

## Compilation of Memories (Memoirs)

By Abraham Hacoheh Kish Keusch\_5626-5701

This was compiled from handwritten diaries that I had kept over the years. I copied my diary on my typewriter in the year 5697

Tel-Aviv, 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the month of Iyar, 5701 (1941)

Translation By Ruth and David Keusch

\*\*\*\*\*

One of the son-in-laws that left was Joseph Shatner married to Krendil, Grandfather's Isaac's daughter. They moved to his father's house who was R'Mordechai Shatner from the town of Kutu and one of their important citizens. Joseph was a wise and educated man. After losing all his property, he opened a store for knitted goods and was successful.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the year 1885, I was again under pressure from the Shadchans (matchmakers). This time I chose according to what I saw and understood without the objections of my parents and Grandfather Nathan. She was a beautiful girl, nicely built and educated and was the daughter of R'Yacob Menachm Gaster from Kutu. The wife was Hinda, daughter of Yosef and Golda Linder from the town Vishnitz, Bukovina. R'Yacob was an outstanding scholar of the first order in the knowledge of Kabbalah. His wife was an Eshet Chail. They had a clothing store for the farmers while they lived in the father-in-law's house. The financial situation was very good and they would get a good inheritance. They made a good living, were able to give their daughter a full dowry, and help the young couple establish themselves. My uncle and aunt Joseph and Krendle Shatner lived in the town of Kutu, two kilometers away from Vishnitz. They were people who were outstanding in their knowledge and wisdom. They advised to make this connection since Uncle Joseph was a friend from Cheder and close to the family. R'Gaster found the match suitable and we agreed. As was done previously, R'Menachim and his brother, Asher, came to my house to test me. Asher was learned in תנ"ך, in secular studies and math and the head of a business close to Zablotov. They both tested me in several pages of Gamorra and I succeeded and the agreement was made. Once again there was a big Simchah as the previous time.

\*\*\*\*\*

In March 1887, I was again called to the army. I hoped that I would not have to repeat this torture. My near-sightedness and my poor physical condition remained and I hoped to get out without problems. As happened before, the doctor and the army captain examined me and failed me. I was reexamined by Doctor Werner, the regional doctor, and found healthy. I was given the right to take another test before a higher officer, on his responsibility. I had another test in the month of May, in Kolomyea before higher officers.

The sum to buy myself out of service was exorbitant. Without an examination they accepted the ruling of Dr. Werner and determined I would be inducted the following autumn. I

was hoping for rescue with the blessing of the Admor Hatzadik R'Moshe David from Tchartkov. My uncle Joseph Shatner, from Kutty, had a friend of his youth who was the secretary of operations in the 24<sup>th</sup> regiment under the officer Meizner. He was in charge of the military in the district of Kolomyea-Snatyn. My uncle asked him to help me. He promised to help and he arranged that the induction would be in Vienna where there was a good chance that I would get out. We were happy with the promise and my early release seemed assured. I, my mother, my uncle R'Shmaryahu Meltzer from Scala (one of the admirers and a relative of the Tzadik of Tchartkov) were astonished to be brought into the Tzadik's special court yard and to be received for his advice and blessing. The Tzadik advised us that nothing could help except God's help and only in Kolomyea. Our hope was that my release would come through in Kolomyea.

I was disappointed a second time. My date of induction was October 1, 1888 which was the first day of Rosh Hashanah.

\*\*\*\*\*

The custom in those days called for the clothing stores to contribute material to the ceremony of הַקָּפָה (the going around the bride). The stores of Zablotov, especially the store of my aunt, the widow of Uncle David, willingly agreed to give for the Hakafa. My mother insisted and was more comfortable to receive all these materials from her sister and her husband, R' Joseph Shatner. They were pleased to give all for the Hakafa. My mother and I came to my uncle's house in the town of Kitov and we were very well received by the whole family. We chose the appropriate merchandise of white material which was then the accepted custom. There were white shirts, pants, underwear, wool for suits, silk for coats and fur, all of which cost several hundred reuch. My mother paid part of this in cash and the remainder would be paid out in an indeterminate time. All this material from my Uncle Shatner, had to be sewn into clothing by a seamstress for the brides clothing and a tailor for the men's clothing. They needed a fur expert for the sable on the coat. The work took three weeks.

