles are:

1. Nechamot Yeshuat Israel
2. Nechamot Taharat Israel

All the books were dedicated to his late son Noach who died young leaving no children.

ועוד קראתי בספר נחמות וכן כל הספרים שהן לי הקב"ה בחסדו חסד, הכל קראתי בשם נחמות, כי נחמתי מדוחו כי שני שמום לבן רבים נחמות הייט שמי נחם, ונ"ב להיום לעברן לבני נח ויל סלך לבינמו ביתי כשריו בשנים מעטים וכיסורים גדולים יסורים של לדיקס ר"ל חדר נטל, ובניס לא סו לי כי בחור בשנים ולדיק בדנקס חלקום ולא זכרנו ולא הכרנו כי סוף הוא סיה המעין בישראל בידאם חלקים ונדנקום חלקים כהרשו וירחמי, ה' הוא נחמה. לכן כל הספרים שהן לי הקב"ה נתתי לעברן בשמו כמו שסוף למד וכמו שהיא עשה הספר לטוב לו ולעברן על שמו ונ"ל, הוא ינחמו שיהנהל יתקדם הי"ם בשלמה של מלכים שמוס בעוה"ל ובשו"ס צ"ב חלק, ויקים נחמי נחמי סוף, סיונו נחמי בענין התקדם השלמי שיבנה במהרה ביתנו, נחמו בחסית לדקי שיפלה בב"ה, סמי סיקרא עלגו מי כעסך ישראל כי אחד יאחד אלהיכם, שטיה בלמו בהקב"ס יקרא ויאחד לנו אפי אלהיכם במי"ם ושלים כמו שאתה על יעקב אבינו אלהי ישראל.

נחום ב"ד משה אדרן ויל יום איי בלומא העניק יל
בניו בבח"ל הגולה, בית יעקב" בחברת רבני ירווא וחזור ויל
שעה"ק ירושלם חובב"א שנת תרפ"א.

Sample of dedication to Noach

In some cases, I found the same book with a different front page. It seems that when Nachum Magid had several big or important donors for the same book, he printed a small quantity to honor each of them.

Right: Front page of a book without Any Dedication.



Below: Front page of the same book, Dedicated to the memory of Meyer Lustgarten.



← Dedication

In 1912, Nachum Magid published a booklet that included 5 Sermons.

He titled the booklet “NECHAMOT ISRAEL”, same as his book that was published in 1902.

I wondered, why did he publish the booklet in 1912 while some of the Sermons had been published in the past as part of his other books.



I found the answer when I found and bought the booklet in 2006.

In the last page of the booklet he wrote, “I was blessed being 25 years a preacher in Jerusalem the holly city, God will bless all the Nation of Israel with good living”.

The booklet commemorated his arrival in Jerusalem 25 years ago, in 1887.

One day I got a call from one of those dealers. He had found a book that was printed in 1908 with a page of blessings to family members, a page he had never seen before. I drove at once to Jerusalem. It was a full page listing brothers, sisters, children and people that I could not place in the family tree. The page was added at the end of the book.

The page with names of family members

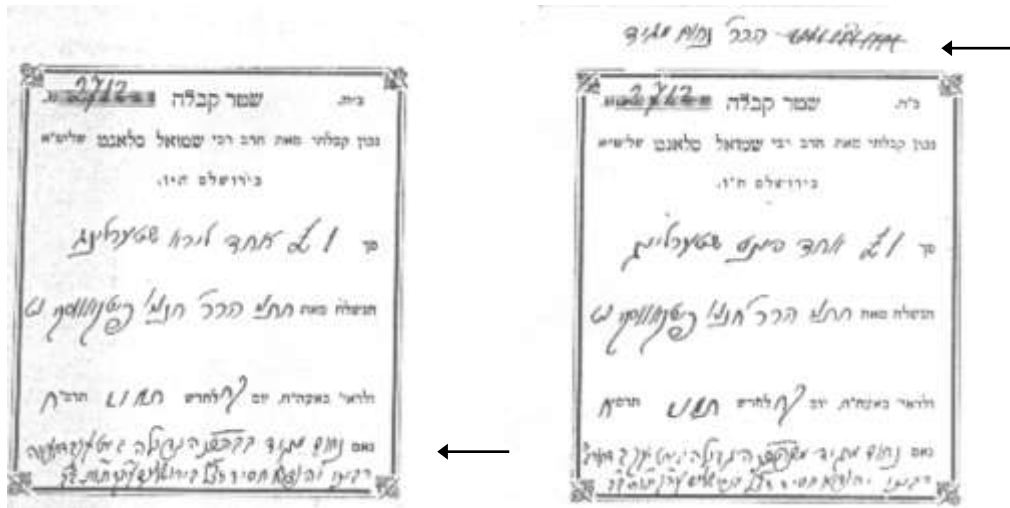
בְּקוּזָה י"י.

מִתְּחִיל צִוּוּ וִירוּשָׁלַם, בְּרִכַת כִּבְּלִים יִתְּנוּ עַל רֵאשֵׁי מִשְׁפַּחְתִּי הַרְמָה
כְּכַתּוּב עֵץ חַיִּים הִיא לְמַחְזִיקִים בָּהּ, וְהַקְבָּלָה יִתֵּן לָהֶם וַיַּחְזִיר
וַיִּתֵּן מִשְׁמֵנִי אֶרֶץ וּמִמֶּלֶךְ הַשָּׁמַיִם, וַיִּזְכּוּ לִרְאוֹת בְּנַחֲמוֹת צִוּוּ וִירוּשָׁלַם,
הַפְּתִיחַ יוֹם לַעֲנִיִּים בְּמִקּוֹמָם וַיִּדְם שְׁלוּחָה בְּצַדִּיקָה בִּירוּשָׁלַם עֲהָ"ק ת'ו'
לְקִיּוֹם וְתוֹמְכִיהָ מֵאוֹשֶׁר, וְהַקְבָּלָה יִבְרַךְ לָדָם בְּהֵנּוּ שְׁלֹשָׁה בְּרִכּוֹת בְּחַיִּים
מוֹבִים וּמוֹנֵי בְּעִשְׂרוֹת וּנְבִירוֹת וּבְנֵי בָנִים לְמוֹסְדִים מוֹפְלָנִים
וְצַדִּיקִים. — הַבְּכִיָּה אַחֲוֵי הַצַּדִּיקָה הַגְּבוּרָה מֵרַת רַחֵל תְּחִי' עִם כְּעֵלָה
הַיֶּקֶר הַנִּכְבָּד מוֹפְלָנִי יֵאָבֵד נָדִיב לֵב וְכו' מֵרַת יוֹקֵף נ'י שִׁפְמָאן, עִם
בָּנָיִם הַמוֹבִים וּבְנִיּוֹתֵיהֶם הַחֲשׂוּבִים, וּבְפִרְט הַבְּתוּלָה פִּינֵעַ תְּחִי', וְעִם
חֲתָנֵיהֶם הַרְבָּנִים מוֹפְלָנִים וּנְבִירִים, חֲתָנֵנו אַחַד יוֹדֵעַ לִי הַרֵב הַמוֹפְלָנִי
חֵרֵב מֵרַת בֶּן צִוּוּ נ'י וְזוֹנְתוֹ הַגְּבוּרָה הַצַּדִּיקָה מֵרַת מֵיבֵעַ תְּחִי'.
הַקְבָּלָה יִתֵּן לְגֵלֶם חַיִּים מוֹבִים וְכֹל מוֹבֵי סֵלָה. וְאַחֲוֵי הַצַּדִּיקָה הַגְּבוּרָה
מֵרַת לֵאנָה תְּחִי' ע"ש כְּעֵלָה הַיֶּקֶר הַנִּכְבָּד הַמוֹפְלָנִי וְכו' מֵרַת שְׁמֵרָה נ'י
שִׁפְמָאן, עִם בָּתּוֹ הַצַּדִּיקָה הַגְּבוּרָה מ' ח'י שְׂרָה עִם חֲתָנֵנו הַמוֹפְלָנִי יֵרֵא
חֵרֵב מֵרַת שְׁמוּאֵל דּוֹד נ'י. וְאַחֲוֵי הַצַּדִּיקָה הַגְּבוּרָה מֵרַת מִינֵעַ תְּחִי'
עִם כְּעֵלָה הַמוֹפְלָנִי הַצַּדִּיק עִסְקָן כְּמִצּוֹת וּבְתוֹרַת מֵרַת מִשֶׁה רֹבֵב נ'י עִם
בָּנָיִם וּבְנִיּוֹתֵיהֶם לְכוֹלֵם הַחַיִּים הַמוֹבִים. חֲתָנֵנו שֶׁל אֲדוּי אֲבֵרָהֶם נ'י הַרֵב
הַמוֹפְלָנִי אִישׁ יֶקֶר וְנִכְבָּד יֵאָבֵד מֵרַת יִשְׁעִי יוֹקֵף נ'י וְזוֹנְתוֹ הַגְּבוּרָה
הַצַּדִּיקָה מֵרַת עִמְלֵל בַּת אֲדוּי אֲבֵרָהֶם נ'י. אֲדוּי הַיֶּקֶר הַמוֹפְלָנִי יֵאָבֵד וְכו'
מֵרַת דּוֹד נ'י נְרָאזְבָּאֵר עִם חֲתָנֵנו הַרֵב הַג' בֶּן הַרֵב הַנְּאֻן הַנְּאֻבֵד
דְּק"ק בְּאַבְרוּסִק, עִם כְּנֹו הַיֶּקֶר הַנִּכְבָּד מוֹפְלָנִי וְכו' מֵרַת אֲדוּי נ'י
נְרָאזְבָּאֵר. עִם ש"ב הַרֵב הַמוֹפְלָנִי הַיֶּקֶר וְנִכְבָּד וְכו' מוֹה"ד יִחְזָקָל
מֵרַדְכֵי נ'י סְקוֹרְשָׁאן, עִם אִישׁ הַנִּכְבָּד הַמוֹפְלָנִי מֵרַת בּוֹנֵם נ'י, ש"ב
הַמוֹפְלָנִי חֵרֵב מוֹה"ד בְּרוּךְ נ'י וְזוֹנְתוֹ הַגְּבוּרָה הַצַּדִּיקָה מֵרַת שִׁינֵעַ תְּחִי'
ש"ב אִישׁ נִכְבָּד הַמוֹפְלָנִי הַיֶּקֶר יֵאָבֵד וְכו' מֵרַת יְהוּדָה לִיב נ'י דְּעַמְבֵּעַ.
הָאִשָּׁה הַגְּבוּרָה הַצַּדִּיקָה מֵרַת מוֹטֵעַ זְעֵלְדֵעַ תְּחִי'. ש"ב נִכְבָּדִים יֶקִּיּוֹם
מוֹפְלָנִים ר' חַיִּים צְבִי נ'י מִיֶּקֶז, חֲנָה רִבְקָה מִיֶּקֶז, ר' יִשְׁעִי מִיֶּקֶז, ר'
אַבְרָהָם מִיֶּקֶז, ש"ב הָאִשָּׁה הַגְּבוּרָה מֵרַת שִׁינֵעַ מְעִרֵעַ מִלֵּ וְאִמָּה
הַצַּדִּיקָה מְפֹרְסֵמֵת מֵרַת עֵלְקֵעַ תְּחִי', ר' צְבִי הַעֲרֵשְׁלֹאזָאן נ'י, הָאִשָּׁה
ש"ב בִּיֵּלֶע שְׁפִירָא, ש"ב הַמוֹפְלָנִי בִּינֵעַ וַיִּמּוּעַ וְלֹכֵל מִשְׁפַּחְתִּי הַרְמָה
חֵן בִּיּוֹדְעִים חֵן בְּלֹא יוֹדְעִים, לְכוֹלֵם יִתֵּן הַקְבָּלָה הַחַיִּים הַמוֹבֵי וְכֹל מוֹבֵי
סֵלָה, וְלַחֲזוֹת פָּנִים בְּפָנִים כְּאַרְבַּת רֵבָה וּבִשְׂחָת רֵבָה בְּבִרְמִיק הַשִּׁישִׁי
שִׁיבְנָה כְּמִדְרָה בִּיּוֹסֵנוּ בְּשֶׁלֶשׁ רְגָלִים בְּשֶׁנָּה וּבִירוּשָׁלַם אִישׁ חֲחָה נִפְנוּ
וְחָתָה תֵּאֵנוּ וּבְבִיּוֹתוֹ בְּכַבּוֹד. אַחֲוֵיכֶם יוֹדִיעֶכֶם הַמְּבָרְכֶם כֹּל לֵב וְנֶפֶשׁ
נְחִוּם מוֹנִיד בְּכַהֲבָנִים הַגְּדוּלָה בֵּית יַעֲקֹב
בְּחֻרְבַת ר' יְהוּדָה הַחֲסִיד ז"ל בִּירוּשָׁלַם עֲהָ"ק ת'ו'

After a year I was able to sort out the names into close family, distant relatives & donors.

