

The Cieplinski Family of Klodawa



Members of Cieplinski Family, Klodawa

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Dedication Page

The **Martyrs of Klodawa** including the following incomplete list of the Cieplinski family:

Avraham Francuz
Doba (nee Bri) Francuz
Manasza Francuz
Herszel Henryk Francuz
David Francuz
Brucha (nee Kamotek) Francuz
Chanka Francuz
Meyer-Zalek Francuz
Manyek Francuz
Sender Przedecki
Avrum Ruven Przedecki
Genia (nee Zheshevski) Przedecki
Rivka Przedecki
Mendel Przedecki
Rachel Przedecki
David Przedecki
Eliasz Cieplinski
Rivka Cieplinski
Blima Cieplinski
Pinkus Lajzer Glasman
Ester Laja Glasman
Josef Alter Glasman
Jakob Glasman
Ela (nee Sochaczewska) Glasman
Majer Glasman
Mariem Fradel Glasman
Fizel Kalme Glasman
Melekh Glasman
Avraham Eliyahu Cieplinski
Hanna (nee Flauster) Cieplinski
Chaya Cieplinski Kibel
Moshe Mendel Kibel
Son Kibel b. Abt 1930
Son Kibel b. Abt 1933
Feige (nee Cieplinski) Krel
Leizer Krel
Nutke Nathan Krel
Perl Cieplinski
Unknown husband of Perl Cieplinski

Also to the memory of my beloved wife **Susan Frankel** of the House of Cieplinski

Introduction

1

Cieplinski Name

The Cieplinski name is a Polish and not a Jewish name. It is possible that the Cieplinski family took their surname from the village of Czaplin located some 32 km south of Warsaw. Another, perhaps more likely possibility is that the family originally came from the small town of Czaplinek, Pomerania in North-West Poland. Czaplinek was part of Poland until 1668, then part of Brandenburg, then Germany, and since 1945 again a part of Poland. It also had a small Jewish community at the beginning of the 19th Century. By the beginning of the nineteenth century the patriarch Szmul Cieplinski and his wife Rivka from the Kutnowski family were living in **Klodawa** where they brought up two known sons, Icek and Menasze.

Klodawa

Klodawa is a town in central Poland with 6,874 inhabitants (2004). Klodawa lies on the Rgielewka, a tributary of the Warta River. It is 50 kilometers from Konin, 65 km from Lodz, 110 km from Torun, and 150 km from both Warsaw and Poznan.

It was once home to a vibrant Jewish community wiped out during the German Occupation.

Klodawa was settled in the 11th century by craftsmen building the Church of St. Giles. It gained municipal rights in 1430. The town was badly damaged in the 1650s by the invading Swedes. Despite outside assistance, reconstruction took a very long time. Klodawa was ruled by Prussia after the second partition of Poland in 1793. From 1806 until 1815, the town was part of the Duchy of Warsaw and Congress Poland afterwards. In 1867, Klodawa lost its municipal charter. After World War I it was returned to Poland and in 1925 regained its charter.

A Jewish community existed in 1487 when a Jewish Poll Tax was levied. The community numbered 221 (22% of the population) in 1808. The community grew to 874 in 1897 to about 1350 in 1939.

During the occupation by Germany during World War II, the town was renamed Tonningen (1940-1945). In 1941-2, more than 1500 Klodawan Jews were killed by the Nazis in the Chelmino extermination Camp. Klodawa was liberated on January 19, 1945 by the Red Army. Much of the town was destroyed in World War II.

Stay or Migrate?