Women prepared all kinds of sweets to bring to the wedding, cooked food the day the groom goes up to the Torah and for the trip. For some reason, the shtreimel (fur hat) came late and the groom did not go up to the Torah on Shabbat but on Monday. No one lost out since everyone got drinks and sweets and a good meal.

Tuesday morning, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month of Tevet, 1889, six wagons filled with about sixty people set out for the town of Vishnitz, by way of the road near Rosnov, Kitov and Vishnitz. It was a very cold winter day with some snow and a difficult trip due to the weather. Two o'clock in the afternoon, we came to our family in Rosnov. We were received with warmth, sweets and drinks. The men took the opportunity to pray Mincheh. The groom fasted and prayed 18 benedictions for the sins of Job.

That evening we arrived at the house of my Uncle R' Joseph Shatner in the town of Kitov and were warmly received by the family. There were sweets and tea on the table for all the travelers and we spent an hour with my uncle. A messenger from the Gaster family in Kutty notified Vishnitz that we were leaving within an hour from Kitov. (Kitov was on the river Tsarmush where there was either a passage or a bridge. I do not remember.) There were musicians playing with drums and cymbals on the banks of the river to bring the groom and his in-laws to the place where they would be staying. There were big rooms and places for everyone and a special room for women...

Uncle Joseph Shatner and Aunt Krendel and their son Abraham and his wife Rivka came to the wedding and brought a very generous Sermon Gift. They returned home that night. Most

of the guests and family were from Zablotov and filled five wagons to return home. One wagon was left for ten people.

\*\*\*\*\*

I and my family were very happy with the move from Chernovitz to Atania. I asked my bosses to hire my sister's son-in-law, Mr. I.L.Freifelder from Scala, to help me with the hard work in the office. I also wanted Mordechai, the son of Sholem Shatner from Kutu, to train in the lumber business. My requests were fulfilled and Freifelder, his wife and one daughter arrived and found a lovely apartment and satisfactory wages. Mordechai Shatner, aged fifteen, was accepted as an apprentice with a small salary and lived in my house. This was like an exchange for my daughter, Taube, living in Mordechai's grandfather's house in Kutu. I had sent Taube to study Hebrew under Jacob, brother of Shalom Shatner, who was the principal of the Hebrew school. I sent my son, Nathan, to the house of my uncle Shimshon Kahan, before I left Chernovitz. Nathan was to enter school to study Hebrew and enter the Gymnasia (high school) to study in the German language with which he was familiar. There would be payment for the upkeep and care of Nathan.

\*\*\*\*\*

Abraham Shatner, the manager of the bank in Petshenitshin, the son of my Uncle Joseph Shatner of Kutu, came to visit me in the summer of 1904. He came to ask me for a loan because there was a lien, due to a debt, against all his property, his furniture and all he owned. The next day there was to be a public auction. He asked and begged me to come to the auction and lay out the money so that everything could remain in one place. When conditions improved, he would return the money with thanks. I fulfilled his request, attended the auction, and paid 400 Kater (a large sum of money). Everything I bought remained in his house to be used.

\*\*\*\*\*

My daughter Taube's soul desired learning. After I moved to Stanislau, I brought her home from the house of S. Shatner from Kitov and let her study in the German Gymnasia and in the Hebrew School. I hope she succeeds in her studies to become educated and intelligent. My little sons are in elementary school and in Cheder.