That same dealer found, a few months later, while he was in N.Y., a receipt that Nachum Magid signed in 1908, upon receiving a gift of one Pound Sterling from his son in law in New Zealand. The gift is mentioned in the book that he wrote in 1908. He gave it to me as a gift.

The receipt



Rabbi Catriel David Kaplin with whom I consulted from time to time, found in his family archives the picture of Bluma Chane, Nachum Magid's mother, taken in Shavil Lithuania.



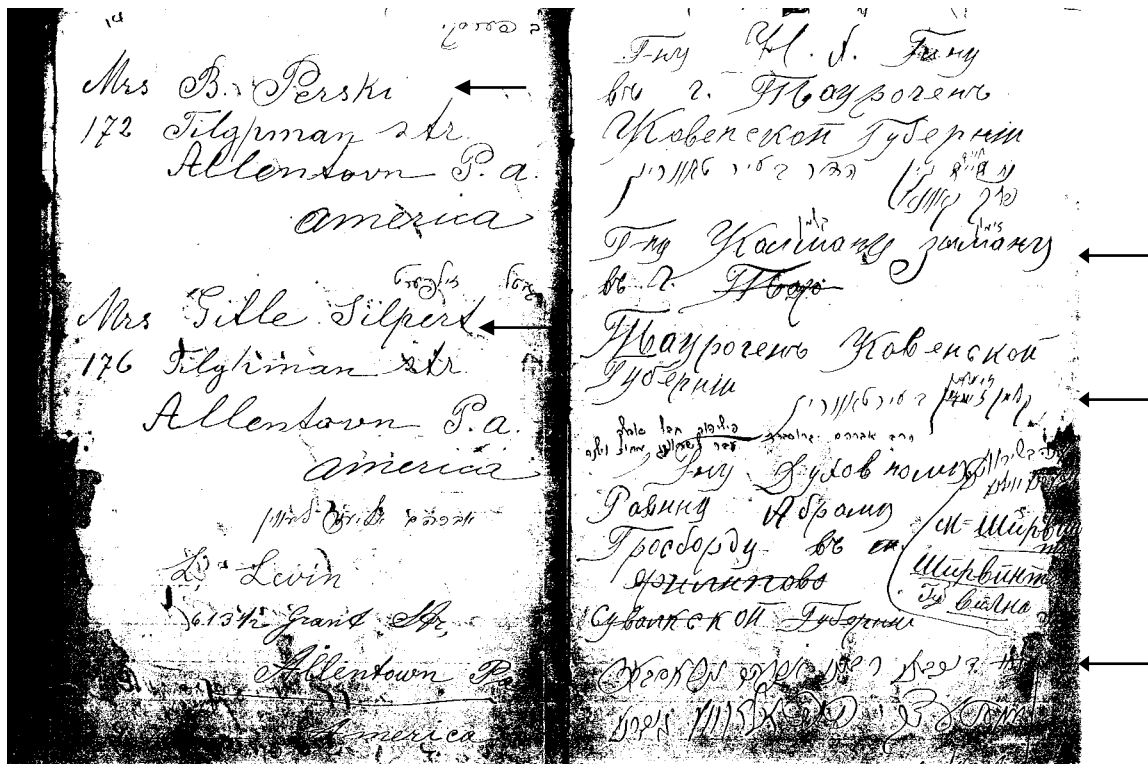
Bluma Chane in Shavil (date unknown)

Rabbi Kaplin gave me a copy of the address book of Nachum Magid. It contained 25 pages with 110 names of people and addresses all around the globe. The book was written in Hebrew, Yidish, English and Russian. After decoding the book I made a list of names and addresses. I found the addresses of Rachel Lea Lustgarten, Ida Bonner, Rabbi Album & his son who married the daughter of Ida Bonner, and of many others.

Conversant now with all the names, I tried to locate them or at least to find information about them. I knew that Ida Bonner & Abraham Bloomberg lived in Chicago, Nachum Magid in Jerusalem, but had no idea about the others.

I inquired about the people mentioned. I wanted to know who they were and what kind of relations Nachum Magid had with them. Many of the names I found in Encyclopedias and in books of that period. Some were famous Rabbis, Heads of Communities, some were well known contributors for the Orthodox Jews in Palestine. Many are still un-solved.

In the same book, I found the names and addresses of three Rabbis named Grossbard of different towns in Lithuania. I traced down several Rabbis with that name in Israel. One of them asked to meet me and offered his help as he was also looking for information about his family. I showed him the address book; he knew about all the Grossbards, they were very famous Rabbis. He gave me the name of Rabbi Abraham Grossbard's son, from Shirvint, who lived in Tel Aviv. To my regret he had died before I had a chance to talk to him.



A page with the names of Rabbi Abraham Grossbard, Zimen, Perski & Silpert

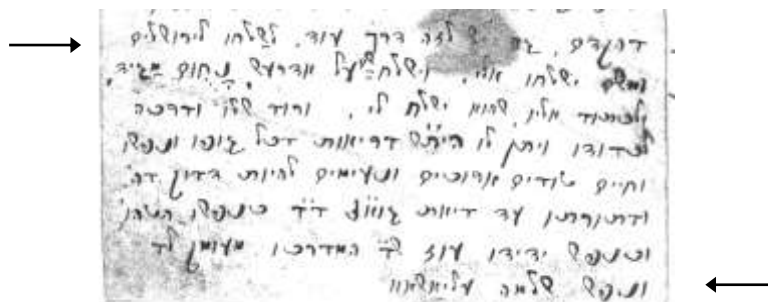
I spoke to the widow of the late Mr. Grossbard who then directed me to a cousin. The cousin was very helpful. She recognized several names in the address book as relatives: Kalman Zimman from Tuvrig was a banker and the brother in law of rabbi Abraham Grossbard, Mrs. Perski from Allentown PA. Was the sister of rabbi Abraham Grossbard and Mrs. Silpert from Allentown PA was a cousin. Her maiden name was Grossman and previously Grossbard.

I traced down a grandson of Rabbi Grossbard in Boston and called him up. He told me that his late mother, Bella Lown, had written a book about the family: "Memories of my life". I bought the book and found more information. It looks like our family and the family of Rabbi Abraham Grossbard, had mutual roots that went back to the 18th century.

On the Internet, I found a request for information about the Grossbard family and about families who changed their names upon arrival to the States, from Grossbard to Grossman and Gross. I wrote to the person in Boston. In reply he sent me a list that was prepared by Jack Gross, an attorney from L.A., the list begins with the grandfather of Rabbi Abraham Grossbard, Rabbi Dov Bear Grossbard, his sons Rabbi Yeuda Leib Grossbard (also in Nachum Magid's address book) & Rabbi Baruch Grossbard, the father of Rabbi Abraham Grossbard and Mrs. Perski. Also on the list was Mrs. Silpert. The most interesting name on the list was Ben Gross, the son of Rabbi Yeuda Leib Grossbard. His name came up through Jack Blumberg & Donald Becker. They remembered his name as a cousin who had visited their family in Chicago on way out West. They were trying to trace his daughter Rosalyn.

Another name in the address book was that of Rabbi Shlomo Eliashiv from Shavill. I showed it to Rabbi Kaplin who told me about him, he remembered that he has a letter written by Rabbi Eliashive where Nachum Magid's name was mentioned. He gave me a copy of the letter.

Rabbi Shlomo Eliashiv was a famous Kabbalist (Jewish mysticism), and the grandfather of Rabbi Shalom Eliashiv, who is today the highest authority of Orthodox Jews. Through a friend I got the phone number of Rabbi Shalom Eliashiv's grandson. I told him about the address book and the letter. He told me that he also has a letter from Rabbi Shlomo Eliashiv, with Nachum Magid's name mentioned, and gave me a copy of that letter as well.



Letter from Rabbi Eliashiv, requesting a book delivery via Nachum Magid Jerusalem

Rabbi Kaplin found a list of Lithuanians, who became Ottoman Subjects and had the right to vote in order to elect the Chief Sefaradic Rabbi of Jerusalem in 1907. Nachum Magid's name was on top of the list.

בחרו לכם אנשים!

הזינו העותמים!

שאלה חבה באשר עומדת קומה על התיק, ולכל העמותה שבה העומדים עליה היא לקרוא האשכנזים והיו לכלולו עמו קודם כבוד
 לברירה זו היתה עומדת אחרים לכל כבוד וזה של איש וישראל בפניו באשכנזי נקומים ברוי אנו יבנו לבסוף חכם
 יאשר להצטרף על און, כל שבעה כבודיה ו' ונכלל תיש לרובים דעה על הכלל ועל הפרט.

וביניהם הנה הענין בידנו לחקוק את מי כל דעה, קודמו סובבת ששבר בני שורשים היא שרעיהם הכולל לרבות כבודיהם
 כבודיהם, אבל רק באופן שתחולל אחרת עליהם בן אנשי העדה האות בכל מה שנתקף לכבודיהם, אם כל בני העמותה
 שבו יעשו כבודם שם איה נכלל לחשב את הכל, ועבדו שכל לחון על נוסח קודמו שלא הקיפנו.

ובכן חשבנו בזה הענין לנסח את החוקים החדשים אשר יקראו עלינו הענינה כבודיהם לכלול את העומדים על
 שלא נכנסו איש שנת דעה, ונספך בחרי מבורים העומדים בהאשכנזים קולה לדרך ארבעים איש, שבו בית ופסקות,
 המבטחה תהיה לך המוללה וכלל כלל האמת לראוי אנשים לוי ערך ששבר אנשי כולל העמותה.

לפי אשכנזי שכלי חלונת האשכנזי שבו אנו לכל בני כוללנו העמותה היו רשימת האשכנזים העומדים בבני כוללנו
 המבטחה כבודיהם עמי דעה נקלמות שבו בית שש ופסקות, ורמאפז האנשים האלה היו אנו ומבטחה יחד מה לעשות
 וזכרנו הענינה לוי ערך חכם המוללה דעה.

ובל אוד שם חתבש חתיע הרשימה האמת לוי דעה קל שמה א' אנשים המבטחה כבודיהם יבנו יבנו ו' חתן
 אנו לדרך הקומה העומדה המבטחה לה.

רשימת העותמים כבודיהם ויילנא והאמנה

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ר' אלי בוד שלמה שניב ישראל נחמן חילבסקי אברהם הערן כהנא מאיר בך יעקב פישור 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ר' נחמן שניב ר' ארי צבי בך ליפמן יהודה זאב כהנא ראשי העדה
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Voters list 1907

In Israel, I went to libraries. In the National library in Jerusalem, I found all the books that Nachum Magid had written, they are listed under Nachum Magid (Bloomberg). I also found his books in the library of Rabbi Cook's Institute in Jerusalem, in the Tel Aviv Municipal library and in The N.Y.C Municipal library (I spoke with them). In many books that were written about that period, I found reference to Nachum Magid. He was described as a great scholar, a preacher who drew crowds whenever he spoke, and as an author of important books. The Tel Aviv Municipal library has a section of old newspapers. So far I read the complete volumes of Hachavatzelet from 1890 until 1896 and 1902, 1908. In the 1891 volume, I found an article about the arrival of a new Magid, in the 1902 & 1908 volumes, I found advertisements placed by Nachum Magid in order to sell his books.

