

James Grubman PhD

From: Karen Amato [kamato@sympatico.ca]
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2006 2:17 PM
To: 'James Grubman PhD'
Subject: Photo: milstonefamily.jpg

Attachments: milstonefamily.jpg



milstonefamily.j
pg (102 KB)

Hi Jim,

I just wanted to give you a little update.

First of all, the person who helps my contact in the archives is away till the end of the month. So, it will take some time to search for the marriage record.

I have been looking over the emails I have received from the researcher in Lodz, and I thought you might be interested in seeing the information she sent me on July 25th:

"I have found a man who had the same addresses with the same date as Szprynca Milsztajn. His name is Symcha Grubman. I will check the Registry Office if there is a marriage record for them. GRUBMAN seems to be a very rare name in Lodz. In the ghetto are only 5 people with that name. I wonder if Symcha lived together with his grandfather - "Jos Wolf" b. 1860" - in apt. 1 next to his parents (Izrael and Chaja) and siblings in apt. 2.

According to Alexander Beider the name Grubman appears in Zamosc (SE Poland), Wloclawek (Central Poland) and Warszawa. I wouldn't be surprised if Symcha and his family were from Wloclawek as in Oct. 1941 a part of the 4000 inhabitants of the Wloclawek ghetto were deported to the Lodz ghetto."

As you can see, I am forwarding you the one photo we have of Sonia's family, taken in 1926, just before my grandfather left for Canada. Of course, the family portrait would have looked quite different by the time the war broke out, and vastly different shortly after...

I will describe the photo from the perspective of the viewer. Seated in the middle are Emanuel and Leah (Ryfkah Leah). To their right is their son Hershel, who died in the ghetto at the age of 39. My grandfather Morris (Moszek) is in the centre of the back row. On his left are his sister Bajla, then further left are Ruchla and her husband Godel (the latter died in the ghetto as well). Their daughter Bajla Dyna is seated on Emanuel and Leah's lap. To the right of my grandfather is his sister Frania (Fanny) who also came to Toronto, and on her right, with the bow in her hair, is Sonia.

I went to visit a surviving cousin of the family (on my great grandmother's side) named Lola. She does indeed remember hearing that your father called Fanny after the war to see if Sonia had survived. I asked her what else she remembers about Sonia. Lola was born in 1922, so they were some years apart.

She said that her sister was good friends with Sonia, but her sister has passed away. She knew that Sonia had had a "nervous breakdown," but not more than that. The one new thing I learned was that Sonia took care of children far away from the ghetto, near the cemetery...

That is all for now.

Regards,
Karen

