

## ***Descendants of Feivel Chazanovich***



Rashl, Masha, Sarah 1935

### ***Generation No. 4***

**1. Feivel<sup>4</sup> Chazanovich** (Yehuda<sup>3</sup>, Moshe<sup>2</sup>, Yudel<sup>1</sup>) was born between 1876 - 1880 in Miroslavas, Russian Poland<sup>1</sup>, and died in about 1941 in Miroslavas, Lithuania. He married **Judith Freedman<sup>2</sup>** 1899<sup>3,4</sup>. She was born in about 1883 in Matele, Russian Poland, and died in about 1941 in Miroslavas, Lithuania.

Children of Feivel Chazanovich and Judith Freedman are:

- 2 i. Bertha<sup>5</sup> Singer<sup>7</sup>), born May 01, 1900 in Miroslavas, Lithuania<sup>7,8</sup>; died November 1972 in Boston MA<sup>9,10</sup>. She married (1) Joe Brown<sup>11</sup> 1929<sup>11</sup>; He was born in about 1894 in Russia and died in about 1940. She married (2) Sam Nelson<sup>11</sup> 1948<sup>12</sup>.



Notes for Bertha Singer:

According to her sister Golda, their Uncle Abraham invited Bertha to come to the United States in 1922 when she was 18 or 19 years old. Golda noted that Lithuania was in "bad shape" at the time, following WWI. Bertha sailed from Southampton on March 25, and arrived in New York on March 31, 1922 on the ship Mauretania. She was listed on the ship manifest as "Base Chasanovitz." (Her birth name was Batia or Batya, and "Base" probably would be pronounced "BAHS - ye.") According to the manifest she was 21 (which matches to the birth date shown in the original family tree and to her Social Security Death Record). She had \$25 with her, and her destination was listed as her uncle, Abraham Singer, who lived at 174 Pine St in Lewiston, Maine. He was listed as

the person who paid her fare. Her occupation was "sales woman," which may indicate that she expected to work in Abraham's store. Her description was "5'7", fair, blonde, brown eyes." Her hometown was listed as Miroslav, Lithuania and her nearest relative was listed as "Father, Feivel Chasanovitz, Miroslav." She lived in Lewiston, ME for about 2 years, and then moved to Boston to live with an uncle on her mother's side. According to her cousin Rebecca, she worked for Abraham for a year to pay back the cost of her passage.

Bertha brought over her sister Golda in 1938 and the two lived together and worked to support themselves after the death of Bertha's husband Joe. Bertha had no children. Golda said that because Bertha was so much older, she was as much like a mother as a sister to Golda. The two were very close.

In 1940 at the time of her Uncle Abraham's death, Bertha was mentioned in his obituary as living in Roxbury, MA, the same location she shared with her husband Joe in 1930.

According to her cousin Mari Ginerman Benaroyo, Bertha visited her relatives in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1967.

Judy Kamin said that Bertha was a lovely person. Judy's mother Rebecca agreed, and said that Bertha was the kind of person who made soup and baked goods for families that had troubles, even if she didn't know them.

Her last residence was Milton, MA<sup>13</sup>

Notes for Joe Brown:

According to the 1930 census Joe was 35 years old and the proprietor of a meat market. He was born in Russia and immigrated in 1911. Notes from the 1998 Family History (compiled by Sylvia and Helen Harris) say that Bertha married Joe Brown in 1929 and that he died after a marriage of 7 years. However, in Golda's interview with *Survivors of the Shoah*, she says that she came over in 1938, that Joe was alive then, and that he died about two years later, in 1940. In the 1930 census, Joe was listed as proprietor of a meat market.

Marriage Notes for Bertha Singer and Joe Brown:

The 1930 census shows Bertha and Joe living at 220 Harold Street in Roxbury, MA. This was a multi-family building which housed 9 families, all of whom were renting for \$56-\$70/month.

- + 3 ii. Sarah Chazanovich, born in about 1905 in Miroslavas, Lithuania; died in about 1944 in Stakliskes, Lithuania.
- 4 iii. Rashl Chazanovich<sup>16</sup>, born in about 1907 in Miroslavas, Lithuania<sup>16,17</sup>; died in about 1941 in Miroslavas, Lithuania<sup>18</sup>.



Notes for Rashl Chazanovich:

As the oldest unmarried daughter, Rashl was her mother's main helpmate. Sister Golda related the memory of Rashl and her mother working to prepare holiday foods for the family. Golda pronounced her name "RASH ell." The name is a variation on "Rochel"

which is the Hebrew version of Rachel. She was listed on Eva Gediman's family tree as "Rachel."