יצא לאור דבר חדש

ספר שיר השירים

עם ילקוט מוהר הקדוש מחמשה חומשי התורה, רש"י
 ומצודות, ובאור נחמות ישראל ומשנה שביל להאמה.
 להשיגו אצלי

נחום מגיד מווארשא
 בחצר ביהמ"ד, "שונה הלבנות"

Advertisement for "Nechamot Israel" (Song of Songs), Hachavatzelet 1902

מודעה

נסצא ת"י הח"ם למכור ספר חדש שחברתי, "נחמות ארץ
ישראל" חלק ראשון על מס' פאה, רב הכסית וגדול האיכות.

נחום מגיד מיוארשא.

Advertisement for "Nechamot Eretz Israel" (part 1), Hachavatzetlet 1908

I called friends in Chicago from my world of stamp collecting. Someone sent me a book "**The Jews of Chicago**" by Irving Cutler. In it I found information about people mentioned by Nachum Magid, the only family member was Metta Lustgarten who was known as a singer. They also sent me "**The guide 2000**", a journal published by the "Chicago Jewish News".

Around June 2001, I wrote a letter to "The Chicago Jewish News". I listed the names that I knew and asked for their help in locating those families. I also asked them to print my letter in the newspaper. They did not refuse, but asked for payment as if it was a commercial advertisement, the price was too high; nevertheless they gave a copy of my letter to Irving Cutler who passed a copy of it to Dr. Norman Schwartz of the "Chicago Jewish Historical Society". No one found any information on the family. Dr. Schwartz did send me some book clippings about names that Nachum Magid had mentioned in his books or which I found in his address book. At that stage I felt helpless and almost gave up on my research in the U.S.A.

In Israel I continued my search. I visited the National Archives in Jerusalem, located the Census books of 1902 for Ashkenazi Jews, written in Hebrew. I found the pages for Nachum Magid and his family. He stated that he was born in 1833 in Lida and that his name was Nachum son of Moshe Aharon Magid. (Census books for Sefaradic Jews were in Arabic). When I came to the Archives the first time, I asked the worker for lists of Jewish residents in the Old City of Jerusalem at the turn of the 20th century. She did not lift her eyes and said: it's all in Arabic, could you read it? The girl next to her looked at me and said: you look to me Ashkenazi, the books for Ashkenazi Jews are in Hebrew, then she handed to me two large books, which listed all the names of people that were home at the time of the Census.

I also visited the office of an organization that collects money for needy Orthodox Jews. The organization was founded in its current form in 1885. They were very kind to me and pulled out from dusty shelves the book keeping records relating to that period. They loaned me the books, and at home I searched through them and found Nachum Magid's name and how much money he had received each year from 1891 until he died in 1916. I also found Rachel Lea's donation for Palestine in 1908. When I returned the books I gave them a donation, in return they gave me a copy of the book keeping records for 1903 until 1913, as a present.

The breakthrough in my search for the family in Chicago came about in early 2002.

The book "The Jews of Chicago" & "The guide 2000", were on my desk ever since I had received them. From time to time I looked them over and over to find some clue, I think that I knew by heart the names and adds. One day it happened, an add caught my eye:

"Jewish Cemeteries Preservation Foundation", involved in the renovation and preservation of inactive Chicago area Jewish cemeteries.

**Jewish Cemeteries Preservation
Foundation**
1400 Des Plaines
Forest Park, IL 60130
Irwin Lapping - Coordinator
(708) 366-4541
Fax: (708) 366-4575
*Involved in the renovation and
preservation of inactive Chicago
area Jewish cemeteries.*

The add

I decided to take a chance and called them up. A nice lady answered the phone; I presented my story to her and asked for her help. She said yes and requested the names. I sent her the names that I had; they were all Hebrew names the way Nachum Magid had spelled them.

The lady turned out to be an angel. She had so much patience and lots of good will. She searched the names on her computer and sent me the output by fax.

Sara & Abraham Bloomberg were the easiest to trace as they did not change their names. Next to Abraham was Rachel Lena Shapiro and next to Sara was Harry Bloomberg. I asked her to send someone who can read Hebrew, to copy the Hebrew inscriptions from the tombstones. Most Jewish tombstones have in addition to the official name, the Hebrew name and name of father. She sent a photographer and mailed the pictures. As I read Hebrew it was easy: The name on the tombstone was "Abraham son of Moshe Aharon".

Tombstones of Sara and Abraham Bloomberg at Waldheim cemetery



From the tombstones I learned that Mr. Bonner was not the father of Lillian Hirschtick, the script was "Rivka (Lillian) daughter of Mordechai Yackob.



The tombstone

There was no Hebrew inscription on Jennie Priess's tombstone. Later I found that she also was the daughter of Mordechai Yackob.

I looked for living members of the family. My angel from the foundation told me that the firm of Piser & Weinstein had conducted the funerals. I called them up and asked, if they had names of the people who looked after the graves. Because the people that whose graves I looked for, died a long time ago, they could not find their files on hand. I was told that old files are in the archives and it would take a long time to locate them. Anna Bonner who died in 1984 was the only one they could find a file for. They had the name of Dr. Allan Hirschtick who cared for the funeral of Anna Bonner and paid for the flowers. I looked for Dr. Hirschtick's phone number but could not find it. I found a phone number for Dr. Michael Hirschtick and decided to call him. He turned out to be the son of Allan Hirschtick. He was very surprised to hear from me and listen to my story, but was very pleasant. He told me that he knows very little about the family, but promised to ask his father upon his next visit to him. He told me that a cousin of his father lives in the same building as his father and gave me her name and phone number, she was Blume Lurie.

Blume Lurie is a wonderful warm person. She is a walking Encyclopedia, a fountain of information on the family. She gave me much of the information on the Bloomberg & Bonner families, and some useful phone numbers as well, among them was the phone number of Dena Marcus who also helped me very much. Whenever I called Blume, she did her utmost to help.

With all the information, the Internet became a useful tool. On www.ancestry.com I found the Census lists for 1920 & 1930. The 1920 list was of individuals while the 1930 list listed complete families, every family member born before 1930 was listed. I also used the Social Security Death Index on Ancestry, to find dates of birth and death and sometimes maiden names.

Lustgarten, Samuel			
Age:	42	Year:	1930
Birthplace:	Russia	Roll:	T626_486
Race:	White	Page:	208
State:	Illinois	ED:	1655
County:	Cook	Image:	0613
Township:	Chicago		
Relationship:	Head		

Lustgarten, Meta			
Age:	44	Year:	1930
Birthplace:		Roll:	T626_486
Race:		Page:	208
State:	Illinois	ED:	1655
County:	Cook	Image:	0613
Township:	Chicago		
Relationship:	Wife		

Lustgarten, Alfred			
Age:	16	Year:	1930
Birthplace:		Roll:	T626_486
Race:		Page:	208
State:	Illinois	ED:	1655
County:	Cook	Image:	0613
Township:	Chicago		
Relationship:	Son		

Lustgarten, Ruth			
Age:	14	Year:	1930
Birthplace:	Illinois	Roll:	T626_486
Race:	White	Page:	25A
State:	Illinois	ED:	1655
County:	Cook	Image:	0622
Township:	Chicago		
Relationship:	Daughter		

Lustgarten, Edgar			
Age:	13	Year:	1930
Birthplace:		Roll:	T626_486
Race:		Page:	25A
State:	Illinois	ED:	1655
County:	Cook	Image:	0622
Township:	Chicago		

Sample of the 1930 Census for Sam Lustgarten's family

California Death Index, 1940-1997



Viewing records 1-2 of 2 Matches

Surname	Given Name	Middle Name	Sex	Birth Date	Death Date	Birth Place	Death Place	Social Security #	Mother's Maiden Name	Father's Surname
KROHN	IRVING	LUSTGARTEN	MALE	6 Oct 1913	12 Oct 1958	ILLINOIS	LOS ANGELES	0	LUSTGARTEN	KROHN

Sample of Ancestry's Death Index, showing mother's Maiden name

In Nachum Magid's list of 1908 he wrote: "blessings to my brother David Grossbard, his son in law the Rabbi, son of the famous Rabbi, Head of the Rabbinic court in Bobroisk, and to his son Aharon Grossbard."

I went to the Rabbinical Library, in the Rabbi Cook Institute in Jerusalem. I looked for the name of the Rabbi of Bobroisk in 1908. The librarian opened a large book "God's Tents" that was printed in 1912. The book listed Communities and the names of the Chief Rabbis in each. It also contained information about each of the Rabbis and their families.

In the book I found the name that I was looking for, the Rabbi of Bobroisk was Rabbi Shmuel Moshe Shapira, but which one out of his seven sons was married to the daughter of David Grossbard, I do not know to this moment.



From "God's Tents": Rabbi Shmuel Moshe Shapira of Bobroisk

The librarian suggested that I should read the preface of a book: "Torat Rephael" written about Rabbi Shapira's brother, Rephael Shapira which was printed in Jerusalem in 1943.

In the book I found the remark "thanks for the help of our in law Aharon Grossbard in memory of his late father David Grossbard & his late mother Rachel Frida."

ורב תודה להנכבד מחו' מר אהרן גרויסברד שי' שהי' לעזר וסיוע בהדפסת הספר. לעיני אביו
הנכבד זיקר הערך מחו' ר' דוד ג"ע ואמו הכבודה מרת רחל פרידא ג"ע הנצב"ה.

Thank you my honorable in law Aharon Grossbard

I began to search for family members of Rabbi Shapira. I found many descendants of his brothers, but none of his. I spoke with the person who raised the funds, for the printing of the above- mentioned book, he's very old and could not remember the name Grossbard.

Two months ago, while searching Ancestry for the name Grossbard. I found a request for information on Aharon & Malka Grossbard who came from Lithuania and died in Tel Aviv. I wrote to the person asking if he knew the name of Aharon's father. He wrote back that he's related to Mrs. Grossbard, but knows very little about Mr. Grossbard.

He only knew that the Grossbard family was rich. They came to Palestine in 1932. He also knew that Mr. Grossbard died in 1949 and Mrs. Grossbard had died in 1951.

I called the Tel Aviv burial company. They traced both graves in an old cemetery in Tel Aviv. Then I asked to see the burial books. The clerk said that she has no authority to show me the books. I asked to talk to her superior. At first he refused as well. I explained to him that I research the family roots, at this stage he said: "I can not show you the book, but I'll allow my clerk to read the contents of the page to you while you write it down".

The books revealed that Aharon Grossbard, was the son of Rachel Frida and David Grossbard; that he was born in Kurshan Lithuania, the names matched my information. I also learned about his address and occupation, and the most important information was, the names of the people who helped with the funeral and their addresses. One of the names was familiar to me. I called a friend in Tel Aviv who has the same family name, I asked him if he knew the person. He replied that the person was his late uncle, he also told me that his family and the Grossbards were friends, as well as distant relatives. He remembered the name of one of Aharon Grossbard's grand daughters but did not know where she lived.

I tracked down the grand daughter in Tel Aviv she had no knowledge about her grandfather's family history. She told me that her grandfather had a brother who was a banker in Kurshan in Lithuania, but did not know his name. She knew that the brother had three daughters and that he, his wife and one daughter were killed by the Germans during WW II, the two surviving daughters immigrated to the U.S.A after the war. She also knew that her grandfather had two sisters who lived in Tel Aviv. I asked her if she heard about a sister who was married to the son of Rabbi Shmuel Moshe Shapira, her answer was negative, but she did remember that her Grandfather was involved in the construction of a synagogue in Tel Aviv.

I searched on the Net, www.jewishgen.org for "Kurshan", and found that in 1899, in a meeting held in the synagogue, Rabbi Shmuel Moshe Shapira, his son Abraham Shapira and Aharon Grossbard, among others, donated money for Palestine.

I went to visit the synagogue in Tel Aviv. The synagogue was built in 1934, in one of the better sections of the city. The building is large and beautiful, but since then the neighborhood had deteriorated, and the building as well, inside and outside. Along the walls there are book cabinets that can be hardly opened. The books were donated to the synagogue many years ago, some of them are very valuable and rare, but they are dusty and damaged from moths. During my first visit the place was closed, I looked through a broken window and saw three marble plaques on the walls, one of which was dedicated to the builders and contributors. And there was the name of Aharon son of David Grossbard. Another plaque with dedications to family members reads: in memory of David son of MOSHE AHARON Grossbard who died in 1915. A 3rd plaque was in memory of Aharon Chaim son of David Grossbard. BINGO.