The Cieplinskis in Klodawa were in fact one enormous family. It seems that for nearly all of the nineteenth century, they didn't leave Klodawa, not even to go to the bigger cities such as Lodz or Warsaw. We know little of the family of Icek Cieplinski and his wife Ruchel from the Kutnowski family of Klodawa and only know of one daughter Rajzel. The family of Menasze Cieplinski and his wife Rojza was huge with eleven recorded children. However at the end of the century and the first decade of the twentieth century there was a major upheaval for Polish Jews. The choice was: either stay in Poland or emigrate. The family of Rajzel (nee Cieplinski) and Chaim Wolf Francuz chose to stay. So did the family of Blima (nee Cieplinski) and Pinkus Lajser Glasman. Five brothers found refuge in the **East End of London**. It seems that Icek and Hirsh had been the first, arriving about 1893, followed by Samuel, Ziskind and Israel. They anglicized their name to Chaplin and Shmuel became Samuel, Hirsh became Harris, and Icek (Itzhak) became Isaac. A sixth sibling Chaya Brayna (nee Cieplinski) with her husband Michul Przeddecki who changed their name to Pizer, apparently also reached London but then proceeded to **Walden**, Massachusetts, USA. A further brother Avraham Eliyahu Cieplinski also arrived in London, but unfortunately decided to return to Klodawa, perhaps to look after his parents. Family legend has it that he had intended to return to London, but the anti-immigration legislation in Britain, and

Introduction

the First World War prevented this. Here follows a description of the new havens of the Cieplinski and Chaplin families, taken from Wikipedia and other sources.

East End of London

The **East End of London**, also known simply as the **East End**, is an area of London, England, east of the Roman and medieval walled City of London and north of the River Thames. The district includes Whitechapel and Stepney. The River Lea is usually considered to be the eastern boundary of the East End.

Use of the term East End in a pejorative sense began in the late 19th century as the expansion of the population of London led to extreme overcrowding throughout the area and a concentration of poor people and immigrants. The problems were exacerbated with the construction of St Katherine Docks and the central London railway termini (1840-1875) that caused the clearance of former slums, with many of the displaced people moving into the East End. Over the course of a century, the East End became synonymous with poverty, overcrowding, disease and criminality.

The East End developed rapidly during the 19th century. The area attracted large numbers of rural people looking for employment. Successive waves of foreign immigration began with Huguenot refugees in the 17th century, Irish weavers and Ashkenazi Jews. Many of these immigrants worked in the clothing industry. The abundance of semi- and unskilled labour led to low wages and poor conditions throughout the East End. This led to the formation of unions and workers associations at the end of the century. The radicalism of the East End contributed to the formation of the Labour Party and campaigns for women's votes in the area. In 1912, there was a mass London garment workers' strike for better conditions and an end to 'sweating'. Russians present or visiting the East End at this time included the revolutionaries Kropotkin, Trotsky, Lenin, Stalin, Gorky and Rosa Luxembourg. In a twenty-year period ending in 1905 the Jewish population of London rose from 47,000 to 150,000 mainly in the East End (Cecil Roth). Over 150 synagogues were built. Jewish immigration to the East End peaked in the 1890s, leading to anti-foreigner agitation. Jewish immigration only slowed with the passing of the Aliens Act of 1905.

Today there are only three active synagogues remaining in the old East End.

Official attempts to address the overcrowded housing began at the beginning of the 20th century. The Second World War devastated much of the East End, with its docks, railways and industry forming a continual target for bombing leading to dispersal of the population to new suburbs and new housing being built in the 1950s.

Malden, Massachusetts, USA

Malden is a city in Massachusetts, United States, with a population of just under 60000. It is situated ten kilometers north of Boston. In 1629, a section of hilly woodlands north of the Mystic River was purchased from the Pawtucket Indians, and by 1649 the residents had formed a town called Malden. By 1882, Malden became a city with a population of over 12,000.

Although modest in size, Malden became home to one of the largest concentrations of Jews north of Boston. In particular, the Suffolk Square section of Ward 7 became the focal point of the Malden Jewish community. By 1921, Malden's Jewish population was almost 9,000 and reached almost 15,000 through the 1940s. At its height, the Jewish community represented almost a quarter of the entire population of Malden.

As more immigrants began calling Malden home, it became a microcosm of the Jewish immigrant experience at that time. Their lives revolved around their Jewish identity - specialty food stores, kosher butchers, bakeries and variety stores were all Jewish owned and operated in Ward 7. On Thursday afternoons the stores were busy, with people

preparing for Shabbat, and on Fridays, Jewish shops closed early.