According to an interview given by sister Golda, the family didn't have the money for dowries, and this may be why Rashi and her younger sister Rochela were not married.

Rashi was killed during the Holocaust. The circumstances of her death and that of her siblings Moshe and Rochela are not totally clear. Golda learned through friends who escaped to Israel that her family in Lithuania had all been killed. She was not specific about the fate of her siblings Rashi, Moshe and Rochela. If they stayed in Miroslavas, they would have been killed by the German shooting squads that entered the area in 1941 and killed their parents. However, Golda commented that by that time, most of the young people had left for larger cities, trying to escape from Lithuania. So it is not clear where they died.

- + 5 iv. Josef Chazanovich, born 1908 in Miroslavas, Lithuania; died September 1988 in Montevideo, Uruguay.
- + 6 v. Masha Chazanovich, born 1917 in Miroslavas, Lithuania.
- 7 vi. Moshe Chazanovich<sup>18</sup>, born between 1918 - 1919 in Miroslavas, Lithuania<sup>18</sup>; died in about 1941 in Miroslavas, Lithuania<sup>18</sup>.

Notes for Moshe Chazanovich:

Moshe was killed in the Holocaust. The circumstance of his death is not totally clear. (See notes regarding Rashi).

Cousin Rebecca Robinson said that Moshe had a clubfoot, like his father. There is no indication that he married, however he was not discussed in the taped interviews that Golda left.

According to his sister Masha (via daughter Mari in 2002), he was named for a relative on his mother Judith's side of the family. Masha remembers when their father Feivel taught him for his Bar Mitzvah.

- + 8 vii. Golda Singer, born June 14, 1920; died May 27, 2000.
- 9 viii. Rochela Chazanovich<sup>18</sup>, born in about 1923 in Miroslavas, Lithuania<sup>18</sup>; died in about 1941 in Miroslavas, Lithuania<sup>18</sup>.



Notes for Rochela Chazanovich:

Golda pronounced her name as "ROKE-ell-a," where the "K" was guttural. Golda spoke of both Rochela and Rashi several times in her *Survivors of the Shoah* interview, so their names seem certain. However, the name Rochela is a variation of Rochel (Rachel), and that is also the source of her sister's name. She was shown on Eva Gediman's family tree, and referred to by her sister Masha via the Americanized name "Ruth." But the name Ruth would typically be "Rus" in Hebrew, which doesn't match Golda's rendition of

her name. Also, according to the book *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names*, the name Rus was "an unusual name for Ashkenazic communities perhaps because the heroine was a Moabite, not of Jewish origin."

Rochela had been given a job with the Russian government, when she was still in high school. At the time, Jews were being recruited for jobs because they were well educated. Golda and her sister Bertha were saving money to bring Rochela to the United States when she graduated from high school, but WWII intervened.

Rochela was killed in the Holocaust. The circumstances around her death are not totally clear. (See notes re Rashl, above.)

### **Generation No. 5**

**3. Sarah<sup>5</sup> Chazanovich** (Feivel<sup>4</sup>, Yehuda<sup>3</sup>, Moshe<sup>2</sup>, Yudel<sup>1</sup>)<sup>19</sup> was born in about 1905 in Miroslavas, Lithuania<sup>20</sup>, and died in about 1944 in Stakliskes, Lithuania<sup>21</sup>. She married **Pinkhes Kravitz<sup>22</sup>**. He died in about 1944 in Stakliskes, Lithuania<sup>23</sup>.



More About Sarah Chazanovich:  
Location: Stakliskes, Lithuania

Notes for Pinkhes Kravitz:

According to his sister-in-law Golda Sneider, Pinkhes was a wealthy man and community leader who, along with a schoolteacher in town, led many community and charity efforts.

Marriage Notes for Sarah Chazanovich and Pinkhes Kravitz:

Pinkhes and Sarah owned a large store that sold farm equipment, and Pinkhes was said to have many friends in their community, including owners of large estates. Sarah's sister Golda referred to them as living in "Stocklishtok," and described it as being near the Polish border. The only similar town name seems to be "Stocklishok," now known as "Stakliskes." This is listed as the town name in this family history, but it is not certain that it is the right town. Stocklishok is in the same district as Miroslavas, which makes sense in explaining how Sarah might have met Pinkhes. However, it is further from the Polish border than Miroslavas.