I found out that the synagogue is open from 6 until 9 AM and from 5 until 7 PM. I came in the morning and met with the Rabbi. He allowed me to bring a photographer and take pictures of the plaques, as well to look through the books; I saw many books from the estate of Aharon Grossbard. The books were donated by his widow and each was hand stamped.



The memorial plaques

Ever since I first spoke to Blume Lurie about a year ago, she insisted that she heard the name Grossbard, mentioned as the real name of her grandfather Abraham Bloomberg. She was told that the name was changed in order to avoid service in the Russian army. She also knew that her parents were first cousins, but did not know how. Her mother was the daughter of Abraham Bloomberg, her father was William Becker, how was Becker related to Bloomberg?

The answer came last month. From time to time I sent Blume Lurie, drafts of my work with list of names for her remarks. Blume showed one of the drafts with the list of names to her cousin Donald Becker. Donald wrote to me that he knew his grandmother was related to Abraham Bloomberg and Ida Bonner, but did not know how. He knew that she died in Chicago around 1897 when his father was about five years old, but had no idea where she was buried. He was told that her maiden name was Grossbard but did not know her first name.

I called up my friend at Waldheim cemetery. She searched on the computer and traced the location of the grave. At my request she sent someone to copy the Hebrew inscription from the tombstone and mailed it to me. It reads: "Minucha (Minnie) daughter of MOSHE AHARON wife of Mordechai".

Now we know Donald's grandmother, Minnie Becker, was a sister of Abraham Bloomberg, Ida Bonner, Nachum Magid and the other. Nachum Magid had never mentioned her name in his books, why? I can only guess, that because she had died a long time before his first book was published. Another reason could be, that he had never mentioned in his books names of people who did not help him financially, he did not even mention the names of his children.

100948 BECKER 1897 05/12 2701 25
MINUCHA (MINNIE) 40 SUV 1
ENTER A LINE NO. OR PRESS (ENTER) TO CONTINUE

אשה תשובה
ויקרה
מניחה
גבר אשה אהרן ←
אשר אהרן

Waldheim files and Hebrew inscription from tombstone

All those years, I wondered why three brothers had different family names. I found out that it was in order to avoid the service in the Russian army.

I wondered what was our real family name. This research gave me the answer.

Now it's final: our last name was **GROSSBARD**.

It has been over 3 years, since I sent out my work to members of the family, in Sept. 2003.

I must admit, that I hesitated whether to send it out. I knew there was much still missing but did not know where to find it. My decision to send it, was based on the thought that while you read it, you might remember or search for old files, and send me the missing items or clues, which will help me to continue my research.

Your reactions to my work were great, and I was right: many of you, while reading, remembered, some found old family notebooks, baby books and old letters. All that information was sent to me, and made it possible for me to continue my research, mainly through the Internet.

The new information brought up new questions, I found names of people that are definitely related to us, in some cases we even do not know how.

Sample of the letters.

—
Dear Nachum,

Thanks so much for sharing the product of your hard work. As you mentioned in the *Preface*, some of us were suspicious at first when you called out of nowhere. However, the sincerity and tenacity of your search quickly convinced me that my newly found "third cousin" was for real and wasn't just selling Israeli Bonds. I had to chuckle at your self-ascribed quality of "stubbornness"; it is definitely there, but it has an endearing quality.

It was good of you to acknowledge those for whom searching in the past stimulated "old wounds." I am sure that I am not the only one with whom you came across who had experienced family disappointments and losses - those stories could fill another book.

Steve Bloomberg

My Dear Nachum:

WHAT A COMPLETE RESEARCH OF THE BLOOMBERG FAMILY!!!!!! As soon as I got it I

sat down and read it from cover to cover - although I have to admit, I did skip the Hebrew writings as I don't read Hebrew. Thank you for the very nice acknowledgement you gave me. Believe me, I did it because I was interested in it and knew almost whatever you wanted to know and that was mainly that we had the summer resort in Burlington, Wis. and the relatives would all come out there for their summer vacations.

Blume Lurie

Dear Nahum,

We received the book yesterday and it is fabulous!!!!!! Thank you so much for sending it to us. My husband is going to copy it for all our children so they have a copy for themselves.

Judy Kaplow

Nachum,

Thank you very much for sending your research. It is fascinating, and reading it was very gratifying and emotional.

I am not sure if I told you already, but on September 21, 2001 my son Nathaniel was born (my fourth child). This was one week after the death of my father Nathaniel (Nachum Magid as you know). In researching a Hebrew name selection for my son, I spoke with my Rabbi who was very intrigued by my father's Hebrew name Nachum Magid. My Rabbi thought for sure that this would have been a name for a scholar of great merit. Not knowing the true significance, my wife and I chose Nachum Shai as the name for my son.

Jon Hirschtick

Nahum, I am terribly sorry we didn't immediately get back to you after we received your remarkable book. It was fascinating reading about your sleuthing. You are a regular Sherlock Holmes. Your persistence is an inspiration. It is amazing to us that we have so much more family around the world than we ever knew existed. Too bad my Dad didn't live to read this. He would have treasured it too. Both Jordan and I thank you heartily for all you have done and hope that someday we may meet in person.

Jean Nerenberg

In the past, I spent lots of time in library reading rooms, looking for information in 19th century Hebrew newspapers. During 2004, our National Library in cooperation with other research Institutes, began a project of placing some of the most important newspapers on the internet, so far they completed Hachavatzet, Halevanon, Hamagid, Hatzfira and Hamelitz, during 2005 they intend to bring up Hatzvi. You can find it on www.jnul.huji.ac.il.

Those newspapers were published in Palestine, Russia and Poland; they contain lots of information and provide a good tool for any researcher who can read Hebrew.

Most of the information in the newspapers is about Jewish communities, but there is also personal news such as announcements about births, engagements, marriages and deaths or even changes of address. Another section deals with donations of all kinds:

Donations, Charity or the **SHNORE** Business. In every small town there were several collectors, they were collecting for endless reasons, for buying land in Palestine, Help for the poor farmers and farm workers in Palestine, buying Citrus trees in Palestine, helping rebuild homes caught on fire, building libraries in Palestine, helping a poor Rabbi's widow and children and so on and on. The names of the donors include the sum they gave. The collectors names and their location were printed from time to time on complete pages of the newspapers. It took patience to go over thousands of names, but the results I think are great.

Personal announcements

ר' מאיר צבי קלף מסלאנט מברך בסו"ט את הרה"ג
 ר' שמואל משה שפירא אב"ד דקורשאן ואת ר' דוד גראסבארד
 לחתונת צאצאיהם בה' תמוז הרכ"ט ואת ר' שעפטיל הווידאן
 לחתונת בנו משה ב"ד סיון ולזכרון נרב 50 ק' ליא"י.

Blessings to Rabbi Shmuel Moshe Shapiro, Head of the Rabbinical Court in Kurshan and David Grossbard, upon the marriage of their children on June 16th, 1899. (page 54)
 Hamelitz June 25th, 1899

הננו מברכים במ"ט הו"ט את ש"ב יוסף שישמן
 שנאחיל לבלילה ברו עב"ג יצחק ראבינאוויץ ולזכרון מרכי 25
 ק' לב"ג שסטרט לחכמה דפה ע"ש.
 יצחק אהרן קאסלעד ורעייתו במאפעליאני.

Blessing my relative Yoseph Shiffman from Shavill, upon the marriage of his daughter with Yitzchak Rabinowitz (page 66). Hamelitz July 5th, 1901

מזל טוב! בא היום" שקינתו מזל טוב!
 יום שמחת לבנו!
 ליום כולל בן ארבעה הירוש המפורסם בארץ הארמנוצקי עם העלמה הערינה פאולניע לספחה שמוקנאלד
 מנישים אהנו ברכת מרים ולב עסק ברכת מרים לאהנו ואנוכי לנו ונכבד ישראל הארמנוצקי ולרעייתו חלל ונללים
 אליהם. יהוה רעא כי חשוק שמים יסע לקל ברכתו רבנע בראש, ורק שרן וספחה ישננו עד זקנה ושיבה.
 עוזרי מסחרו

יפיע שימסער	דוד קעסעל	יהודה מביא אראן
סאשע קלאזאנסקי	קלמן קאנטער	סענדיל דגניא
רבקה בלאך	מירכי שפירא	יוסף ישעיהו ריו
פריידה טענצאנסקי	מאיר ראויצקי	יוסף טענצאנסקי
שיינה שאשעס	משה לנץ	ועליז פיקע
בתיה שען	צבי הירש נאץ	זאב וואלף מארק
יוסף גראבשטיין (מכהאלסער)	זאב וואלף לעדי	חיים העללער

Blessings from trade helpers of Israel Choronziansky, for the marriage of his son.
 Among the congratulators is Yoseph Yeshayaue Raus (son in law) of Abraham
 Bloomberg (page 83). Hatzfira, Feb. 18th, 1902

אברך בברכת מו"ט את יודי הארון הנכבד טוב לכב ויקר
 רוח מו"ה אברהם בלומענפעלד ורעייתו סרת גיטל לבנם הנולד
 להם במו"ט, יה"ר שיוכו להבניסו בבריתו של א"א דגדלו ולהנכו
 ולהבסו, והרני מנרב I בישליק לקטרא. רפסחא וא' בישליק לח'
 לינת הצדק בה' ימין משה.
 אברהם שבטמאן.

Blessings to Gittel & Abraham Bloomenfeld upon the birth of Israel (page 113).
 Hachavatzetlet March 12th 1899

Donations

לפינת הרעבים.

הגני יולה ע"י "הבליץ" 79 ר' שאמפנו לסוכת הרעבים
 כנבב רוסיא: מבוהסיד "קנה בינה" ע"י ישראל יצחק שפירא
 ואני החי: אלעזר אברמוביץ, יעקב טיל כ"א 8 רריב, שמואל דוד
 לודיע, זאב בלאך, ברעסקי סקאזאן כ"א 8 רריב, שמואל דוד
 ליכאוויץ 2.70 ר', ישראל יצחק שפירא, סודכי אהרן צעקוטי-
 זער, שמואל שפירא, זאב קאטלער, בעלאל רבינוביץ כ"א 2 ר',
 יצחק סיץ 1.70 ר', ליב אראן, צבי בייץ, ישראל הערבלונסקי,
 בנציון מישיקער, יודיל גרויסמאן, משה זאראן, שלמה סופטאן,
 יוסף קאלן, אברהם בלומבערג, שייסע לודיע, סודכי זאיבער-
 בלאש, ישראל ראזענס, משה ברודא, סאיר זאקס, שלמה ברזי,
 שטחה ראשהווי, אידל כץ כ"א 20 ק', אידל שער, שמואל שער
 כ"א 18 ק'. מ"ה אבר"ש 52 ק' נשאר 79 ר'.
 סודכי אהרן צעקוויצער ב"שאוטל.

Collecting in Shavill for hungry Jews in South Russia, among the names are:
 Shmuel David Leibowitz (son in law of Shlomo Shiffman), Shlomo Shiffman and
 Abraham Bloomberg. Hamelitz May 5th, 1901.