There were six synagogues in Ward 7 during its Jewish heyday. During the High Holidays, the streets were filled with Jews, observant and non-observant alike. In addition to synagogues, other Jewish institutions arose in the early part of the century, such as a Hebrew school. The influx of Jews into Ward 7 during the early 20th century contributed to a significant demographic shift in the neighborhood. In 1900, Ward 7 had been predominantly Protestant, lower middle class with about 10% Irish and approximately 3% Jewish. By 1912, over 50% of Ward 7's residents were Jewish and by 1928, almost 75% of the Ward was Jewish. Jewish immigrants of all ages settled in Malden. As the Jewish population grew, local landmarks became Jewish as well. The Faulkner Methodist Church was bought by the Jewish community and became Congregation Beth Israel-Malden's first permanent synagogue. While this concentration created a strong Jewish community, it also added to the separation that existed between Jews and other ethnic groups in Malden.

Like most of the other Mystic River communities, the Jewish population hit its peak in the early to mid-20th century and quickly began to disperse to the suburbs which became beacons for upwardly mobile Jews and other ethnic and racial groups. After a cycle of diminishment, today's Malden Jewish community is now beginning to enjoy a period of re-growth.

They Stayed in Klodawa

It is not known exactly how many Jews were living in Klodawa and its immediate surroundings when the Germans entered the town in September 1939. However it is estimated that more than 1500 were to meet their deaths within eighteen months. Moshe Cieplinski left a few days previous to the German invasion and managed to reach his wife and her family in Mexico while this was still possible. Shmuel Cieplinski was the only family member who managed to escape and survive as he reached the Russian border and joined the Red Army. Leizer Krel reached Baranowicze in Belarus but it is not clear whether this was voluntary or if the Germans forced him to go there. He was killed in Baranawicze in 1941. Everyone else was exterminated, many in the nearby Chelmno Death Camp.

This is the list of known family members who perished, grouped by families:

Avraham Francuz b. 1886, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Doba (nee Bri) Francuz b. 27 Jun 1890 d. 1942, Chelmno

Manasza Francuz b. 11 Aug 1915, Klodawa d. 1942, Poland

Herszel Henryk Francuz b. 4 Jun 1925, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

David Francuz b. 1891, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Brucha (nee Kamotek) Francuz b. 1888 d. abt 1942, Poland

Chanka Francuz b. Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Meyer-Zalek Francuz b. Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Manyek Francuz b. Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Sender Przedecki b. abt 1882 Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Avrum Ruven Przedecki b. 1908, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Genia (nee Zheshevski) Przedecki b. 1912, Klodawa d. abt 1942, Poland

Rivka Przedecki b. abt 1932, Klodawa d. abt 1942, Poland

Mendel Przedecki, b. abt 1934, Klodawa d. abt 1942, Poland

Rachel Przedecki b. 1910, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

David Przedecki b. 1912, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno or 1945, Germany

Eliasz Cieplinski b. 1881, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Introduction

Rivka Cieplinski b. 1883, d. 1942, Chelmno

Blima Cieplinski b. 27 Jul 1863, Klodawa d. 15 Nov 1941, Klodawa

Pinkus Lajzer Glasman b. Abt 1859 d. 1942, Chelmno

Ester Laja Glasman b. 1886, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Josef Alter Glasman b. 1891, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Jakob Glasman b. 1898, Klodawa d. Abt 1942, Poland

Ela (nee Sochaczewska) Glasman b. about 1903, d. abt 1942, Poland

Majer Glasman b. 18 Nov 1931, Klodawa d. abt 1942, Poland

Mariem Fradel Glasman, b. 8 Jun 1936, Klodawa d. abt 1942, Poland

Fizel Kalme Glasman b. 1902, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Melekh Glasman b. 1904, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Avraham Eliyahu Cieplinski b. 1878, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Hanna (nee Flauster) Cieplinski b. 1881, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Chaya Cieplinski Kibel b. 1906, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Moshe Mendel Kibel b. 1905, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno,