Sarah, her husband Pinkhes and daughter Dvora were killed during the Holocaust. Golda related in her interview with the Maine Holocaust Human Rights Center that a Lithuanian family who were friends had offered to hide Pinkhes, Sarah and Dvora when the Germans invaded in 1941, and operated their store. After the Germans were pushed back, and the Russians were returning to the area, the Lithuanian family realized that Pinkhes would take back his store, so shot and killed

Sarah, Pinkhes and Dvora. This story was related to Sarah's sister Golda by a Jewish boy who had returned to Stakliskes after the war and later met Golda in Israel.

The Germans were pushed back in 1944, which is estimated as the year of their deaths, however Golda commented that Dvora was only 6 years old, which does not fit with the story. This was probably a misstatement on Golda's part.

Child of Sarah Chazanovich and Pinkhes Kravitz is:

- 10 i. Dvora Fanye<sup>6</sup> Kravitz<sup>24</sup>, born in about 1930<sup>24</sup>, died in about 1944 in Stakliskes, Lithuania<sup>25</sup>.



Notes for Dvora Kravitz:

Dvora was killed with her parents in the Holocaust. See Dvora's mother Sarah, for more information. Her birth date of 1930 is based on Eva Gediman's family tree (to which Golda is believed to have contributed). The photo above was taken in 1940, according to Golda.

**5. Josef<sup>5</sup> Chazanovich** (Feivel<sup>4</sup>, Yehuda<sup>3</sup>, Moshe<sup>2</sup>, Yudel<sup>1</sup>)<sup>26</sup> was born 1908 in Miroslavas, Lithuania<sup>26,27</sup>, and died September 1988 in Montevideo, Uruguay<sup>27</sup>. He married **Dora Zolty**<sup>28</sup>. She was born in Poland and immigrated to Argentina where she had a sister. She met Josef when visiting friends in Uruguay.

Notes for Josef Chazanovich:

Josef left Lithuania in 1929 or 1930 and immigrated to Montevideo, Uruguay. He became Jose Chazanovich in his new home. According to his sister Golda, he left the country to avoid serving in the military (where he would have to eat non kosher foods) and intended to go to Argentina, but the travel agent sold the ticket twice, and he ended up in Montevideo, where he knew no one. At the time he could not immigrate to the US because of the immigration quota in effect at the time.

After he became a citizen he brought over his sister Masha in 1935. They started a grocery store business and lived together until she married. A year later, he married.

More About Josef Chazanovich:

Location: Montevideo, Uruguay

Occupation: Leather business

Children of Josef Chazanovich and Dora Zolty are:

- + 11            i. Lola<sup>6</sup> Chazanovich, born 1943.
- + 12            ii. Filipe Chazanovich, born 1948.

**6. Masha<sup>5</sup> Chazanovich** (Feivel<sup>4</sup>, Yehuda<sup>3</sup>, Moshe<sup>2</sup>, Yudel<sup>1</sup>)<sup>28</sup> was born 1917 in Miroslavas, Lithuania<sup>28,29</sup>. She married **Enrique Ginerman** in Montevideo, Uruguay on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1938. He died October 11, 1978 in Montevideo, Uruguay.



Notes for Masha Chazanovich:

Masha emigrated from Lithuania in 1935, when her brother Josef brought her to Montevideo. Josef and Masha were unable to go to the United States because of the immigration quota in effect at the time.

They started a grocery store together and lived together in an apartment until Masha married. Josef married the next year.

More About Masha Chazanovich:

Location: Montevideo, Uruguay



Golda, Masha, Phil

Children of Masha Chazanovich and Enrique Ginerman are:

- + 13 i. Julio<sup>6</sup> Ginerman.
- 14 ii. Mari Ginerman, born 1947 in Montevideo, Uruguay.



Masha and Mari

More About Mari Ginerman:  
Location: Montevideo, Uruguay

More About Mario Benaroyo:  
Occupation: Importer

8. **Golda<sup>5</sup> Singer** (Feivel<sup>4</sup>, Yehuda<sup>3</sup>, Moshe<sup>2</sup>, Yudel<sup>1</sup>)<sup>30</sup> was born June 14, 1920<sup>30,31</sup>, and died May 27, 2000 in Saco, ME. She married **Philip Sneider<sup>32</sup>** in 1947 in Boston. Philip Sneider was born June 19, 1918 in ME and died Nov. 7, 2005 in Portland, ME.