לכונת ננועי הפרעות בקישינוב

נתקבלו בבית המערכת,

(סוף מנ' 125) ליד יוד, יעקב בווארסקי, רינה פריד-
 לאנד, אברהם בער רובינסקי, סודכי ראבינאוויץ, יוסף יאקאב-
 שאקן, אלמנה שבע לעוויטאן, אברהם האץ, מרת ולבערמאן, ליב
 אראן, הירש בייץ, ישראל הערבלונסקי, בנציון ליב מישיקער,
 משה שמואל אירעלשטאם, ישראל ראזאנסקי, שלמה אלקנה
 ברזי, אברהם בלומבערג, שלמה שופמאן, מענדל ליזערשטיין,
 שייסא לודיע, נחמ"י ערעלשטיין, בער קרעסער, שמואל דוד ליי-
 באָוויץ, יצחק שיטשער, שבתי מישיקער, יוסף דעמבאווסקי, אהרן
 בניסין שניידער, שמואל שפירא, משה זאראן, יודיל גראַסמאן, משה
 ווייניק, האָדע קאנפארטאָוויץ, הצקל לעוויטאן, שלמה ראָזאנסקי,
 ארי' געץ, שלמה קייפערס, שמואל היים, ליב קראָן, דוד טיל-
 ווינסקי, ישראל יוסף רייז, בניסין בר פנחס, דוד בער לוביק, דוד
 שייף, סאיר שייף, אפרים פלאקס, אהרן יצחק קאפלאן, נעצעל
 לונץ, חיים יצחק אבראמאוויץ, שאַל פעלדסאן, בענע בר' יוסף
 פייק, אהרן קעסעל, אברהם ראָזענבערג, בנציון קרעסער, אייזיק
 לעוויטאן, רפאל פריעדבערג, יונה יהודא בר' אלחנן, חיים בר'
 זלמן, מנחם צבי בר' יהודא, אפרים בר' שלמה כהן, מנחם רחמי,
 יוחנן גרענלער, יעקב ווינער, ברוך זאקס, שמעון קראסקי, יוסף
 לעוויטאן, ישעי' שטולאה, מענדל פרידסאן, משה בר' יוסף שיי-
 מאן, אברהם שראנאוויץ, פרידע קאפלאן, אידל בלעכער, בנציון
 רחן יוסף שופמאן, יוסף שופמאן, ליב קראסמאן, שטערל שפירא,
 באַנער, אלטער בן היישע בנקר, ליב עזשטיין, פייביש פלאמעל,
 שלמה יוסף קאפלאן, אייזיק ריגוס, יעקב שאַרער, משה בער פי-
 שער, ישראל רוב ווילענצער, ברוך חתן סג"ל, סודכי ראדע, סודכי
 קאפערזאד, הירש גאלדיישקער, משה ליב מוריניק, שלמה פנחס

Collecting in Shavill for the victims of the riots in Kishinov, among the names are:
 Abraham Bloomberg, Shlomo Shiffman, Shmuel David Leibowitz (son in law of Shlomo
 Shiffman), Yitzchak Abramowitz (son in law of Yosef Shiffman), Moshe son of Yosef
 Shiffman, Benzion (son in law of Yosef Shiffman), Yosef Shiffman & Moshe Dov Fisher.
 Hamelitz June 18th, 1903

On Sept. 6th, 1897 we commemorate 630 years, since the return of Jews to settle in Jerusalem by the Ramba"n, Sep. 6th, 1267.

ביום החשישי באלול שנה ה' שבו נמלאו שש מאות ושלשים שנה, להחזרת יסוד ישוב ישראל בירושלם ע"י הרמב"ן ו"ל, התגברו הנכבדים: מר משה זאקס ר"כ אחר; מר יצחק צבי רובלין פראנק אחר; מר ליב ליפשיץ פראנק אחר; מר אברהם בלוסענפעלד פראנק אחר; מר מנחם ס. גראיעווסקי פראנק אחר; מר אברהם שלמה ספרעלצער פראנק אחר; מר נחום צעלינקער פראנק אחר; מ"ה ר"כ אחר וישת פראנק לאגודת ישוב ארץ הקודש בירושלם ה"ו, ונספרו לידו עפ"י אפס"ה 8210.

סוכן אגודת ישוב ארץ הקודש בירושלם ה"ו נחום נאמאנאוואן.

On that occasion we donate for settling the Holly Land in Jerusalem, among the names is Abraham Bloomenfeld (son in law of Nachum Magid).

Hamelitz Oct. 17th, 1897

הגני שלוח ע"י תמל"ץ 10 ל' שאמאן מקצרות עירוב
 הרמ"ב בקורשאן: בבית"ד ע"י אהרן ליב סגן: דוד גרויסבארד
 20 קאפ, אברהם שפירא יעקב, יחזקאל סרדכי ששון, שלום
 אהרעלשטאם, דוב ארענאוואן, יעקב יאמא, מנחם ביק, בנימין
 גאלדן, זינד גאלדאווסקי, בעזיל שיימאן, שבען כוהנא כ"א
 18 ק', אהרן סיכעלאוואן, יסקינד קראש, שבען סירעל כ"א 10
 ק', ג'ק 70 ק'. ס"ה 8.18 ד"כ.

בבית"ד: המאמץ ליפאוסקי, ולסן ליפשיץ כ"א 50 ק',
 שמואל רזניק 88 ק', ליב ליפאוסקי, יעקב העשעלאוואן כ"א
 20 ק', גרשון שעפער, ולסן הערצשטאן, דוד הרה"ץ, יסק ליב-
 שין, גרשון ליפשיץ, ראובן, סרדכי רובין, ישראל ליפאוסקי,
 דוד גרנבלאט, א"ס ליפשיץ, סרדכי קליין, דוב ב"ר ולסן הכות,
 גרשון בענאווסקי, א"ל קצב, יחזקאל שייפסאן, ח"צ העשעל-
 זאן, שבען בוניטאוויץ כ"א 18 ק', ליב סיכעלאוויץ, י"ל העי-
 שיליאן, אהרן העשעלאוואן, יעקב בילקא, אהרן לאבעקוויטסקי,

אברהם קראוויץ, גאלדאווסקי כ"א 10 ק', ג'ק 40 קאפ. ס"ה
 5.97 ד"כ.

עוד ר"כ סרבו ע"י אהרן ליב הכות. ס"ה אג"ס 10 ד'
 אברהם שפירא בקורשאן. 766 26

Collecting in Kurshan for the workers in Palestine, among the names are: David Grossbard & his son in law Abraham Shapiro.

Hamelitz Nov. 4th, 1901

השבת נרבות של שבת נחמו שנת הרמ"ב
 למה"ס באה"ק במאופל:
 כהה"ס הגדול ע"י הנכ"א ליב יע"ל לזכר, ישראל
 האראוויצקי, יחזקאל אליעזר מאוראוויץ, יעקב שקלאוסקי,
 שלמה קה"מ, ראובן סלום, ולסן גארדאן, ישראל ראבינאוויץ,
 יוב יעקב לזניק כ"א 1 ר', שמואל יוסף גראנשטיין 2 ר',
 יהודא דוד לעווינאוואן, ישראל ליפשיץ, אהרן ב"ר רפאל נחום
 אביראוויץ, שמואל זאנדלער כ"א 50 ק'.
 כהה"ס גה"ס"א ע"י הנכ"א אידל בלעכער: רפאל אשר
 יבנה, דוד פלאוסקי, מאיר דוב האראוויצקי כ"א 1 ר', זאל
 טשה אהרנשטאם, יוסף ליפסאן מאורשאן, עזריאל סלאמאכער-
 סקי, יוסף שייפסאן, סאלקלאוסקי, גרשון היינשטאן כ"א 50 ק',
 נסע גליקסאן 26 קאפ, הרמ"ג מאיר קראוסאן אב"ד דיורישו
 26 קאפ.

Collecting in Shavill for workers in Palestine, among the names is Yosef Shiffman.

Hamelitz Nov. 4th, 1902

נאמן במה שאחול לשובת אחכ"י גועז השרשות ר"ל, סך 781 ר' , סנה כבר נסמך
 סך 126 ר' לתרב דווענער — עיר מענר הסמוכה לנו — אשר עלתה כלו על הסוקר בקין
 מזה, ואינן הודאת השלוח וקבל כ' המיל רענן פה סך 608 ר' לשלחם לתעורתם : לברוסק
 200 ר', לאימיטישק 100 ר', לראנשק 70 ר', לקאברין ולעראנאווין 50 ר' לב"א, לזואלי
 קאנאוסק ולעלווא 40 ר' לב"א, לזואסילקאוו 28 ר', לזאשינאוו 25 ר', חלק רביעי
 מהבסך יהיה קרש לבחי נכסיה וכחי מדרשות, ותשואות חן לתרב חג' ר' שייטא לזוא סמך
 שחשתי לזועיל הריבת בזה חן בדרשותיו וכן בחינתו עושה כעשה כפועל ובעצמו הלך
 עמנו המאמנים לקבץ גרבות מאת המחנכים כפי הרשום פה :
 חג' ר' שלעס 54 ר', ר"י חרשאנאווין, ר"ח פרענקעל כ"א 50 ר', הממוס בוק 40
 ר', ח"י פארלאשוק ח"י ר', ר"א יאונגע 15 ר', ב. קליין, י. יאחעלשוק כ"א 12 ר', ר"א
 אפרוח, מ. שירא, א. לעוויטאן, ש"י גוראק, מ"י איסקרליש, ו. ויו כ"א 10 ר', ד"ר ראם.
 נאוסק, ח"ל מאראנאווין כ"א 7 ר', א. אשירי 6 ר', ר"ם אראנשטאם, א. ראם, ד"ר ווייט
 פרויב, הרוקח וואלפע, עורך דין מושבע עיסקא חסקי, ל. ראבינאווין, ד. הקיטעלענאווין, א.
 שטרא, ה. פארברעג, א. מאראנאווין, לעצן ויו, ל"ש לונק, אליעזר האָן, לעוויט מוילקע,
 סד כ"א 5 ר', הרה"ג ר' שייטא לזוא, הרב ספעט"ס אבעלמאָן, א. לונק, א. קווינב,
 סלך, מ. ראד, ד. רעמבא, י"א נאָלרבערג, ר. פוקס, אראנשטאן, סיכעלמאָן, יעקילמאָן,
 מ. ערעלשטיין, מורין, שלאפאָבערסקי, מ. מויזל, א. זב. פייבוש, יונה ושיטא לזוא, ל.
 אבראמאָווין, ח"א לעוויטאן, ש. ליפשיץ, ג. האלבערג, ל. קאפלאן, ש. קמנ, הארשק, דו.
 בינשטיין, י. וואלבערג, ג. קאָסיק, י. אראָן, ש. וקס, ג. אשירי, ס"א צעקווער כ"א 3 ר'
 ח"ס-זבניג, ז. ברודא, צבי ואראָן, א. גרויסמאָן, י. פרידמאָן, ש. שטרא, ווייסבראד, ג.
 אליאשאוו, מ. ראנאלין, ב. שווארץ, א. בלעסער, ח"ס גוממאן, מ. קאצענעלענבויענע, מ"ר
 חרשאנאווין, מ. שלאם, פיינעלענאווין, ב. קרעסקער, ב. שיינקער, שיינע קאפלאן, מ. ראבי
 נאווין, ל. וואלסאנאווין, י. סאלקין, ל. קראסמאן, א. בלוטבערג, ש. ראשקעס, מ"י שייץ,
 ח"י חייסמאָן, העשיל שטרא, י. סגל, ג. ווייסמאן, מ. קעשלער, י. קאפלאן, ג. בלאָך, ש.
 ליובאווין, ה. מארקאוו, צבי קאנעסין, מ. ראָנעבערג, ה. פערדמאן, היילפער, א. רוין
 כ"א 2 ר', אייזיק שער ובנו, א. רוטענבערג, י. שייטאן, מ. דוד, ד. סילוויצקי, ש. לעווי
 סאן, צבי שייץ, י. יאשעס, ב. רובינשטיין, ד. פרידמאן כ"א 1.50 ר', מ. קאסיראנאוו 40 ק'.



Collecting in Shavill for fire victims in Lithuanian towns, among the names are:
 Yacov Shless (son in law of Yosef Shiffman), Yosef Shiffman, Abraham Bloomberg
 & Shmuel Liebowitz (son in law of Shlomo Shiffman). Hamelitz Sept. 5th, 1895

Ben Gross:

I mentioned on pages 15 & 16 of my work, about the Grossbard's, which I found in Nachum Magid's address book and the connection to Ben Gross.

Recently I received a very comprehensive list of the Grossbard family, from a Rabbi David Grossbard in Israel, his grandfather Aaron Zeev (killed by Lithuanian thugs in 1921) and Ben were brothers.

