

320

THE VICINITY

Reb Yechezkiel Wallach passed away of old age and was buried in Nibylec, the Kehillah to which Lutcza belonged.

Details about what happened to the Jews from these little towns and villages during the Holocaust, and who survived, are unknown to me. The only thing that I do know is that they disappeared like all the other Jewish communities. Only a few have survived.

In the village Godowa, near Strzyzow, a young man, Yacov, the son of Aryeh Leibush Diamand, was hiding until he was caught by a local farmer who brought him to the Nazi police, and he was killed by them.

The grandson of Ritter who was the victim of the blood libel, a story which was previously told in this book, was killed in Lutcza. He was one of those who jumped from train which left Rzeszow ghetto on November 15, 1942. The Rosen brothers jumped from the same train. This young man went back to his village and hid until he was recognized by some Poles, and he was killed by them. Reb Abraham Wallach, heir to the estate was also killed in Lutcza. He lived in Krakow and came back to his village to hide. From all the Wallach family very few survived. One grandson, Reb Shlomo Wilner, survived by hiding in Lutcza and a few others escaped and were exiled in Russia. In Rozanka, Reb Chaim Resler and part of his family survived hiding in a farmer's house, except his wife and son who left their hiding place. They were lured to come out of hiding by a peasant woman who knew of their hiding place but could not report them to the Gestapo, not wanting to endanger her relatives in whose house the Resler family was hiding. She took revenge, and she succeeded at least to kill part of the family. *

THE JEWISH VILLAGERS WERE THE PILLARS OF BENEFACTION

By Shlomo Yahalomi

The settling of the Jews in villages was an important factor, not only by establishing roots in all parts of life in Poland, but also by helping find occupations and livelihood in the cities and in the villages also. This settling was needed and desirable for the benefit of the Jews who lived in the big cities and small towns. Whoever is well-versed in Hassidic history in Galicia knows that some Rabbis wanted to forbid the Jews to live in villages. The reasons being their apprehension for the safety of single Jewish families among ninety-nine percent gentiles, and the fear for the gentile influence upon the Jewish family members. The major worry was the problem of educating the children. In contrast, there were famous Tzadikim who looked favorably upon and even enticed many Hassidim to settle in villages. Their reasoning was that at that period and until the last years it was easier to make a living in the villages. Many of our brothers have found their livelihood in the villages by farming, peddling, and in the logging industry. The village people were used also for a way station for the wandering Jews. The desire of the Rabbis was that there should be at least one Jewish family in each village, where a traveler could stop to pray, have a meal, and find lodging. Therefore, Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Frenkel from Wielopole told Reb Aryeh

* NOTE: THIS WAS MISTAKEN. GITEL WAS KILLED IN THE FOREST EARLIER, MOTIVATING THE FAMILY TO GO INTO HIDING. HERSHEL LEFT THE HIDING PLACE THINKING HIS CHANCES MIGHT BE BETTER OUTSIDE. HE MAY HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED & KILLED THOUGH THE SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES ARE UNKNOWN.

PERSONALITIES AND EVENTS

Reb Moshe Aaron Zilber was a pious, humble, and straight man. His sons Joshua, Pinchos, and his daughter, Sarah, were fervent activists in the Zionist movement. His son-in-law, Reb Tzvi Shapiro, was a devoted Zionist who went to Eretz Israel and lives among us here in Israel.

THE ROSEN BROTHERS

The first of the Rosen family was Reb Shmuel Rosen who came from Wielopole. Rabbi Alter Zev extended a friendly welcome to him, and respected him very much. On Purim, the Rabbi let him wear his shtreimel. Reb Shmuel Rosen had two sons: Reb David and Reb Yechiel. Reb David's son, Reb Joseph Hersh, lived in Strzyzow and was an ardent admirer of Rabbi Alter Zev Horowitz. Reb Joseph Hersh, even though he was an irascible man, had a good heart, gave a lot of charity, and was very hospitable. Reb Joseph Hersh had three sons, Yacov, Mendel and Joel. Reb Yacov was a Torah scholar, very clever, full of energy, blessed with capabilities, and he was very active helping the community during the Holocaust years. I the writer of these memories, was his student. Yacov had a son, a child prodigy, who died in his boyhood. The second son of Reb Joseph Hersh, Reb Mendel, was also a scholar. He had a good voice and often chanted in the Beit Hamidrash. He later became the ritual slaughterer in town. The third son, Reb Joel, did not live in Strzyzow. The Rosens were all killed by the Nazis.