Notes for Golda Singer :

Golda grew up in Miroslavas, Lithuania, originally Golda Chazanovich, and left a wonderful description of her childhood in two taped interviews, -- one with the *Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation*, and one with the *Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine*. The interviews not only describe Golda's life, but also describe the town of Miroslavas and give insight into what village life had probably been like for the family for multiple generations. Some excerpts are in this family history.

Golda was schooled at home by her father Feivel, and then attended a local Lithuanian school for a couple of years. Because the school required attendance 6 days a week, which included Saturday, Golda was sent to live with her sister where she could attend a Hebrew school. When she left that school she wasn't yet old enough for high school, and the town had hired a tutor for students in this position. She studied with a tutor for one year and skipped two grades, and then attended a Hebrew "gymnasium" (equivalent of a high school) in Alytus. When attending school in Alytus she lived in a boarding house. Classes in Lithuanian language and history were taught in that language, and math, history, and remaining classes were taught in Hebrew. Golda had an "advantage" in classes because unlike other students she spoke Lithuanian without an accent. (The suggestion was that because she grew up in a small village, she had more Lithuanian friends. See "What is a Litvak?" regarding why the Jewish population did not always learn the local language.)

During her youth her main dream, and that of her friends, was to go to Palestine and live on a kibbutz. She attended Zionist camps in the summer as preparation. With the spreading of anti-Semitic sentiments in Europe, going to Palestine was seen as the "only hope." Unfortunately, one needed a certificate to go to Palestine, and they were difficult to obtain.

Golda's sister Bertha, who was living in Boston and had no children, wrote to their father in 1937 and asked if one of her sisters might come to live with her. He chose Golda, who had lived away from home in boarding houses (while attending schools) and who was seen as being the right age (about 18) and flexible enough to adjust. She spoke and wrote fluently in 3 languages at the time -- Yiddish, Hebrew, and Lithuanian. Golda said that her parents thought it over and determined that she would have a better future in the United States. Her future in Lithuania was poor at the time, she said, because she did not have the large dowry that it took to get married, and had two older unmarried sisters. She added that she was more modern in her thinking and didn't believe in dowries.

Golda left for the United States in 1938, and said she had to obtain 57 different papers in Lithuania to leave. Each required a payment. Her clothes were made to order for the trip. She stayed in Kovno for 2 days, finalizing things with the American Embassy, and then she came to the US via the Cunard Star Line on the ship *Laconia*. She was met by her sister Bertha and Bertha's husband Joe, plus two uncles - her Uncle Max Singer, and an uncle from her mother's side. Bertha was a stranger to Golda at the time, because she had left Lithuania when Golda was so young. But they became very close.

Those who knew them described both as wonderful women.



Golda with friends, departing from Kovno, 1938



Golda said that in addition to Yiddish, Hebrew and Lithuanian, which she spoke and read fluently, she also understood Polish and Russian, and took German in High School. She had also studied Latin. Then when she came to America she learned English.

Golda initially worked in a stocking factory, and took English classes. When her English was better she took a job as a sales girl.

The 1940 census shows her living with his sister Bertha and brother-in-law Joe at 24 Walnut Park in Boston. She is shown as age 19 with 8 years of education, working as a checker in a stocking factory. Her prior residence (1935) is shown as Miroslavas, Russia (spelled incorrectly on the record). Joe was shown as a meat cutter in a grocery at age 44. Bertha is 34. Joe and Bertha are shown as naturalized, and Golda as "pa" (application pending).

Berman, Joseph	head	M	44	M	no	P	Russia	he	same home								75	meat cutter	grocery
Bertha	wife	F	34	M	no	P	Russia	she	same home										
Singer, Golda	daughter	F	19	S	no	P	Russia	she	Miroslavas	Russia							17	checker	stocking

Golda finished her high school diploma, and attended Hickock Secretarial School and then took a civil service exam. This was during WWII and she wanted to help the war effort, but not leave her sister alone. She worked in a large office complex that did the payroll for the Boston Shipyard. She operated an office machine (probably a comptometer) that calculated the payroll. She became a citizen 5 years after arriving, in 1943. (Records suggest March 7, 1944.)

No. 6168525

Name SINGER GOLDA

residing at 24 Walnut Park, Roxbury  
 June 14, 1920

Age 23 years. Date of order of admission March 7, 1944

Date certificate issued March 7th, 1944 by the  
U. S. District Court at Boston, Massachusetts

Petition No. 269018  
1448531

Golda Singer  
 (Complete and true signature of holder)

She met Philip Sneider, and they settled in Saco, Maine. Golda taught Hebrew School, and was an active "Hadassah lady" and was president of the Biddeford-Saco Chapter. Her cousin Rebecca Robinson said that Golda was a "wonderful girl - kind, so good. When she died there wasn't a place in the synagogue - people were standing outside." She had "made chicken soup if someone was sick -- even if she didn't know them."