According to the list, the family tree begins with Rabbi Dov Ber Grossbard who comes from a dynasty of 38 generations of Rabbis. This was found written in an old prayer book, but there is no mention of names and the where about of the dynasty.

Rabbi Dov Ber Grossbard had several children, among them was Rabbi Baruch Grossbard; a book about his family "Memories of my life" was written by his granddaughter Bella Lown. Rabbi Yeuda Leib Grossbard who was known as "the saint of Tuvrig (Lithuania)", from his first wife (name unknown) had 4 children and from his second wife Chaya had 8 children, among them Bert, Ben, Martha and Morris who came to the US. They followed Phillip Grossbard, A brother from the first wife who came to the US in 1892, they all changed their names to Gross. Another son of Rabbi Dov Ber was Rabbi Mordechai Grossbard who changed his name to Grossman.

By this time of my search, Donald Becker had found for me the phone no' of Roslyne Stern, daughter of Ben Gross, she added some information about her father, she remembered Samuel Becker, Nathan Blumberg and Sam Lustgarten as second cousins, she also told me that Ben and Bert went first to Butte, Montana, then to Sheridan, Wyoming, they dealt in raw hides.

In the early 20's Ben came to Chicago, Ben was married to Clara, they had 2 children Roslyne Stern and Leonard Gross. Roslyne told me that Ben refused to become a Rabbi, he fled home for Vilna because he wanted to learn music. His father brought him back home by force, afterwards he fled again and immigrated to the US to join his brother Bert.

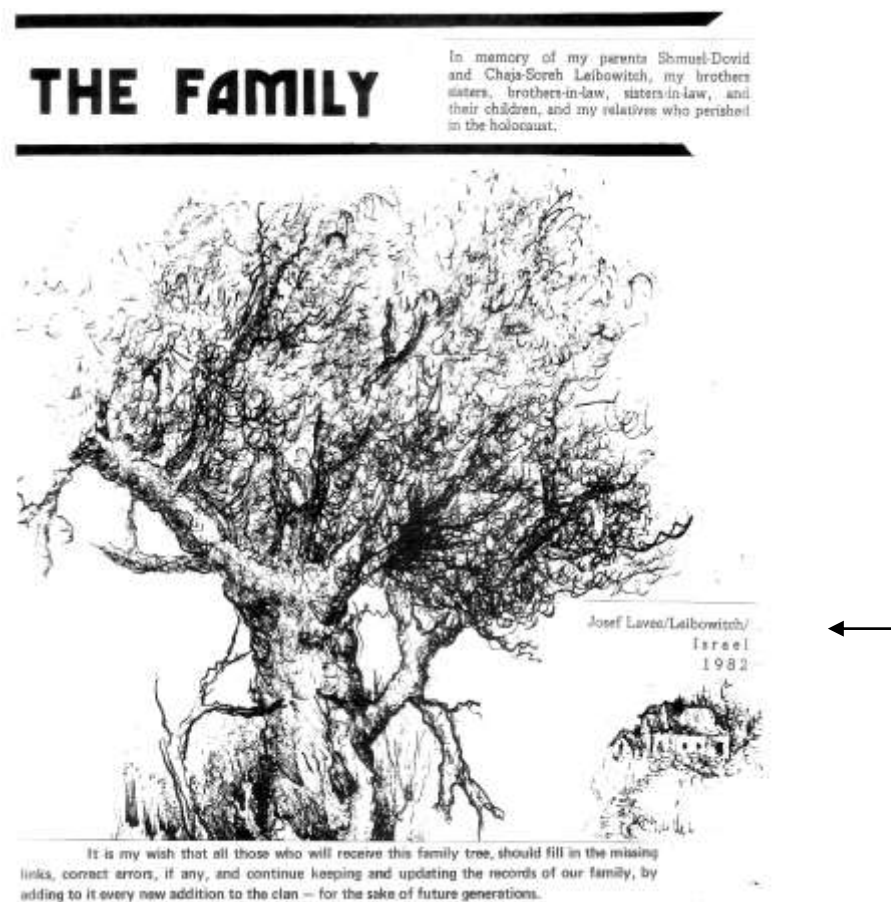
I located Bert's son Lionel Gross in Chicago, he knew very little about his family, he told me that Bert did not talk much about his father. Bert also refused to become a Rabbi and was beaten by his father for it, Bert fled home and immigrated to the US.

I've information on almost all of Ben's brothers and sisters, I'll add it as soon as I'll establish how we are related. From the information that I found through documents and talks with members of the Grossbard family in Israel, I tend to think that Rabbi Dov Ber Grossbard, Ben's grandfather, was the brother of Moshe Aharon, the head of our family.

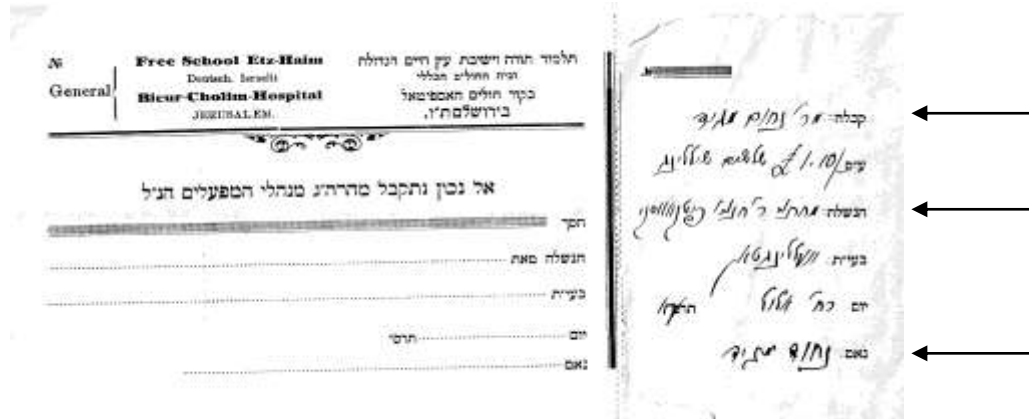
Nov. 12, 2004, last night I received a package of papers sent from Jack Blumberg, his sister Nancy found them while moving to a new apartment, the papers included information about our family, they were from a book that was written by Joseph Lavee from Israel, I traced the widow of Mr. Lavee in Jerusalem, she had a few copies and sent it to me.

It was a booklet written by Joseph Lavee in 1982 after two years of research, he wrote it in memory of his family that had perished in the Holocaust. He sent copies only to family members, which he knew or heard about. One copy was sent to the Holocaust memorial "Yad Vashem" in Jerusalem.

Mr. Lavee is the grandson of Lea & Shlomo Shiffman (page 69 of my work), he knew all about Shlomo Shiffman's family (9 brothers & sisters) but had very little information about the family of Lea Shiffman, he did not mention Minnie Becker, Ida Bonner, Nachum Magid and Abraham Bloomberg, he wrote about Maine & Moshe Dov Fisher (page 71 of my work) but not about their children.



During my long research, I made many acquaintances from the ultra orthodox community, for them my work was a holly mission, mainly because of our rabbinical background and our relations to very important rabbinical dynasties, and they took pride in helping me. They pointed me to sources of information or sent me written material, they found for me more books written by Nachum Magid and some documents.



Receipt for a gift from Rabbi Pitkowsky in Wellington New Zealand, to his father in law Rabbi Nachum Magid, for the sum of 30 Shillings for the New Year 1911. Found recently in NY by a book dealer.

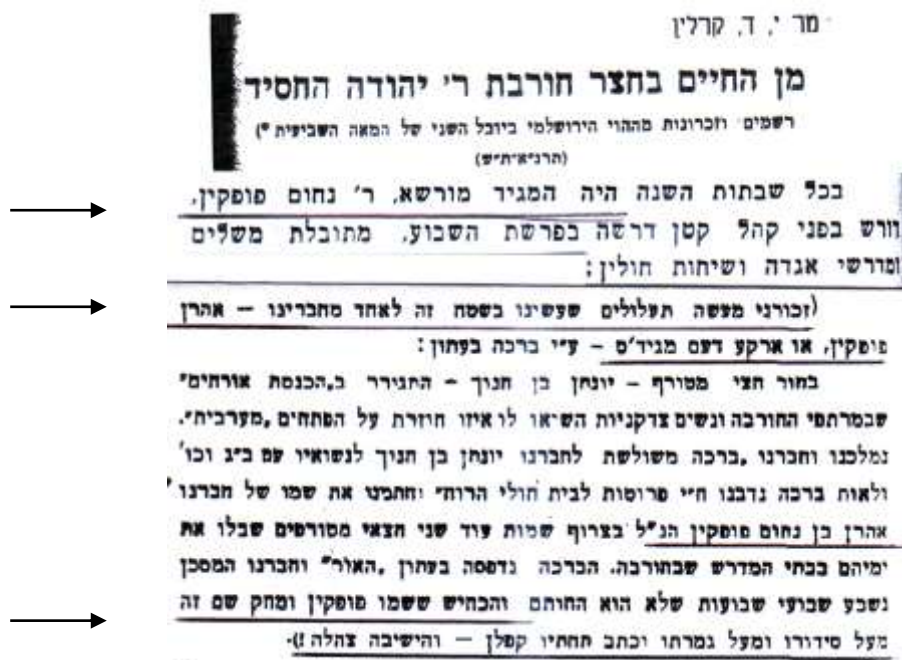
דע"ק יום ג' אלול ט' תל"א, אונג.

בתיבה וקושיא לודר דנגר. וזענען אדרכתא קודש אידיש ויודן
 הרב רביסוף אהרן אלטמן ויורש הרב אהרן
 יודל סודור אולר פה אלרע (30) רות, ט"ה (25) רות
 הוון אסודור אלטמן, פ"ד (22) רות פה איווחותי פאלטא תח'
 א' רות פה, איה אונ ח"ד אסודור, קמת אל אסודור קודש תל"א
 קמת אל הספר קודש אור החמה קונ (כ"ד) רות יודל סודור,
 אלו, ארץ ארץ (אלטמן) קמת דוד ריינקרעס אלר אל, סודור
 ואל ט"ז אונ אולר אסודור ר"ג רות אה דס"ה ט"ה רות, אה

Another letter by Rabbi Eliashiv from Shavill, it's to a book dealer, in which he mentioned Rabbi Nachum Magid. Found by the great grandson of Rabbi Eliashiv

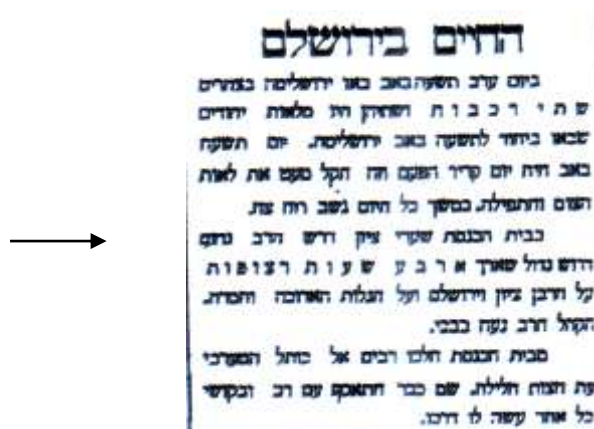
Nachum Magid's real name,? From an article by Mr. Karlin about his impressions and memories, from life in the court yard of "Churvat Rabbi Yeuda Ahasid" from his arrival at the age of 10, in 1891 until 1940.

In the article he describes the Sermons that were given every Saturday by the preacher from Warsaw **Rabbi Nachum Pupkin**. He also tells about an incident that caused Nachum's son to change his name from Aharon (Arke) Pupkin to Kaplan. **Was it another name he used?**



Published in the Jerusalem Almanac 11th edition, 1950.

Description of a Sermon on the evening of 9th AV, given by Rabbi Nachum, the sermon took four hours and was about the destruction of Jerusalem and life in the diaspora.



Published in Jerusalem in "AOR" newspaper July 25th, 1912

All Lithuania Database (ALD)

This Internet site is about the best tool for researching family roots in Lithuania. During my initial work until the beginning of 2003, I searched this site from time to time and found some information about our family. At that time the **ALD** was updated until 1999.