Reb David Rosen had two sons-in-law. The first was Reb Leib Sternberg, a dear man, a good chanter, who was beloved by everyone. He respected everyone and, in return, he was respected by all. Only one son, who emigrated to Eretz Israel, lives among us. The second son-in-law of Reb David Rosen was Reb Aaron Kanner, about whom we wrote before in this book.

Reb Shmuel Rosen's second son, Reb Yechiel, was a fiery opponent of Rabbi Shlomo Shapiro. He died during the prayers, wearing his Talit and Tefilin. Reb Yechiel had four sons and three daughters, who all resided in Strzyzow with their families. They all perished in the Holocaust. Four grandchildren of Reb Yechiel miraculously survived the Holocaust. They escaped from the train which was carrying them to their death. The Rosens were all Hassidim of the Rabbi from Sadigora.

THE SCHEFLER FAMILY

There were three Schefler brothers in Strzyzow: Reb Mordechai Mendel, Reb Shimon, and Reb Moshe. Reb Mordechai Mendel was a chanter who assisted Reb Leib Sternberg in chanting in shul. He was a devoted community activist. Reb Shimon Schefler was a simple, faultless pious man, with a good heart. He was one of the Psalmists who recited Psalms every Saturday afternoon, winter and summer. Reb Moshe Schefler was always graciously doing charity work. In fact, he was murdered by the Nazis, together with Reb Shmuel Moshe Groskopf and Reb Yacov Rosen, during a meeting in which they were discussing charity matters. May G-d avenge their innocent blood. Remnants of these families survived and live in

BY SHLOMO DIAMAND

book. Reb Yacov Kanner, the second son of Reb Pinchos, who was my great-grandfather, was a rich man with a capital R. He was intelligent and served the community for many years. Reb Yacov's first wife, Dvoire was from the Komarno Rabbinical Dynasty, which goes back to the famous Rabbi from Lezajsk and the Rabbi from Lublin called "The Seer."

My mother Dvoire was a great-great-granddaughter of Reb Yacov Kanner. Reb Yacov's second wife bore him many sons and daughters. Two sons lived in Strzyzow. The rest of the children spread throughout Galicia. To list all the names of the Kanner family was simply impossible. Here and there, some great-great-grandchildren of the Kanners survived the Holocaust, but most of them were annihilated by the Nazis. Many families in Strzyzow were related to the Kanners.

One of Reb Pinchos Kanner's sons, Reb Aaron, moved to Germany, where a large family branched out. They were expelled from Germany in 1936. One of Reb Aaron's sons was caught on the German-Swiss border, where he suffered a heart-attack and died in Switzerland.

THE MANDEL FAMILY

The founder of the Mandel family was Reb Moshe Yacov Mandel from Sczucin. His son settled in Strzyzow. They were all Kohanim. All the Mandels, generation after generation, were ardent admirers of the Shapiro Rabbis. We already wrote about Yeshayahu and Chaim Mandel. One grandson, Shimon Mandel, survived and is now an officer in the Israeli army.

THE MINTZ FAMILY

The head of the Mintz family was Reb Abraham Mintz, a well respected man in Strzyzow. He was the treasurer of the shul, accepted by everyone. His son Michael was, like his father, a very nice person. One son immigrated to France, where he soon passed away. Reb Shlomo, another son of Reb Abraham, immigrated to the United States at a very young age. There, he raised a large family and lived very happy. One of Reb Abraham's daughters married Feivel Adest from Strzyzow. Fortunately, many of Reb Abraham's family spread throughout the world and survived.

REB HERSHEL RESLER AND HIS SONS-IN-LAW

Reb Hershel lived in Tilkowice, a village near Strzyzow. He was known for his sons-in-law: Reb Benjamin Baumel, Reb David Dembitzer, and Reb Moshe Aaron Zilber. Reb Benjamin was a worthy, faultless Jew, a Hassid of the Rabbi from Sadigora who chanted nicely and had an easy-going personality. He raised his children to study Torah and to do good deeds. Of all his children only a son and daughter survived. They reside in the United States.

Reb David Dembitzer was a clever and goodhearted man, beloved by everyone. His sons were active Zionists and Torah students. One son and two daughters reside in the United States.