\*\*\*\*\*

At the beginning of 1911, when Sternberg's business in Atania was dissolved, I officially left my job as the head of the sawmill in Atania. Bittiter continued to lease the sawmill and buy wood from the Rubenstein brothers. ... I sent Mordechai Shatner, the son of Shalom from Kutu, to this mill. He had worked under my supervision for several years in Atania. I also sent my son, Aaron, to accompany him. This business required a large investment and I approached the Widow Sternberg, who agreed to invest, on condition that her young son, Zunni, would be a fifty-fifty partner. Of course, I agreed and the business began to develop. I and my partner came every week to inspect the work. I sold most of the wood to Galicia and part to Bukovina. By the end of the year, we sold everything and succeeded in making a nice profit that was split between me and the son of Sternberg. Since the son was not on the level of his father the partnership was dissolved. Basically the firm Gotlieb and Weiner did not agree to sell us future products of the mill. At the time, Sternberg bought a forest of pine trees in province of Chernovitz and chose M. Shatner as his clerk in the forest.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the cup of joy over my daughter's marriage some drops of concern. I became dangerously sick. While I was traveling on my way from Sambar, I could not urinate. When I reached home, I hurried to see the doctor. He removed urine by a catheter. The next morning, I went to see a specialist who suggested I enter the hospital for surgery. I went to Lvov to a known specialist, Dr. Mahrer. He confirmed what the other doctors had found. My prostate had become enlarged and interfered with my urinating. It was necessary to operate and remove the prostate. He advised me to enter the hospital and he would operate. Since this was dangerous surgery, Shalom Shatner from Kutny, advised me not use a Galicianer doctor but to come to Vienna. He contacted Mordechai Shatner, a doctor in a hospital in Vienna, to find the best surgeon for this operation. With the agreement of my family, it was decided to travel to Vienna, even though it was a difficult for me...

Before the trip, I wrote a will. I had about \$1,200, trees and debts. .... I agreed to the surgery after my relative Abraham Shatner urged me to agree without delay... After the surgery and the stitches which took 45 minutes, I fainted. I lost my memory, I didn't feel and I didn't remember. After six hours I was put into room number four. Dr. Schwartwald brought in some of my family who I did not recognize and then the terrible pain began. For twenty days I laid in my bed without moving to the left or right. These were orders from the doctor so that the wound would heal. I was taken care of by the doctors and nurses for a month after the operation. At that time the catheter was removed. I recall the family and friends that came to visit me in the hospital. There was Abraham Shatner, my cousin Joseph from Kutny, his wife and children who came every day and brought me food and drink.

On alternate days Itzhak and Frima Greenberg brought me food that I had ordered. Mordechai and his wife, Taube and her husband, my brother-in-law Itzhak Freilich, Mordechai Yishiyahu, Malke Shatner, Jacob and Bayle Meltzer were the relatives that visited.

\*\*\*\*\*

It was several days after the holidays that I expected to receive news from my son Aaron, concerning the sale of the wood I had left and the collecting of the debts which were owed me that now came to \$1500. I received a disastrous letter from Aaron. The wood and planks which were worth about \$1,000 were sold to Hirsch Shatner. He went bankrupt and didn't pay anything. Two freight cars of wood were sold in Danzig at a big loss. The wood in Kotchdewar rotted. The accumulated taxes had to be paid in cash and this took all the money I had given him. There wasn't a penny left.

\*\*\*\*\*

On אײר טב I received the sad news of the death of my beloved cousin and friend Jacob Shatner, a son of my uncle Joseph from Kutny. He was a teacher and principal of the Hebrew School "Chosen Language" ברורה ספה in Stanislau. He was an educated and honest man who taught גפּת (Gemorrah, Law and Torah). He educated his oldest son Berl Locker, his two brothers and his only daughter Pebbi in Gymnasia (high school), and university and so they found their way in life making a good living. (Note\* Berl Locker was a leader of the Poali Zion, Mapai Party and was head of the Jewish Agency. DK) It's good to remember that I visited the deceased teacher in the Hebrew School. He made an honorable living there from 1878 until 1884.

R' Jacob Shatner was born in 1867 in Kutny. His parents were R' Joseph and his mother Kreindal. After he married the daughter of R' Mordechai Hirsh Lecher זל from the town close by

of Slatavina, where he settled and started a grain business which did not succeed. After closing the business, he got a job working for R'Shalom Meltzer לך in Lvov selling Carmel wine from Eretz Israel. After some time he returned to his city Kutu, opened a Hebrew School where he was the principal for several years. My daughter Taube studied there for two years.

In 1918, I returned from Vienna to my home in Stanislau. Most of the inhabitants of the town did not return. My first step was to establish the Hebrew School which was destroyed. I rented from R'Abba Milstein from Kalush five rooms on the third floor from his house in Stanislau. After I made the contract for the apartment from Milstein, I hired Jacob Shatner לך to be the principal.

