

A Brief History of the “Rolnick” Family of Bangor as told by Charlotte Rolnick Schwab

My father, Jacob Rolnick (nee Melamud) came to Bangor with his brother, Osher Rolnick circa 1910. Jacob came from a shtetl called Mistatich, near Minsk. I have been told by various relatives that my father was born in 1888. His brother Osher was older. They escaped from lifetime conscription in the Czar's Army by buying papers from two brothers named Rolnick. They retained the Rolnick name in the U. S., even though other brothers went to Israel and Canada and adopted the name of Miller.

The photo shows my father in his Czar's army uniform. I believe my cousin, Bella Rolnick Cowan, who lives in Saco, ME has one of her father, my Uncle Osher Rolnick, in his Czar's army uniform. Maybe someone can get it from her for DMJ. She does not have a computer to my knowledge. Maybe my cousins, Michael Rolnick, who lives in Bangor, or Jerry Rolnick, who lives in Lenox, MA can get it. I believe that they have computers. Osher Rolnick was their grandfather, and Jacob Rolnick was their great uncle.

In 1911, my uncle, Moishe Kobritz, who had come to Bangor first, brought my mother, Miriam Kobritz, there. She was 15 years of age. My Uncle Moishe introduced my father to my mother. They were married three years later. The photo is their wedding photo. My mother came from Kozlinich, a shtetl outside of Kiev, in the Ukraine.

They had 6 daughters: Mildred, Lillian, Ida Sonia (who changed her name to Ronnie), Evelyn, Charlotte, and Anita. I, Charlotte, am named for my mother's mother, Shandele. My sister, Evelyn, is named for my father's mother. The third photo is of Yocheved Gottlieb, my father's mother. She never made it to Bangor. The photo was taken in her shtetl home in Mistatich. I framed all three photos many years ago, and they hang on the wall of my home.

Jacob, Miriam, Mildred, and Lillian died and are buried in Beth Abraham cemetery, in Bangor, in a family plot. Charlotte is the only other one of the six sisters to have a plot there.

The descendants of Jacob and Miriam Rolnick are as follows: Lillian (Kobritz- she married a third cousin) had one son, Bruce. Ronnie (Arbetter) had three children, William, Joni, and Susie. William and Joni are deceased. Evelyn (Hoffman) has four children. Charlotte (Schwab) has two children, Rachel and Danny. Anita (Meyer) has three children. Charlotte has one grandson, Benjamin Aaron (Yaacov in Hebrew, named for his great grandfather, Jacob). He is 9 years of age. (July 2012)