Son Kibel b. Abt 1930, Klodawa d. 1942, Poland

Son Kibel b. Abt 1933, Klodawa d. 1942, Poland

Feige (nee Cieplinski) Krel b. 10 Apr 1910, Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Leizer Krel b. 1908, Klodawa d. 1941, Baranowicze, Belarus

Nutke Nathan Krel b. 1938 Klodawa d. 1942, Chelmno

Perl Cieplinski b. 1 Apr 1912, Klodawa d. Abt 1942, Poland

Unknown husband of Perl Cieplinski b. Abt 1910, d. Abt 1942, Poland

Sources

1. Sources for Klodawa

- Polish Jewish archives accessible via Ancestry and JewishGen on the Web, Coordinator Madelaine Okladek
- Yad Vashem site
- Judy Muratore and her Klodawa Jewish Community Memorial site
- Barbara Ganczyk, Klodawa researcher

2. UK sources

- UK censuses of 1901 and 1911 accessible via Ancestry
- Jewish Chronicle archives
- Data bases accessed by Ancestry

3. Family Sources

- Larry Pizer (Boston): History and Genealogy
- Bill Cieplinski (New York)
- Menashe Cieplinski (Halifax, Canada)
- Hanna and Arie Cieplinski (Israel) known as Hanna Angel and Arie Tzapir
- Richard (Chaplin) Sharon (Israel): Genealogy
- John (Chaplin) Sharon (Israel)
- Carla Crawford (London): Genealogy
- Ivor Chaplin (London) Genealogy Collection
- Martin Frankel (Israel): Research coordinator

The Research Process recounted by Martin Frankel

The Spark

About 2008 John Sharon met Rick Sharon in Israel, where they had both settled. John Sharon was born in London as John Chaplin. Rick Sharon was born in London as Richard Chaplin. Each had their own reasons for changing their surname but this is an extraordinary coincidence. They recounted to each other that their respective families were initially called Cieplinski and that they originally came from Poland or Russia. They decided that they had to be related but could not work out the connection. As I have a proven track record in genealogy, having researched my family - the Frankel family of Urspringen, Bavaria - John got in touch with me.

John is my brother-in-law. I was married to his sister, my beloved Susan (nee Chaplin), the mother of our five children, who died aged 43 in 1989. We had met in London, fallen in love, married and settled in Israel in 1968. As far as I knew, and John knew they came from a very small family and that his grandfather, Ziskind, who died before I entered the family had no other family. Susan loved her grandmother Ann Chaplin - a real Jewish grandmother who died a few months before we left for Israel.

I did know that there had been family who lived in Mexico and we had met, in the 1970's a cousin who lived in Israel (Shmuel Cieplinski). As I had little contact with my father-in-law or particular interest in his family (excepting his brother Martin Chaplin) the contact was not actively pursued, although I did meet Arie Cieplinski, Shmuel's son, occasionally at work.

John, Rick and I met up and we decided that this would be a good retirement project - I was still working at that time.

Start of Project - late 2014

I asked John and Rick to give me their family trees which they both presented in graphical form. I inserted the data from these diagrams into my genealogy program (at the time an old version of Family Tree Maker). Ziskind Chaplin occurred in Rick's diagram, which was very detailed, but the connection was not clear. None of Rick's information appeared in John's diagram or at any rate not in a clear way.

Because of my previous work I have been a contributor to the Jewish Genealogy site, Jewish Gen, and a subscriber to the general genealogy site Ancestry. I also took up a subscription to the London Jewish Chronicle to go over their archives of births marriages and deaths (hatch, match and dispatch). I found some of the names from Rick's family diagram in the UK Censuses of 1901 and 1911 and in the Jewish Chronicle. I also found Ziskind Chaplin. Some of the findings turned out to be red herrings!

One never knows. I entered the name Ziskind Cieplinski into the Ancestry search entry. A genealogy miracle occurred. The name came up as being born in 1878, in Klodawa, Poland and that his father was Menasze. John affirmed that the family came from Klodawa (although it was spelt differently). Now I had a place! It also seemed that Ziskind had a brother Avraham Eliyahu.