The school moved to the community center with seven big rooms, seven teachers and several hundred children. In the big building, besides rooms for the school, there was a big hall, an apartment and a large garden. This building was previously the office of the administrator of the area. It was bought by the Zionist group headed by Dr. Jacob Laufer. A management committee of which I was a member was established after this purchase. I also donated 200 Keter. In addition to the Hebrew School "Chosen Language", there was another Hebrew group of several hundred studying higher education. R'Jacob Shatner was a teacher in the school until his last days. תנצבה.

\*\*\*\*\*

I was invited for Shabbat to the house of Mordechai Shatner in Chernovitz on Rikenstrasse and arrived there in the afternoon. He and his wife received me warmly. Shatner was an expert on wood and the accounting skills that belonged to that business. As a young man he was somewhat wild and lazy in his father's house in Kutu. I made a business exchange with his father Shalom לך. Shalom took my daughter Taube into his house to educate her in Hebrew by his brother Jacob, who was a teacher. I took his son Mordechai to my house in Atania to teach him the wood and sawmill business where I was the manager. My daughter came home but Mordechai stayed and ate at my table for several years. When he left my house, I recommended that he be a clerk in the pine forest with my friend, young Sternberg. He succeeded, married and established a wood and warehouse business in Chernovitz which grew and made him rich. On Shabbat and the following day, I found rest and good food. There was a party with friends and a glass of wine.

\*\*\*\*\*

My only daughter Taube was born on תרנ"ה טבת ט (9<sup>th</sup> Tevet 1895). At the time I lived in Lukovitz, Bukovina. She was educated according to my wishes by her modest mother, religious and secular. When she was six/seven, I sent her to Jacob Shatner in Kutu to attend the elementary school and to learn Hebrew studies from him. Shatner's sister was a piano teacher and Taube studied several hours a week.

\*\*\*\*\*

I came to the town of Kutu from Zablotov for the first time when I was 13/14 years old. Tova, the wife of R'Tzvi Arie Luner from Tritze was a relative. She brought fish from the Prut to sell every Thursday in the market in Zablotov, which was full of fishermen and not enough customers. She asked me to take fish to Kutu to sell. Fish there was expensive and there was a chance to make a good profit. That night I was on my way with a horse and wagon and at dawn I reached Kutu, the yard of my uncle R'Joseph Shatner, a place to rest. My uncle and Aunt

Krendle and their children received me with love. I sold the fish and made a good profit. This was the first time in my life that I sold merchandise and made a profit. I knew my uncle and aunt from way back; they had six sons and one daughter. We had a family connection of love. This trip woke in me the desire for more profit, especially in the spring when the fish multiplied. From time to time, the woman Tova זר tried to bring me a large amounts of fish. Her husband worked for the man who was in charge of the fishing from the Prut. He agreed that she should get some of the fish in order to make a living.

From that time on I was close to my Uncle Joseph Shatner and the family. Three sons were close to my age, the oldest Shalom was three years my senior, the second Abraham was a year older, and the third Jacob was younger than me by a year.

Several times I remained there for Shabbat and was received very warmly and other times I stayed several days. I joined in the studies with the outstanding teacher R'Michla Horner. He taught us Talmud, Tanach and grammar. The credit for some of what I learned has to go to my uncle and his sons who influenced me.

I was very close to my uncle and his family and received their warm love. I came on a visit for days at a time. In the year 1886/7 I found my Uncle Joseph suffering from severe pains in his stomach. The doctors suggested that he go to Vienna to specialists. There was a need for someone to accompany him and to stay with him if he had to remain. They asked my parents for me to accompany him, even though his sons were about the same age. They chose me. My parents fulfilled their request. After being examined by the specialist, the known professor Zucherkandel, and the head of the Rothchild Hospital and they found stones in his stomach. (Kidney stones) The surgery had to be performed immediately. He remained in the hospital for about six weeks. I visited him every day. After he left the hospital, he remained in Vienna for business and I returned home by myself.

He had a store with cloth of knitted, wool, silk, etc for men and women's clothing which he sold wholesale and retail. He would come every year to Vienna and was in business contact with the factories that sent him merchandise with extended credit.

