

Kremenitzer Volynier Benevolent Society, from Norm Kagan

Dear Ron,

I'm delighted that you and your devoted Kremenets-descendant associates are reviving the history of our parents. I will do what I can to assist this worthy endeavor.

As I mentioned in my call, my father, William (Wolf) Kagan was a Secretary for the New York City Kremenitzer Volynier Benevolent Society. Some of his most fulfilling social engagements was with these friends sharing their common bonds from the Old World, and I have booklets, an Argentine book (ca. 450 pages), and correspondence of my father's regarding the Society in NY and elsewhere. Also, I have a dozen photographs taken in Kremenets from ca. 1910 - 1930's.

My father was born in Kremenets on March 22, 1908 and left there for Cuba. 1925. He returned to Poland twice, ca. 1930 and again in late 1932. After a stay of some six months, he married my mother, Sheyna Bluz of Rowne, and returned to Cuba with her in 1933. They came to the US in 1939. My father's older brother, Usher Kagan, and his wife, Shendel, remained in Kremenets. They had two children, Moshe and Tunia. Moshe is now in his seventies and living with his family in Israel at Kibutz Shamir in northern Gallilie. He is fluent in Russian, Polish, Yiddish and Hebrew and would, I believe wish to help your effort.

I tried to contact the membership of the NYC Kremenitzers and located one:... [He] is 83 years old and knows of no other living members. He lives with his wife ... [snip]. He was in charge of the Funeral plots until the Society was dissolved and records sent to the NYC Dept. of Cemeteries. ... [He] still gets calls from the Chapel at Montefiore Cemetery where the Society plots are (he was aware of my mother's burial besides my father last week). ... [snip]

Regarding the materials my father had, I came across a handwritten list of 21 names, dated April 27, 1973 which I believe was the membership of the Society at that time (it was written on stationary which read, in part: Ribal Lybrary of Haskalah - in memory of the martyrs of Kremenetz, Volyn at the Teachers' State College "Seminar Hakibutzim" Tel Aviv, Bnei Efraim Str. 1){ #6 and #18 may be the same }

1. J. Waxman, NY
2. David Rappaport, Bronx
3. Emanuel Bronfeld, Bronx
4. William Kagan, Forest Hills
5. Isidore Salmonitz, c/o D. Rappaport
6. G. Brodsky, Brooklyn
7. Jack Barshop, Bronx
8. Mr. & Mrs. Weinlery, Brooklyn
9. Harry Kecel, Lakewood, NJ
10. Chaim Teitcher, Brooklyn
11. Herman Kremen, Fresh Meadows
12. Sam Kaplan, Brooklyn
13. Samuel Fuchs, New York

14. Mrs. Daniel Roth, Bronx
15. J. Trachtenbery, New York
16. Mrs. Milda Chacny, c/o J. Freed, Bronx
17. Henry Kessler, c/o J. Kessler, NY
18. Gea Brodsky, Brooklyn
19. S. Rosenfeld, Forest Hills
20. Hilda Shwartzapel, Scarsdale
21. Dr. Marc Kac

Also, not on this list but on some of the Society's stationery is:
Jack Chasky of Brooklyn, and Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wiener of the Bronx [snip]

Regards,
Norm Kagan