Golda's interview with the *Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation*, and with the Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine (<http://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn512636>) along with what she told family members, provided almost everything that we know about the family's history in Miroslavas, Lithuania. She has been invaluable to this family history.

More About Golda Singer:

Burial: Temple Beth El Memorial Park, Portland, ME

College: Hebrew Teachers College, Boston, MA

Location: Saco, ME

Occupation: Hebrew School Teacher

**Philip Sneider:**

Philip's father Joseph first appears in records in the October 1909 naturalization index. In 1917 his WWI draft registration shows that he was married with two children:

Form 1 **REGISTRATION CARD** No. 261

1 Name in full *Joseph Snieder* Age in yrs. *29*  
(Given name) (Family name)

2 Home address *93 7<sup>th</sup> Biddford Ave*  
(No.) (Street) (City) (State)

3 Date of birth *April 15<sup>th</sup> 1888*  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? *naturalized citizen*

5 Where were you born? *Seagrren Russia*  
(Loc.) (State) (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? \_\_\_\_\_

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? *Fruit Dealer 26*

8 By whom employed? *myself*  
Where employed? *Biddford Ave*

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? *Father mother wife & child*

10 Married or single (which)? *married* Race (specify which)? \_\_\_\_\_

11 What military service have you had? Rank \_\_\_\_\_ : branch \_\_\_\_\_  
years \_\_\_\_\_ : Nation or State \_\_\_\_\_

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? *yes wife & family*

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

*850* *Joseph Snieder*  
(Signature of registrant)

If person is of African descent, read off this number

He was listed as being of medium height and build, with brown eyes and black hair.

His place of birth, "Seagrren," may have been "Schagarren," the German version of what is now Zagare, Lithuania. There are, in fact, records of a Shneyder family in "(old) Zagare" from the 1800s.

Joseph and his wife Mollie were listed in the 1920 census as born in Poland Russia (Russian Poland). They are both listed as aliens, and Joseph's immigration date is given as 1900.

(Mollie's may also be 1900, or possibly 1908). Joseph was age 30 and Mollie age 29. He is listed as a peddler/fruit dealer. They lived at 93 Foss Street in Biddeford and at the time had children Carl, 6, "Alec, 4, and Philip, 1 2/12.

The 1930 census shows Joseph and Mollie as born in Lithuania (the country was re-formed after WWI). Joseph is listed as a Retail Merchant with a fruit store, the owner of a home worth \$6,000 at 76 Birch Street in Biddeford. Joseph was listed as 40 years old, married at age 25. Mollie was listed as 39 years old, married at 24. Their immigration years are shown as 1904 and 1906, respectively, indicating they were married in the U.S. Their children living at home are listed as Carl, 16, Allie (Allen), 15, Philip, 11 and Ida 7.

The 1940 census shows the family at the same location, but Joseph is listed as "proprietor supervisor" of a wholesale fruit and grocery. Allen, 25, and Philip, 21, are listed as salesmen at the grocery. Joseph is listed as age 50, Mollie age 48 and daughter Ida 16. The home value is now listed at \$2165.

Mollie died in 1965 in Scarborough. Joseph died in 1981 in Saco, ME.

In 1942 Philip enlisted in the army as a private.

**Marriage Notes** for Golda Singer and Philip Sneider:

Golda and Philip met at Old Orchard Beach in Maine. They operated a grocery store and lived in Saco.

The 1950 - 1956 Biddeford directories show:

Sneider, J & Sons (Joseph, Allen, Carl M, and Philip Sneider) wholesale and retail fruit and groceries, 37 Hill  
Sneider, Philip (Golda) (J Sneider & Sons) res Saco

The 1954 Biddeford directory shows:

Sneider, Philip (Golda) (J Sneider & Sons) res Saco

Directories from Biddeford in these years also show:

Sneider, Philip (Golda) (Economy Grocery Centre) h 26 Weymouth

The 1961 Biddeford directory shows:

Sneider, Philip (Golda) v-pres-treas Jos Sneider & Sons Bid(deford) h 26 Weymouth



Children of Golda Singer and Philip Sneider are:

- 15      i. Jay R.<sup>6</sup> Snyder<sup>32</sup>, born 1948.
- 16      ii. Steven E. Sneider, born 1951.