After some years, his son Shalom got sick and needed to see a specialist in Lvov. They asked me to accompany him and I did so. He was taken to Lasrav Hospital and stayed for six weeks. I was in a hotel at their expense and did not ask for any payment.

My uncle and aunt were interested in finding me an appropriate wife. They had their eye on the daughter of a friend R'Jacob MenachIm Gaster and the Shiduch was agreed upon and made. The Gaster family was important in the town of Kutu. R'I.M.Gaster went to live in Vishnitz in the house of his father-in-law. He had a clothing store that sold to non-Jews that his wife operated and he would help her from time to time. Most of the day and night, he was busy with Torah and studies. After I got married and lived and ate at his table several months, I visited my Uncle Shatner two to three times a week. We enjoyed warm and lively conversations and talks together with his sons about Torah and Haskalah. We became close like a father to his sons.

\*\*\*\*\*

Another important family in the town of Kutu was the Shatners. R'Mordechai Shatner was the head of this family. Not long ago I met one of his grandchildren. He said he was R'Mordechai's grandson and that the grandmother of his father was the daughter of R'David Stein. R'Mordechai knew Torah and a little of the language of the country, Polish and German. He educated his five sons and three daughters in Torah and Haskalah. He was rich and lived in a large house that had a surrounding wall.

His business was recognized by the government. He sold hard liquor to the area of Kosov, Kutu and the Carpathian Mountain area. The sons and son-in-laws managed the various branches of the business. It was told that one year 1848/49 there was a dispute with a government minister of Kosov on the question of the province. R'Mordechai asked to see the Emperor Franz Joseph the first. He was received in the palace in Vienna and his side of the dispute was accepted.

All the sons of R'Mordechai Shatner were educated in Torah and Haskalah according to the spirit of the times. His son Joseph was far superior to his brothers. R'Joseph was the husband of a wise woman Krendel זל sister of my mother Devorah זל. R'Joseph was a good looking man, innocent, charming and gentle. He was an outstanding scholar of Tanach, Grammar and the books of commentary. He had a wonderful memory and it was said of him "a single word of a verse from the Torah was enough for him to recite the full verse without an error". He had a sharp mind and knew how to answer everything, sometimes even with a bit of humor. He wrote and read in correct and grammatical German. His Hebrew was on the same level and he wrote poetry. He read the newspaper "Neue Wiener Frei Presse" (New Vienna Free Press) every day for many years. There was once a problem dealing with the game "chess", in the daily newspaper. He was an expert in this game, found the solution and sent it to the newspaper. After some time, he received a letter from a General of the Army, thanking him for the solution. He was also knowledgeable in music. Once I accompanied him on a trip to Vienna. While walking, he heard someone playing piano. He didn't move from the spot until the piece was finished and he praised the playing. He educated his only daughter in Haskalah, religious subjects and piano. He bought an expensive piano for her. In the difficult days of WWI, when money was tight, his daughter Devorah Tova and her husband Zev Mahar made a living by her teaching piano.

J. Shatner's brilliance was recognized in conversations with Jews and non-Jews. With a quiet smile, he would answer questions. Once he was asked why he was not involved in "Chasidut". There were famous Admorim from Kosov, from Vishnitz who were close to where he lived. He answered that being an Admor was like a magnet, pulling the Chasid to him, and since he lived in Kutu, which was between the two Admorim, each one pulled to his side and so he remained in the middle.

The Admor of Husiatin came once to the funeral of his uncle Rabbi Zechariah Stein זל.

J. Shatner had a big house with a yard, where a room was built for his sons to study and a teacher came to teach. All his six sons learned Torah and writing Hebrew. All were educated in Torah and Haskalah and each reached his full capability. The oldest son was outstanding in prayers and music as were his brothers. His business was a store of knitted material, flax, wool, silk, etc, wholesale and retail. Joseph had business connections with a factory in Vienna and he would travel there every year on business. The owners of the factory treated him with great respect. They gave him merchandise with unlimited credit and until his dying day, he paid off every penny he owed.

In WWI his house and store were destroyed and his merchandise stolen. His debts were canceled. When the Russians came close to Galicia, he took his family (Aunt Krendel was already dead), his walking stick and became a refugee in Nickolasberg.

