

**The Murder of Chaim and Lazar Feldbin and the Destruction of Pogost
by Polish soldiers in 1920
by Zalman "Sol" Feldbaum (1899 -1984)**

The Polish army killed my father Chaim and my brother Lazar in a pogrom in Pogost on Thursday, the 7th day of Adar (26 February) 1920. I was taken out first to be executed and it seems that I was destined to live because while many bullets were fired at me, I managed to escape and hide until the Polish army withdrew.

When I ran towards our house, the town was aflame and I heard my mother crying. I presumed she thought I was killed and was crying about my loss. Never expecting the sight awaiting me, I yelled, " Mother, mother, I'm alive!" When I came to where mother and my sister Lilly were standing I found my father and brother lying on the snow near the three synagogues. My brother was dead and my father was wounded. This happened about 9 A.M.

I ran to get a "Feldscher" (a retired army medic) as we didn't have a doctor in our town. Before I went for the Feldscher, I carried my father on my back about three city blocks to the end of town because all the houses on the street were on fire. I found the Feldscher, who was 80 years of age and hard of hearing, and I carried him on my back, all the way to the village. By the time I got back with the Feldscher it was 2 p.m. and father was dead.

The whole town was destroyed by the fire except the three synagogues and the Synagogue Street (Shul Street). All told, seven Jews were killed that day. We placed the corpses in the synagogues that Thursday night and sat up most of the night. Friday morning, I and some of the family of the deceased went to dig the communal grave, as the professional gravediggers had deserted the town. The earth was frozen three feet deep and we had to build a fire to defrost the earth. According to Jewish law, the martyrs had to be buried in the clothes they were killed in. It took us until 5 pm on Friday until we could bury them.



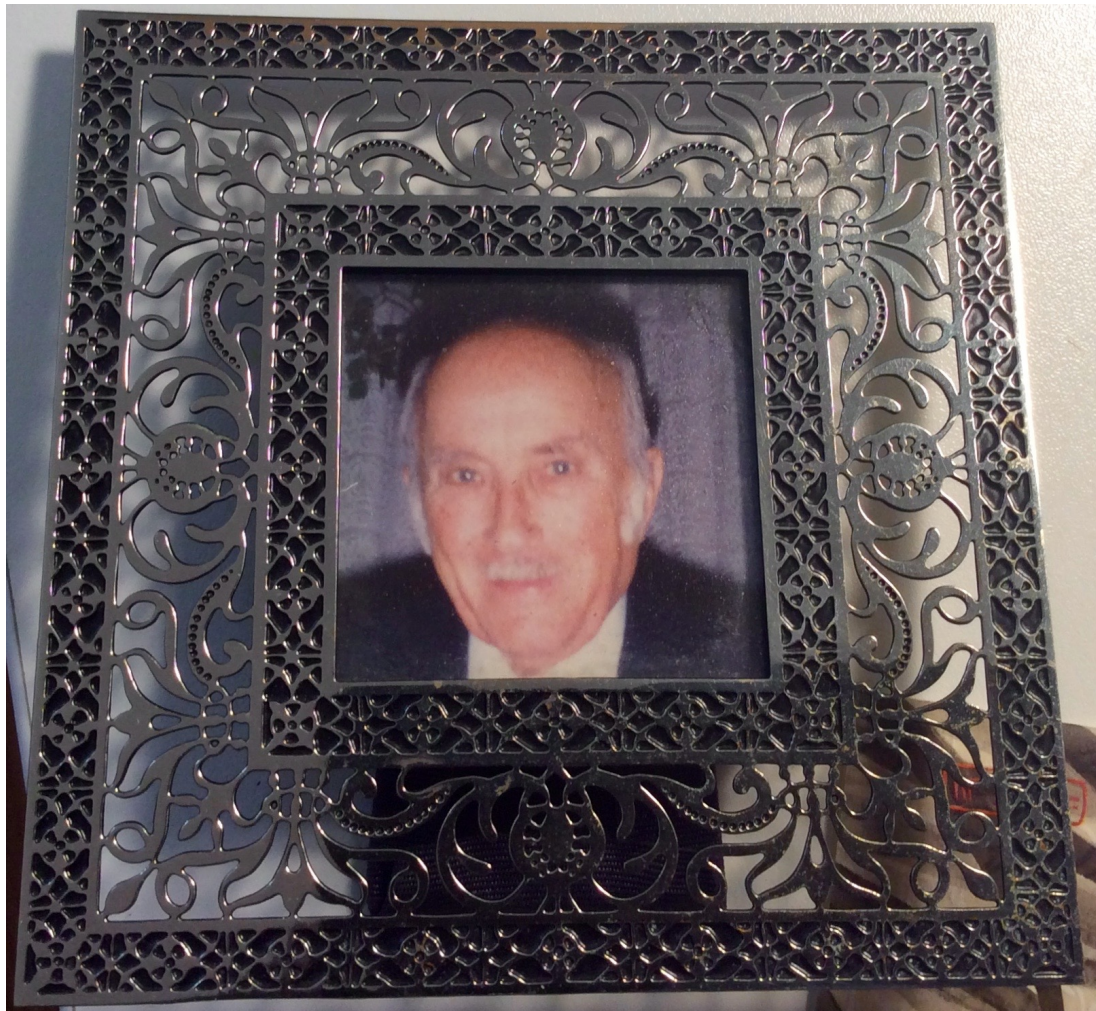
In 1922, Sol's mother Guta Starobinetz Feldbin, accompanied by Sol, his brother Isaac and his sister Lilly, arrived in Brooklyn, where other family members already lived. Sol's brothers David and Moishe Feldbin, as well as their wives and children, were murdered in the Holocaust in Pinsk in 1942. A memorial tombstone in Mount Lebanon Cemetery bears witness to the

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family members who died in Russia

Sol lived a long and fruitful life. In New York, he changed his name to Feldbaum. In 1930, he married Eda Rivlin Rosenhaus, a descendant of the Wilnaer Gaon, Yehuda Rivlin. Sol and Eda had two daughters, Judith and Greta. Sol was a founding member of Congregation Agudath Sholom of Flatbush. He also served as the unofficial historian for the Felbin family of Pahost, faithfully recording stories and contributing to family reunions. Sol's work continues to inspire our genealogical efforts today.

(Note by Carola Murray-Seegert).



Zalman "Sol" Feldbaum