Last week, May 2005, I visited that site again it is now updated until October 2003. I began to search for names of people and for towns connected to our family, and I found lots of new information in the Tax and Voters Lists as well as in the Revision Lists.

From the Tax and Voters list we learn about residence, property, occupation, financial situation, right to vote, right to be elected, age, name of father and whether the subject was a tax payer. So far I found a few files, maybe for the next edition I'll find more of them.

Name Born	Father Age	Comments Type of Record	Day	Town	Archive/Fond/Inventory/File
			Month	Uyezd	Record #
			Year	Guberniya	Page #
GROSBARD, David	Movsha 37	Voters		Kursenai	KRA/I-49/1/14032
				Siauliai	28
			1883	Kaunas	51
GROSBARD, Shimon		peddler, well-to-do; 5 in family Box Taxpayers		Kursenai	KRA/I-49/1/17525
				Siauliai	87
			1892	Kaunas	80
GROSBARD, David	Movsha 46	Rabbi Electors	31	Kursenai	KRA/I-49/1/18907
			March	Siauliai	4
			1895	Kaunas	4
GROSBARD, David	Movsha 47	absent Rabbi Electors	19	Kursenai	KRA/I-49/1/19203
			November	Siauliai	33
			1896	Kaunas	7
GROSBARD, Aron		3 in family; wealthy; peddler Box Taxpayers	20	Kursenai	KRA/I-49/1/23518 23
			October	Siauliai	
			1904	Kaunas	

GROSBORD, David	Movsha 43	crime free; signed in Yiddish with Russian translation Voters	25	Kursenai	LVIA/1567/1/291
			May	Siauliai	6
			1893	Kaunas	3, 10
GROSBORD, David	Movsha 47	crime free; signed in Russian Voters	6	Kursenai	LVIA/1567/1/550
			November	Siauliai	24
			1896	Kaunas	74, 16
GROSBARD, David		5 in family; wealthy; merchant Box Taxpayers	20	Kursenai	KRA/I-49/1/23518
			October	Siauliai	43
			1904	Kaunas	60

Tax and voters lists for David and his son Aaron Grossbard from 1883-1904, both were wealthy and had the right to vote.

Who is Shimon Grossbard in the upper list that lived also in Kurshan, is it another member of our family un-known to us or another name for Zusman? (page 45).

SHAPIRA, Movsha Shmuyla	Leyba 59	Rabbi, born in 1840, in Smorgonys/Vilnius gub., 390 rubles	10 August	Kursenai Siauliai	KRA/I-173/1/1 180
		Postal Savings Bank Records	1899	Kaunas	177
		5 in family; wealthy; merchant Box Taxpayers	20 October 1904	Kursenai Siauliai Kaunas	KRA/I-49/1/23518 257 63

Tax and voters list for Rabbi Moshe Shmuel Shapira and his son Abram Shapiro (son in law of David Grosbard), both where rich.

SHIFMAN, Shloma	Leyzer	town dweller	15	Siauliai	KRA/I-27/1/129
		Candidates for Municipal Electors	September 1910	Siauliai Kaunas	
					31

Tax and voters list for Shlomo Shiffman son of Eliezer and husband of Lea; he was Candidate for Municipal Elections in 1910.

RAUZ, Shaya	Zakharya	town dweller	15	Siauliai	KRA/I-27/1/129
		Candidates for Municipal Electors	September 1910	Siauliai Kaunas	
					30
RAUZ, Shaya		Gornaya St.		Siauliai	KRA/I-402/1/5
		Real Estate Taxpayers	1912- 1916	Siauliai Kaunas	410 411
RAUZ, Eta		Gornaya St.		Siauliai	KRA/I-402/1/5
		Real Estate Taxpayers	1912- 1916	Siauliai Kaunas	410 411

Tax and voters list for Eta & Shaya Rauh; she was the daughter of Abraham Blumberg. Mr. Rauh son of Zakharya was a Candidate for Municipal Elections in 1910.

DEMBO, Leyba	Vulf	town dweller	15	Siauliai	KRA/I-27/1/129
		Candidates for Municipal Electors	September 1910	Siauliai Kaunas	
					27
DEMBO, Leyb	Wulf		15	Siauliai	KRA/I-49/1/32581
		Municipal Electors	February 1911	Siauliai Kaunas	61 17

Tax and voters list for Laib Dombe, he was on the list of relatives in Nachum Magid's book issued in 1908, I do not know yet how he is related. Mr. Dombe was a Candidate for Municipal Elections in 1910, was elected in 1911.

During my entire research I thought that the family came from Shavill in the Kovno region of Lithuania, I thought so after speaking to many people in our family, they remembered stories from parents and grandparents in which Shavill was mentioned, David Grossbard's family remembered Kurshan. The lists of donations in newspapers from the end of the 19th century, had justified my thoughts, Bloomberg, Fisher and the Shiffman brothers were found in Shavill lists, while Grossbard was in the Kurshan list.

I ordered records from the Lithuanian State Archive that concerned our family, I received copies of the original documents in Russian and English translations as well. The new records revealed a surprise, in the middle of the 19th century the family lived in **Luoke** known also as **Luknik** in the Kovno region.



Map of Kovno region, Luoke is near Kurshan

Luoke was a small settlement, the Jewish population in 1847 was around 950 people, and in 1897 the Jewish population was only 800 or less then 200 families, **Luoke** was totally burnt in 1887, were some records destroyed in the fire, was it then when our family moved to other towns? I have no answer. In this small community like in many others, there were two Rabbis, one was elected by the community, he was in charge of all religious events, the other was a government elected Rabbi, he had to know Russian and was in charge for all the community registrations, such as weddings, births, deaths, revision lists and tax and voters lists. In many cases there had been clashes between the two of them and between the government elected Rabbi and the community.

Another surprise was, the registration under the name Grossbard, the ages that provided the year of birth, the names of the parents of Moshe and Bluma and the name of another son.

1858 Revision list of the Grossbard family in Russian.

РЕВИЗСКАЯ СКАЗКА				
1858 года Мая 27. дня. В. Великаго Курфюрста Шляхецкаго Града Мухоморова Свирскаго окрѣга Свирскаго.				
№ СЕМЬИ.	Мужескій полъ.	По послѣдней ревизии состо- яло и послѣ- дней прибаво.	Изъ того числа вы- было.	Выдѣл на лицо.
№ 1850	79. Мовша Зуслиановичъ Гросбордъ. Его жена Зуслианъ.	30 было убыло	38. 18.	
№ 1850	78. Ли Юлиа Блюма Хаимовича Мангоури 4. Рохель 74. Матле 34. Мине 42. Мнукхе		36 18 9 6 2	

The original document is a double page, names of men are on the left and names of women are on the rights. The Russian script handwriting is very difficult to read.

THE REVISION LIST OF LUKNIKI (LUOKE) JEWISH COMMUNITY OF THE SIAULIAI DISTRICT, KOVNO GUBERNIA (KAUNAS PROVINCE), May 27, 1858

Nr. 79 (to #2 in additional RL 1850)

GROSBORD Movsha ben Zusman, 38 years old (according to last Revision he was 30 years old),

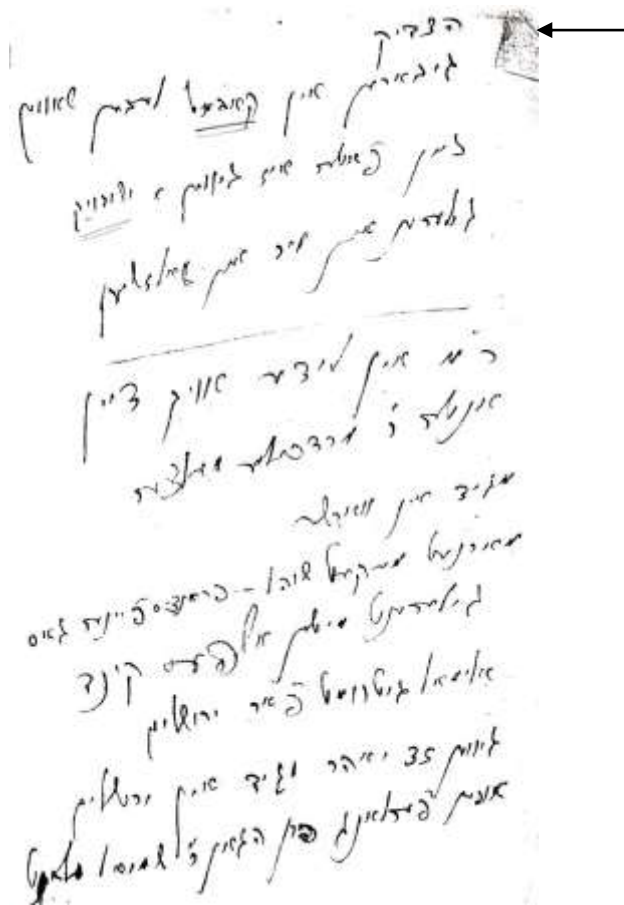
His wife Bliuma bat Khaim, 36 years old,

Their daughters: 1). Rokhel, 18 years old, 2). Matle, 9 years old, 3). Mine, 6 years old and 4). Mnukhe, 2 years old,

Movsha's son Zusman, 18 years old (he was missing).

From the document we learn: name of Moshe's father was Zusman and so was his son called. Bluma's father was Chaim, Rochel was married to Yoseph Shiffman, Matle to Shlomo Shiffman, Mine married Moshe dov Fisher and Mnukha married Marcus Becker.

Ida Boner was born in 1861; Abraham, Nachum and David were in the leshiva.



Rabbi Noach Kaplin, listening to Gittle Bloomenfeld while she visited in London in 1935, wrote this document. She told him about her father Rabbi Nachum Magid “ The saint was born in Kibarti near Shavill, his father was a settler, he studied in Mir and Volozin. He was head of leshiva and Dayan under Rabbi Mordechi Meltzer in Lida. He then became a Magid in Warsaw, he learned with the son of Alper, he always dreamed about Jerusalem, he was a Magid in Jerusalem for 35 years during the period of Rabbi Shmuel Salant”.

I had this document for several years, it was given to me by Rabbi David Kaplin, Noach’s son, we felt that there was some mistake, Kibarti was a large town on the German border and not near Shavil, recently I found a document which clarified it:

GROUZBERG, Movsha	Zusman	Rents 7 desiatinas (1 des.=2.7 acres) Village of Kybartai, Kurtuveniai area. Value/taxes =20 rubles Siauliai District Farmers 1860	23	Luoke	KRA/T-49/1/4346
			April	Siauliai	10
			1859	Kaunas	27

Tax and Voters list for Grouzberg (translating error) Moshe son of Zusman, who lived in Luoke in 1859.

He rents around 20 acres in the village of Kybartai, Siauliai (Shavill) district.

I searched for the village Kybartai and for the Kurtuveniai area in the Shavill district. I could not find them in books about Lithuania, I tried GOOGLE and came out empty handed. As a last chance I tried MAPQUEST on the Internet, I enlarged the Shavill area and found it, the current name is KYBARCIAI.



KYBARCIAI is located A few miles south of the Shavill Kurshan highway.
Kurtuveniai is located about a mile south in another map.

1866 Revision list for Abraham Bloomberg in Russian.

16	Израиль Моисеевич Блумберг	Еврей	2902/83	19
17	Израиль Моисеевич Блумберг	Молодой		
18	Абрам Моисеевич Блумберг Израиль Моисеевич Блумберг Израиль	Еврей	925/89	

From the original document. Abram Borukh son of Movsha (Moshe) Bloomberg is listed on May 5th, 1866 living in Luoke, it states that he moved to another Jewish community in 1889. (lower name in no' 18 on the list)

THE ADDITIONAL REVISION LIST OF LUKNIKI (LUOKE) JEWISH COMMUNITY OF THE SIAULIAI DISTRICT, KOVNO GUBERNIA (KAUNAS PROVINCE), 1866

Nr. 18 BLIUMBERG Abram-Borukh ben Movsha, 23 years old. He was reregistered to other Jewish Community [the name is not written] in 1889.

He lived with another male in the apartment (translator could not make out the name).