R'Joseph Shatner died in Nickolasberg in 1918 ה'תנ"ח. His son R'Shalom died in 1930 in Kutu and his son Jacob זל died in Stanislaw in 1928 where he had been the principal of the school "Clear Language" ספ"ה ברורה. R'Joseph Shatner had nine grandchildren and their families live in Israel. Among them Berl Locker, the head of the Jewish Agency, Dr. Itzchak Shatner, a teacher, Dr. Chaim, a medical doctor and others.

\*\*\*\*\*

During WWI, I spent several months in various towns in Hungary while I was in the service of the Austrian army.... An interesting event happened in 1916 in AParis when I was in the army under the command of the Ober-Lieutenant. One Friday in February I was ordered to bring two packages of army uniforms to the Polish town of Kielce. I heard afterwards that the order was given by a Jew. The attitude toward the Jewish soldier and especially to the older one was humane. The packages were sent to the train station where the train left at 2:00 in the afternoon. It was cold and snowing when the train arrived at sunset to the station that connects Krakow-Vienna, Kashow-AParis, Berlin and I don't remember the other stations name.

On the way, I checked the travel documents and found there was no set time of travel for me to deliver the package in Kielce. I suddenly realized that it was Shabbat and said to myself "Why should I be on a train tomorrow and desecrate Shabbat? Better to remain where I am, travel after Shabbat and hand over the packages on Sunday."

I left the train, checked the two packages in the storeroom and promised to pay the clerk for guarding the packages. I went to look for a place to spend Shabbat and sleep. After a few steps; I hear voices praying in a Beit Kneset. I entered and saw the place was not full, about two minyamin. Jews were dressed in Shabbat clothes, silk capotes and shtreimlach. I was dressed in army clothing, a long coat, big shoes, a belt and sword on the left side and a backpack filled with various items as well as bread, butter, cheese and other foods.

After the Shabbat prayers, I asked where there was a hotel, when someone who heard my question, came up to me. He was an important person, dressed in Shabbat clothing with sable on his kapote. He greeted me with Shalom, blessings for Shabbat and invited me to come with him and his two sons. I asked him if there was a place to eat and sleep in his house and he said that there was. In a few minutes the four of us entered a big house and a door opened to a large bright room heated by a stove. A beautifully dressed woman with her head covered, and two daughters entered from a second room. The father and the sons blessed them with warm affection and Shabbat Shalom. The table was set with covered chalot and bottles of wine and glasses. The women welcomed me with Shabbat blessings. They seated me at the set table. I asked where I could place my long coat, my sword and pack. I took out the bread and butter from the pack and put it on the table close to the chair. I always had food when I traveled in the army. The head of the house said he would not argue about food. We enjoy all the food on the table.

The head of the house filled the beautiful golden cup and blessed the wine and the holy Shabbat. He poured the wine into another cup and passed it to his wife and daughters, filled the first cup and put it by me and said, "Here is the first cup and you will not refuse." With great pleasure I fulfilled his request.

You can compromise over something small but not over something big. One can not disobey the words of Chazal (חז"ל). "Disillusion shortens man's life" Someone gives you a glass and you must bless.

How pleasurable it is to have good wine that gives an extraordinary smell and taste. Afterwards his two sons gave the blessing and the head of the house called on us to wash our hands and we returned to our places. Here was a surprise, *לבנים ומצא שחורים הניה* " (you put down something little value and you find it replaced with something valueable). In stead of the bread and butter I put on the table, I found two white chalot, "beautiful to see and good to eat". I had no choice, I moved the bread closer and I ate with appetite. "I continue to eat what is mine because I am a partial vegetarian and I have not eaten meat for years." The head of the house

said, “There are no arguments at the table. It is not correct that milk products be on the table where meat is eaten. One does not refuse. You are my guest and you have to fulfill what חזל' says. What the head of the house determines you shall do. That is to say that when the head of the house will eat and drink his fill, the guest is invited to participate with him, etc and to say Amen. Since you are my guest you are obliged to do as I say and enjoy the feast and all that I eat outside of meat”.

