

The Chodosch Family From Berezin

by Beverly Chodos Bord

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My great-grandparents all lived in Berezin, in the Minsk Gubernia in what is now Belarus. My paternal great-grandfather Nacha or Nachum Chodosch might have originally come from Myadel according to Nancy Holden's website. The name Chodosch means "new" in Hebrew and was given to families who came into Myadel from elsewhere. An alternate spelling is Khodosch. My family adopted the name Chodos in the USA.

My paternal grandfather is his son Yankel (Jacob) Chodosch (b. 1849 Berezin, d. 1946 NY). His wife was Keile Dvora Charney (b. 1876, d. 1918 Berezin). Her surname can also be spelled Tsarni or Czarny. Her parents (my maternal great-grandparents) were Meir and Mnuche Kaufman.



Jacob Chodos (seated)

My grandfather Jacob left Berezin for the USA in 1910. I was told by my father and my aunts that Jacob brought their eldest child, Mariaje (Mary) with him, but her name does not appear on his ship's manifest nor on any other in that time period. Somehow, though, she got to the U.S. Jacob Chodos settled in Brooklyn, New York where he worked and sent money home so the rest of the family could emigrate.

Sadly, my grandmother Keile never got to the U.S. She died around 1918 in the great influenza epidemic. She was only 42 years old at the time, and there is a very interesting story surrounding her death and the effect it had on the surviving children.

In 1920, two years after their mother passed away, my father Benny (Meir Ber) arrived in New York with his sisters Feige (Florence) and Chane (Anna). My father's manifest states that they came from Brazino (a variation of 'Byerazino').

There is another Chodos family in Florida whose members I have met. Their father and my father belonged to the Bereziner Benevolent Association landsmanshaft in New York. We have not been able to find the link between the two families if there is one. There don't seem to have been any other Chodos families remaining in Berezin once our families emigrated.

If anyone has information on CHODOSCH, CHARNEY or KAUFMAN families from Berezin or the surrounding towns, please feel free to contact me.



This is a family photo, taken in Berezin around 1903. The Hebrew banner across the bottom reads: "**How good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell together.**"

Front row:

The little girl seated at the left is my Aunt Mary (Mariaje), b. 1899, d.1/1975. I do not know who the boys are - they are probably the children of the woman seated behind them.

Middle row:

Seated on the left my grandmother Keile Dvora Kaufman Chodos, holding my Aunt Anna (Chondel), b. Oct 1901, d. Oct 1996. Next to Keile is her mother, Mnuche Kaufman Charney, next to her husband Meir. He is holding a photo of a relative who has gone to the United States - perhaps their son Louis (Leib/Leibel).*

Seated to Meir's right are two daughters-in-law whose names I do not know. Their husbands stand behind them; one man rests a hand on his wife's shoulder.

Back row:

Standing on the left is my grandfather Jacob (Yankel) Chodos. An unidentified man stands next to him, then an older woman (a neighbor) and next to her, two Charney sons, whose names I do not know.

* When Louis emigrated, he changed his last name to Schwartz, which means 'black' in Yiddish (Charney means black in Russian). Louis Schwartz's grandchildren live in Florida and I have met with them and have their entire family history.