Tax and Voters list for Leyzer Shifman

SHIFMAN, Leyzer	Aron	well-to-do; upper class	May	Luoke	KRA/1-49/1/1381
		Candle Taxpayers	1846	Siauliai	50
				Kaunas	961

Leyzer Shifman the father of Yosef who married Rachel Grossbard and Shlomo who married Lea Grossbard, lived in Luoke in 1846.

Revision list for the Shifman family in 1858

Kurseni Siauliai Kaunas	SHIFMAN	Leyzer	Aron	49			27 May 1858	303	Revision List LVIA/1262/159
				41					
	SHIFMAN	Iser Leyb	Leyzer	25					
				18/1851					
	SHIFMAN	Iosel	Leyzer	19					
				12/1851					
SHIFMAN	Getsel	Leyzer	16	Moved	Moved to Onikshy				
			Missing	1893					
SHIFMAN	Ente	Michel	48		Leyzer's wife				

The family lived in Kurshan in 1858, at the end of the 19th century, Yosef and Shlomo lived in Shavill.

In the same area, we find the Fisher family in a small village called Saukenai in 1866, the town is located 6 miles from Kurtuveniai (see the Grossbard farm), around 550 Jews lived there in the middle of the 19th century.

Saukenai Siauliai Kaunas	FISHER	Itsyk	Chaim	Head of Household	42		21 September 1866	492 11	Additional Revision List LVIA/1262/1/124
	FISHER	Movsha Ber	Itsyk	Son	14				
	FISHER	Shayne	Itsyk	Daughter	13				
	FISHER	Motle	Wolf	Wife	36				

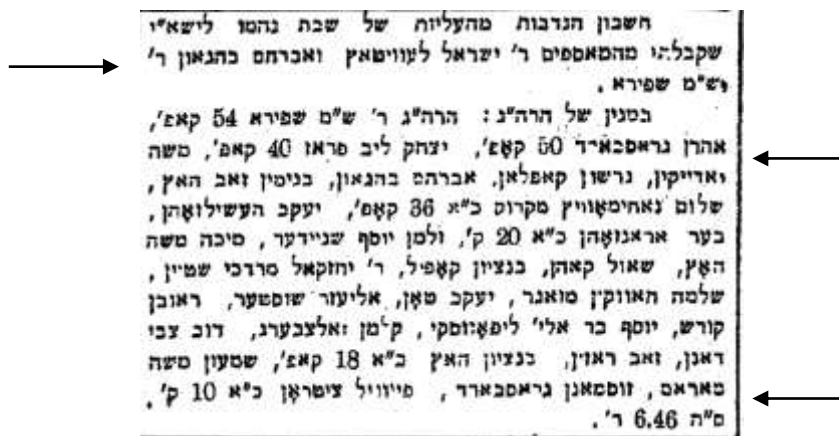
Revision list of the Fisher family in Saukenai 1866, the son Movsha Ber (Moshe Dov) was later married to Maine Grossbard. Moshe dov and Maine lived in Shavill at the end of the 19th century.

Who is Zusman Grossbard?

In the Revision List for the Grossbard family in Luoke 1858, there is a Zusman Grossbard listed as son of Moshe Grossbard age 18 (named after his grandfather).

Town Uyezd Guberniya	Surname	Given Name	Father	Relationship	Age This Age Last	Reason Left Year	Comments	Date	Page	Publication Type Archive / Fond etc
									Registration Former Registration	
Luoke Stavitski Kamnis	GROSSBARD	Mevsha	Zusman	Head of Household	38			27 May 1858	270	Revision List LVIA/1262/199
					30				79	
					18				2 AR/1850	
	GROSSBARD	Zusman	Mevsha	Son	Mixing					

During my research I came across his name once more. His name was on the list of donors who collected funds for Palestine during prayers in Kurshan in 1897.



On the same list was Zusman's nephew Aharon Grossbard and Aharon's brother in law Abraham Shapiro. On the voters list (page 38) I found Shimon Grossbard, could he be Zusman. I called up the grandchildren of Aharon Grossbard. They never heard the name.

I found another Zusman Grauzbord son of Berel (Dov Ber) on the Tax and Voters list in Luoke, I called up several Grossbards in Israel, but no one had heard that name.

I mentioned in my work (pages 15,16), about some of the Grossbards who changed their names to Grossman, I found in the Revision List of 1866 a Zusman Grossman in Luoke, he moved from Luoke in 1880. I spoke to the grand daughter of Rabbi Guttel Grossman from Luoke, he left in 1882 to the USA and changed his name to Rabbi Goodman Grossman, at first he lived in Butte, Montana, then lived in Allentown, PA, one of his sons was Zissel Grossman, to my regret she never heard that name.

In this edition, due to the help of many of you, I added an enormous amount of new names to every branch of our family, thank you. Nevertheless there are still some names that I could not come up with, these are people that for some reason or another, maintained no relations with their families, and by now their names are forgotten maybe one day we'll find them.

Special thanks go to the people who helped me most with my research, but to my regret they are no longer with us.



Blume Lurie

Died on September 18, 2005, age 91



Rabbi Catriel David Kaplin

Died May 13, 2006, age 74 in London, he was buried the next day in the Cemetery on Mount of Olives Jerusalem, were his father Rabbi Noach Kaplin and his great grandfather Rabbi Nachum Magid are Buried.

Inter marriages and assimilation in our family.

When I began my research, such a situation did not go through my mind.

This page was not meant to criticize, I simply wanted to point that this issue is part of our family also, but it should not disturb the good family relations as I found during my research

I was born and lived most of my life in Israel and although we did not maintain a religious way of living in our home, it did not occur to me that such possibilities exist.

Since childhood in Palestine we dreamed for the establishment of a Jewish State, from the kindergarten and through school we brought a penny every Friday for the J.N.F box in order to buy more land for the future state, as we grew we participated in demonstrations for the establishment of our state, girls who dated non-Jews were shaved and in most cases had to leave the country, they were considered as lost for their families.

It was difficult for us to understand why Jews did remain in Europe and did not come to Palestine while it was possible in the 1920's and 30's. My grandfather wanted to come since his children lived here but he did not make it, he passed away in 1937, after his death my grandmother refused to come over, she said that she was committed to live among her community and that no one will harm her, soon after the Germans entered the town and with the aid of the Polish who lived there, they rounded up the Jews and shot them. My maternal grandfather came to NYC in the early 30's, this Polish educated gentleman did not like the disrespect and behavior of the people whom he met, he returned to Europe to his Polish friends whom he was so proud of and trusted them, they helped him to his death.

The above is my own story; I heard the same from too many people who would not give up the comforts and way of living in exchange for life in the wilderness among Arabs in Palestine.

During the first years of my research, I concentrated on the generations that were born before WWI, during that period I found about a handful of religious conversion or intermarriages in our family. As from the 1950's I found a slow increase of this effect, it became stronger during the last two decades, I think that around 10% out of the 2500 names that I listed in the family tree are involved in intermarriages, but only very few had converted.

I spoke and corresponded with many of them, they were very kind and helpful, they were interested in the history of our family for themselves and for their future generations, they'll each have a copy of my work as well as you all. **I only had one un-pleasant experience, a young woman from the Fisher family wrote to me that her husband and her children do not want to be mentioned in the family tree, and my reply was I'll omit your name as well.**

The family during the Holocaust

I searched the entire database of the Holocaust in “Yad Vashem” for names of members of our family, in some of the cases, when I typed a family name and name of town, I got the entire information, and in other cases the reply was the name of mother or father and number of children killed but no names, those we’ll never know.

Sample of registration forms from the Archive of “Yad Vashem”

יד ושם
מוזיאון השואה
רשות זכרון לשואה ולגבורה, ירושלים

דף-עד
לרשום חרלי השואה והגבורה

קודש. רחוב בני-יהודה 12

א. שם המושבה ב. שם פרטי ג. שם אב ד. שם אבא ה. תאריך הלידה ו. מקום הולדת (עם מדינות לשעבר)		בעברית קפוצ'ין בעברית מנחה מינדל 1870 16 במאי 1869 פולין 1918
שם המורה על הישג שם פרטי עם יחיד/ים שם משפחה	שם המורה על הישג שם משפחה שם פרטי עם יחיד/ים שם משפחה	רבינוביץ ינטה שפימן
א. שם פרטי ב. שם אב ג. שם אבא ד. שם אבא ה. תאריך הלידה ו. מקום הולדת (עם מדינות לשעבר)	בעברית בעברית בעברית בעברית בעברית בעברית	קפוצ'ין קפוצ'ין קפוצ'ין קפוצ'ין 1867 פולין
שם המורה על הישג שם פרטי עם יחיד/ים שם משפחה	שם המורה על הישג שם משפחה שם פרטי עם יחיד/ים שם משפחה	רבינוביץ ינטה שפימן
א. שם פרטי ב. שם אב ג. שם אבא ד. שם אבא ה. תאריך הלידה ו. מקום הולדת (עם מדינות לשעבר)	בעברית בעברית בעברית בעברית בעברית בעברית	קפוצ'ין קפוצ'ין קפוצ'ין קפוצ'ין 1867 פולין
שם המורה על הישג שם פרטי עם יחיד/ים שם משפחה	שם המורה על הישג שם משפחה שם פרטי עם יחיד/ים שם משפחה	רבינוביץ ח'ה שפימן
א. שם פרטי ב. שם אב ג. שם אבא ד. שם אבא ה. תאריך הלידה ו. מקום הולדת (עם מדינות לשעבר)	בעברית בעברית בעברית בעברית בעברית בעברית	קפוצ'ין קפוצ'ין קפוצ'ין קפוצ'ין 1867 פולין
שם המורה על הישג שם פרטי עם יחיד/ים שם משפחה	שם המורה על הישג שם משפחה שם פרטי עם יחיד/ים שם משפחה	רבינוביץ ח'ה שפימן
א. שם פרטי ב. שם אב ג. שם אבא ד. שם אבא ה. תאריך הלידה/גיל משוער ו. תאריך לידה/גיל משוער	בעברית בעברית בעברית בעברית בעברית בעברית	קפוצ'ין קפוצ'ין קפוצ'ין קפוצ'ין 65 פולין

From top: My grandmother Masha Mindel Kaplan, Rabinowitz Yente daughter of Rachel and Yoseph Shiffman, Chaya Sara Leibowitz daughter of Lea and Shlomo Shiffman and Etta Raus daughter of Abraham and Sara Bloomberg.

Members of their families had submitted the Forms.

The family of Lea & Shlomo Shiffman was nearly wiped out, and so were the families of my grandmother, Masha Mindel Kaplan, Abraham Bloomberg lost his daughter Etta Raus and two grand daughters, David Grossbard lost his son Arie with wife and child and Rachel Shiffman lost her daughter Yente Rabinowitz with almost her entire family.

The Leibowitch family in Shavli--Lithuania (approx. at 1934)



First row seating (from left to right):

Miriam Leibowitch		– perished in the holocaust
Fania "	– wife of Mendel	– perished in the holocaust
Bliuma "	– Rudin	– perished in the holocaust
Shmuel-Dovid Leibowitch		– perished in the holocaust
Zunia Leibowitch	– grandson	– died in an accident in South Africa in 1965
Chaja-Soreh Leibowitch		– perished in the holocaust
Sonia Leibowitch	– wife of Reuven	– perished in the holocaust
Rachel (Liuta) Leibowitch–Potruch		– perished in the holocaust

Second row standing (from left to right):

Reuven Leibowitch		– died in Israel in 1956
Avraham Potruch		– died in South Africa at 1978
Josef Leibowitch–Lavee	author of this family-tree	
Mendel Leibowitch		– killed by a Soviet Bomb at 19 July 1944
Oscar Rudin		– perished in the holocaust
Moshe Leibowitch		– perished in the holocaust

Children (seated from left to right)

Liusia– daughter of Fania & Mendel		– perished in the holocaust
Lyda – daughter of Bliuma & Oscar		– perished in the holocaust
Judith (Pulia) daughter of Sonia & Reuven		– perished in the holocaust

From 17 family members 12 perished in the holocaust !

Chaya Sara Leibowitch was the only daughter of Lea & Shlomo Shiffman