They brought the first course which was a large plate of fish and for me a choice dish. I followed the orders of the head of the house and ate with appetite. The head of the house began to chant “מקדש כל” following the melody of the Admorim of Kosov-Vishnitz. His sons joined him singing with pleasant voices until “עולמים תשיעוהו”. I requested to speak and said: no doubt you remember what חזל' said, when the נשיא (President) R'Gamliel visited R'Yehoshua Ben Chananiah in his house. He stood in the doorway and said I know you. From the songs you sing and the way you sing them, I know that you or your honored father זל were the followers of the Admorim Kosov-Vishnitz and were inhabitants of that area. I then asked him his full name. He answered that neither he nor his father were followers of these Admorim and they do not come from that area. It is possible that his grandfather was an inhabitant of one of the towns and his name was Moshe Shatner.

He asked me my name and my family name and where I lived. I answered with great respect. When I heard that his name was Shatner I gave an expression of joy and said, we are members of the same family and R'Joseph Shatner from Kutu, the famous brilliant and open hearted man is my uncle. I am absolutely sure that the roots of Your Honor's family Shatner is in Kutu. He listened and was interested in all the details of this family but we were in the middle of the holy Shabbat meal and songs. We would return to this matter after the meal. The festive meal continued with soup and meat which did not touch my lips and export Pilsner beer, which I enjoyed very much. After we finished all the songs, the honorable R'Moshe gave me a glass of wine to bless the meal.

R'Moshe said that now we could continue the everyday conversation. He put out green beans, sunflower seeds, nuts and full bottles of beer. Now tell me of your Uncle Joseph's family from the town of Kutu, the name of his father, mother and all you know about them. My uncle was a bright and well known man who ran a business of woven material. His wife Krendel was the sister of my mother Devorah זל. His father was R'Mordechai and his mother Devorah זל.

She was the daughter of an educated man, R'David Stein. David's brothers were R'Moshe, Leib, Berl and Meshulum. They were all famous people. R'Moshe Shatner lived in the village of Mikolitchin. He came there at the time of the building of the railroad in the direction of Stanislau-Karashmachi-Hungary. His daughter leased the right to sell hard liquor, wholesale and retail, in the entire province. She received it from the Austrian Government, which is now the Polish governor's representative.

When R'Moshe heard the above names and the things they did, he said that he was certain that his grandfather whose name was Mordechai זל was born in the province of Kutu. The names that I heard of Mordechai and Devorah are proof. Grandfather R'Mordechai was there in the time of the building of the railroad from Vienna to Yassi and also had a lease to sell the remains of hard liquor. He also rented a large agricultural plot. My father R'David was partner in the business in R'Mordechai's life and after he died. I am very happy with this information and thank you from the bottom of my heart. Now let us drink L'Chaim, eat dessert and you can go to your warm room for you must be tired. We parted as brothers.

In the warm room, I found a bed with sheets and a warm blanket. I slept eight hours plus four and really felt rested. It was not yet dawn and from the adjoining room I heard voices of R'Moshe and his two sons reading with the intonations used by us, the followers of the Admorim of Kosov. After I washed and dressed, I went to those studying a lesson in Gemorra. A Chumash was given to me, to read from where they were reading. There was a pot of coffee with milk and cookies for a light meal. At 8:00 AM we were all in the Beit Knesset. I had my own sidur and talith. R'Moshe invited me to sit next to him at the eastern wall. The worshipers came to greet me. Yesterday at the evening prayers, I was ignored. As a Cohen, I went to the bema as was my right and I was treated with respect. The reading and the prayers were with the intonations of the Admorim of Western Galicia and even more like the Admor Rabbi Naftali of Rapshitz זצ"ל .

The second meal of Shabbat was like yesterday with all kinds of food, in addition to kigels which they called "noodle pot". This was noodles with goose fat as well as a sweet kigel that had honey, which was very tasty. The meal lasted almost two hours and we still had time for Rashi.

I awoke from my afternoon nap and found R'Moshe and his two sons in the large room with the holy books, one with Gemorra and another with the Portion of the Week, studying different meanings. There were afternoon prayers in the Beit Knesset followed by the third meal with songs. After the evening prayers and Havdola in R'Moshe's house, I asked him what I owed him for staying, since I had to leave shortly for Kielce. With an aggravated voice, he questioned what I meant about "paying". In my house there is no paying for visiting. I took you in as a Mitzva of אורחים הכנסות (honoring travelers), especially a man like you with the kind of family you have and you are a Cohen. I am very happy that you came to me.