I looked up Cieplinski in Jewish Gen. There was a Menashe Cieplinski living in Halifax, in Canada. This had to be connected. I was in a very excited state and wrote to him but the winter of 2014-5 was very harsh and the letter would take two weeks to arrive (this was an express letter).

Breakthrough - January 2015

I then looked at all entries for Klodawa on the Internet and found Judy Muratore's Klodawa Jewish Memorial Site. This proved to be the Game Breaker. I understood that
- Judy herself had an ancestor called Rajzel Cieplinski

Introduction

6

- there were two brothers called William (Bill) and Menashe Cieplinski who were both born in Mexico.
- these Cieplinskis had had an uncle Shmuel in Israel
- there was a family member called Lawrence Pizer who was a descendant of Chaya-Brayna Cieplinski from Klodawa
- there were relations who had moved to London about 1900 and had changed their name to Chaplin.

It was beginning to fit together.

I looked at this site for two days before writing to Judy....

Within a few days the following happened:

1. Received a full family tree for Chaya-Brayna from Larry Pizer
 2. Established full contact with the ex-Mexican branch of the family
 3. Re-established contact with the children of Shmuel Cieplinski, Arie and Hanna.
- Very exciting stuff!

Red Herring in London - February 2015

Since the discovery that Ziskind Chaplin's father was Menasze, I began to look at the branches we had. Specifically for children born after 1918, the year Menasze died. As Ashkenazi Jews call their children after deceased parents, the clincher was what was the name of a boy born after this date: Chaya-Brayna's grandson in Massachusetts was Martin (Menashe), Samuel Chaplin had a grandson called Monty, Ziskind's son was Martin Menashe. At this stage I could now place Samuel, Ziskind, and Israel (who appeared in Rick's diagram) in London as being children of Menasze Cieplinski of Klodawa. There were two Israel Chaplins in London at the turn of the Century, the likely one and the very unlikely one. The likely one died in Edmonton and I assumed that he was buried in the old Federation Jewish Cemetery in London. As I visited my Mother in February, I went on a freezing morning to the Cemetery and visited all the Chaplin graves. I did indeed find the graves of Samuel (Samuel the son of Menashe) and his wife Sarah Chaplin and some others but Israel was not to be found to my great disappointment and surprise.

Judy, Martin, the Polish Jewish Records Indexing Program and Madeleine Okladek - March

I had found the father of Menasze Cieplinski via Ancestry and Jewish Gen. Jewish Gen is the Jewish Genealogy web site and the records we found are part of an enormous effort to index the Polish Jewish records for the period 1800 - 1910. These records are found in archives throughout Poland and some (copies) are also found in the Mormon Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. We are talking of at least 4 million documents concerning births marriages and deaths. Many of the Jewish archives dealt with the enormous Jewish centers of Warsaw, Cracow, Lodz, Bialystock etc.

Judy and I were faced with two problems:

- How to give priority to Klodawa in the research effort
- Should we try to just do the research on the just Cieplinskis and the Przedeckis (Judy's family) only, or should we try to promote **all** the Klodawa Jewish families and then extract the family trees of our families separately.

Judy and I together with John and Rick sent a donation to the Polish Jewish Records Indexing Project and thereby established priority status and also encompassed all the Klodawa families. Madeline Okladek, who is the Klodawa Project Leader started to send relevant Cieplinski updates to us.

The main points were:

- The parents of Menasze were Szmul (born before 1800) and Rivka Cieplinski
- Menasze had an elder brother and sister-in-law called Icek and Ruchel Cieplinski.

Introduction

7

At this time it was not known if this couple had children

- Chaya Sura Kowalski was married to a newfound son of Menasze called Mendel
- Chaya Sura Kowalski was married a second time to Shmuel Cieplinski who became Samuel Chaplin in London. She became Sarah Chaplin.

Even though there are years where the archive materials are missing, I feel that our research effort was altogether a spectacular success.

Historic Meeting in Herzliya - March 2015

About this time, we set up a meeting at Hanna Angel's apartment in Herzliya with her brother Arie, John, Rick, my wife Ronit and I. This was the first meeting in over a hundred years between the families of Samuel, Avraham Eliyahu and Ziskind Cieplinski. Two old photos were particularly unusual in Chana Angel's collection: a photo of John's Bar Mitzva (we do not understand how it arrived there) and a poignant family photo taken in Klodawa with Moshe and Shmuel Cieplinski recognizable and another two men, two ladies, and two small boys. I took on myself to try to decipher this photo. In connection with the Bar Mitzva photo, in which John, my late wife Suzie (z"l) and my late father-in-law "Slim" Anthony Chaplin appear, William had told me that in the 1960s his father Moshe, with no English had visited London and found Chaplin family there. So perhaps he made the connection between Shmuel and the London Chaplins.

Carla Crawford and Ivor Chaplin - May 2015

Dr. Menashe Cieplinski, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada is a dentist. He also has a facility for remembering incidents that didn't tie in with my ongoing narratives of the family. He and his wife were certain that they had met a Monty Chaplin on a visit to London. They remembered that this was at a family called Bunning. They also said that there was a lady called Carla Crawford who was involved with family matters who was related to them. The name Bunning rang a bell. I mentioned above that I had looked for the grave of Israel Chaplin in Edmonton in February with no success. I also mentioned that there had been an unlikely candidate for the real Israel Chaplin. At the time I had investigated this person via the census of 1911, and the London voting lists of from the 1920s to the 1950s and he had been living with a person called Bunning. I then found Monty Chaplin, living in Canada on the Internet and wrote to him.

The reason that I had almost dismissed this Israel Chaplin is that he was born in 1883, 22 years later than his brother Samuel. And this was the reason that John and Rick hadn't been able to work out how they were connected: it was beginning to dawn on me that this was an enormous family with a generation between the oldest and youngest siblings.

I was in London again in May to be with my Mother who is 103. I go every 6 weeks. I found Carla via a site called Peopletracer, sent a letter with a taxi to Borehamwood to what turned out to be her brother's home, and within a few exciting hours Carla was sitting with me in my Mother's house, showing me her family research on her laptop. She mentioned to me that her mother Coral (nee Bunning!) had mentioned that she had a cousin called Ivor Chaplin who was worth contacting. This was someone completely unknown to me but with the telephone loudspeaker on, I phoned up Ivor and told him that Carla and Martin Frankel were at the other end of the line. There followed the most amazing phone call of my life.

He said "Wait a minute", took some files and proceeded to tell me who my parents were, when they were born, where they married, who my grandfather (who had died in Germany in the 1920s) was, and when and where I had married Susan. And this from someone whose name had been first mentioned 5 minutes before. We were to have many long phone calls and I met him in London in June.

Ivor is a bachelor, born 1937, who is a famous cricket scorer - you will find him in Google. He does not have a computer or a mobile phone. One of his interests is family research that he performs in the most methodical painstaking and expensive way. He goes to the local Home Office, and orders copies - at considerable expense - of the family member he is interested in. After receiving the copies, he then can request the documents of the parents, siblings etc. In this way he has a complete record of the whole Chaplin family in London. So in one day I had found Israel Chaplin's family as Israel Chaplin's daughter Dinah had married Joseph Bunning, and Dinah and Joseph's granddaughter was Carla! So I had finally found the three brothers: Samuel, Ziskind and the correct Israel. But then who was Ivor?

It turned out that **five** Cieplinski brothers had reached London from Klodawa, the three mentioned but also Hirsh and Icek, who became Harris and Isaac. And Ivor Isaac Chaplin was the grandson of Isaac! The family was taking shape and size and it was quite enormous.

Closing the Klodawa Connection with Barbara Ganczyk - July and August 2015

Sometimes the most difficult part of a project is the closure. At this point the unresolved questions were:

Who were the parents of Rajzel Cieplinski who died in 1921?

Who were the daughters of Avraham Eliyahu Cieplinski who died in the Holocaust?

What happened to other family members in the Holocaust?