Right now you are under my roof and I will not allow you to go on your way at this hour. As חז"ל says: "השמש זריחה בשעת לדרך יוצא האדם" (man goes on his way with the rising sun.) We will eat together with the whole family and tomorrow with God's help; we will accompany you to the train which leaves at 10:00 o'clock.

The invitation of R'Moshe Shatner to stay in his house until the following morning and join the family and visitors in the feast of מלכה מלוה (the fourth meal of the Sabbath) came from his pure heart. The thought of spending the night in a strange town and trying to find a place to sleep was not too pleasant. I accepted his generous offer.

He asked my pardon that he had to spend an hour on business. He had a general store with wines in his house. There were already a large number of customers waiting for him to open the doors.

In the meantime I entered his house where his family and friends had gathered. At about 9:00 he closed the store, greeted his visitors with blessings and seated each one around the table which was set with all kinds of food and drink. After washing hands and saying the blessings, the first known course of the fourth meal of the Sabbath was served, which was borsht and potatoes. It was followed by meat, wine and then dessert. There was singing and R'Moshe spoke on the portion of the week, which everyone enjoyed.

R'Moshe called upon me "I know you are a Cohen and the fragrance of the Torah emanates from you. Please bless us with the words of this important blessing." I answered: "I am not of those Cohanim that was said of them, knowledge and Torah flow easily from their lips. Whatever the head of the house requests, I will do." Do not separate man from his friends except in differences in Halacha. There were several words that belong to that important blessing of the Cohanim. This includes all that is good and success for eternity. I explained the meanings of the blessings from the ancient Torah and the פה שבעל תורה, especially on השלום with three

explanations. a) external peace, b) internal peace, c) peace according to R'Yitzchak HaAramai author of the book יצחק-עקידת that explains this important blessing. After a short talk of about 20-25 minutes, all those around the table applauded and shook my hand warmly. R'Moshe was pleased with my words. I was requested to give the blessing on the food with a glass of wine. The meal finished at about midnight. All the guests shook hands and blessed me that I reach home safely, be rid of strangers and army clothes. In my year in the wilderness, that Saturday night, the portion of the week was תרומה in the year תרעו (1916) in the house of R'Moshe Shatner in Tsavina.

Early the next morning, after the morning prayers and the light meal, I parted from the whole family with great warmth. They asked me to come again when I return from Kielce. I promised to do so. Two of the sons accompanied me to the station and helped me with the packages.

I arrived at Kielce at noon and went straight from the train station to the army office outside the town and handed over the packages and received a receipt...After a few hours, I left Kielce and was once again in the house of R'Moshe Shatner. After some time, we parted from one another with kisses and blessings and with hope to see one another again. This never happened. I was accompanied to the train which left about midnight and I arrived in AParis about three. It was very cold and there was snow. I did not want to go to my room because I would disturb others who were sleeping and went to a house where candles were lit. It was a bar where there were others like me. A Jew stood near a table that held all kinds of food and drink. I asked for hot tea and a sweet piece of cake which I got. Before I finished, he brought me a cup of coffee and hot milk. He asked me about myself and I told him. He told me there was a room with a bed where I could sleep until dawn. I gratefully accepted.

I awoke from a deep sleep at about seven and asked the owner of the bar, what I owed him. He replied, "Nothing, I took upon myself the Mitzvah of אורחים-הכנסות (receiving visitors) such as you." I get up at midnight to warm up the bar, prepare something warm for the soldier who is on guard duty at night. In this way I do my duty for the war. It did not help that I wanted to pay. You are the righteous ones and may God keep you Amen

\*\*\*\*\*

I stayed in the house of A. Meltzer but did not enjoy the cooked food, just bread, butter and sour cream from Tnuva. About 7:30 in the evening, Dr. Chaim Shatner came in his car to Meltzer's apartment to take us to his apartment on 7 Rechov Joseph.

In his apartment there were invited guests: Mordechai and Shmuel Shatner and someone who knew the son of M.D. Tau from Stanislau who lives in Haifa. They all came with their wives. We sat for more than two hours talking about family and friends, over tea and sweets.

\*\*\*\*\*