From the beginning, Judy Muratore had sent me material from Barbara Ganczyk, who lives in Klodawa, and who is a saint. I have heard this from other sources as well. Barbara has collected material about all the Jewish families in Klodawa and has arranged them in table format so they are reasonably accessible, even in Polish. Her material mainly relates to the period from the end of the nineteenth century up to the Holocaust. I shall here summarize the answers (some partial) to the three questions.

1. Who were the parents of Rajzel Cieplinski who died in 1921?

I had built several theories on this, and had consulted with Madeleine Okladek who had her own theories but in the end only Barbara could have answered this question. She sent me a table entry from her records showing clearly that Rajzel was the daughter of Icek and Ruchel (nee Kutnowski) Cieplinski. As Icek (the brother of Menasze) and Ruchel were already known to us, although no children had been previously recorded, we had solved our last (no such thing!) major genealogy problem. The implications were that Judy was now part of the family - welcome - and that Rajzel (Judy's great great grandmother) and Chana-Brayna Cieplinski Pizer of Walden, Massachusetts, were actually first cousins.

2. Who were the daughters of Avraham Eliyahu Cieplinski who died in the Holocaust?

At the historical meeting at Hanna Angel's home, she had shown us a striking family photo of four men, two women and two boys. I took it as a personal challenge to try to work out who was who. At the time I thought that Avraham Eliyahu Cieplinski had four children, two sons who were in the picture and two daughters who were also in the picture. As I have mentioned previously Menashe Cieplinski of Halifax does not take anything for granted. He insisted that there had been a fifth daughter Feige. This was new to us.

I received a translation from a thesis from Barbara that she had never actually published and there I found Feige. Barbara wrote that Feige had married Leizer Krel, a master baker, of Klodawa and they had a son Nutke (Nathan). Leizer Krel was killed in Baranowice, in Belarus in 1941 and Feige and Nutke were exterminated in Chelmno in January 1942. We

have no image of Feige and Leizer.

So who was in the family photo? Hanna Angel found an old photo of Perl with Nutke. Hanna and I had an interesting conversation and reached real conclusions. Perl was the same young striking young lady from the family photo. And the handsome young man behind her must have been her husband. At the time of writing I still do not know his name - he is an image in an old photo. Therefore the other lady in the family photo must be Chaya Cieplinski. From the Yad Vashem records I discovered that she had married Moshe Mendel Kibel from Klodawa. Therefore the man between Shmuel and Moshe in the family photo must be Moshe Mendel Kibel. The two boys are the Kibels' sons. Again their names are not known. Hanna and I reached the conclusion that this photo was taken in 1939, just before Moshe Cieplinski's departure for Mexico.

3. What happened to other family members in the Holocaust?

In 1996, when I researched what happened to the Frankel family from Germany during the Holocaust, I spent several days at Yad Vashem, in Jerusalem, trying to find out who perished. All the information was organised as only the Germans know how. The German Government put out two large volumes of names, birth dates and when and where the victims perished. It was only later that I realized that some members of my family only escaped as far as Italy, France or Holland before they were captured and sent to concentration camps and that these names appeared in different lists. There were also typed lists like grocery lists of victims being sent from say Theresienstadt to Aushwitz. Today this is all on-line.

In Klodawa, the town records were not so well organized and it seems that in many cases events were simply not recorded. Whereas in the UK or the USA there is a census every ten years and in the UK the voters' registration is published every two years, there was no such documentation in Klodawa. There is the information that Barbara collected and information from William, Menashe and Judy. There are also the records for older people in the Polish Jewish Record Indexing that Madeleine had supplied. I spent many hours trying to analyze the records in the Yad Vashem on-line web site. The problem is that there are no real witnesses. There were people who had somehow left Klodawa who tried to remember 1500 people and provide details about them. Sometimes there are several witnesses for one victim, and there are differences in the details. Many of the names, especially of children are simply missing. On the other hand I managed to piece together a couple of young hitherto unknown families who were definitely part of the Cieplinski clan. I therefore took the decision which I feel is well justified that all known family members who were caught in Klodawa had been murdered as they were never heard of again. The list appears in the historical part of the narrative.

