

Interview with an older family relative

I interviewed my grandfather, Aaron Wilf, who is the son of Freide Wilf (my great grandmother), the person I want to learn about

Name: Freide Aliza Wilf (פריידא עליזה ווילף)

Date of birth: September 24, 1921 (אור ל-כ"ב באלול התר"פ)

Place of birth: Kalisz, Greater Poland Voivodeship, The Second Polish Republic (now Poland)

Date of Aliyah: April 14, 1935 (י"א ניסן התרצ"ה)

Place of Aliyah: Haifa Port, Haifa, Haifa District, Mandatory Palestine (now Israel)

Date of Wedding: September 9, 1941 (י"ז אלול התש"א)

Place of Wedding: Babad Hotel, Jerusalem, Jerusalem District, Mandatory Palestine (now Israel)

Date of death: July 19, 1997 (י"ד תמוז התשנ"ז)

Place of death: Jerusalem, Jerusalem District, Israel

Place of burial: Har HaMenuchot, Jerusalem, Jerusalem District, Israel

Biography

Freide Aliza Wilf was born as Freide Binke on September 24, 1921 (י"א ניסן התרצ"ה), in Kalisz, Greater Poland Voivodeship, The Second Polish Republic (now Poland). She was the first out of 6 children of Yehoshua Noah Binke and Itta Leah Binke (née Tsomber).

At the time, it was customary to write about the birth of a son or a daughter in the first page of a religious book. When she was born, her father wrote about her birth in the first page of a book with Hiddushim about the Book of Exodus (picture 1).

Her father was a perfume and haberdashery merchant, and her mother was a housewife. They were very wealthy and lived in a luxurious house in Kalisz.

The Binke family (picture 2) was part of the Ger Hasidic Dynasty, and were very close to the Admor Rabbi Avraham Mordechai Alter (also known as the "Imrei Emes"). They were descendants of Rabbi Abraham Abele Gombiner ("Magen Abraham") and Rabbi Jacob Joshua Falk ("Pnei Yehoshua").

Freide learned at a non-jewish school and learned at home religious studies. She was very smart and talented and she skipped two classes.

On 1935 (התרצ"ה), Rabbi Avraham Mordechai Alter advised the family to immigrate to Israel. They took the Polonia steamship from Romania, and arrived at Haifa Port, Haifa, Haifa District, Mandatory Palestine (now Israel) on April 14, 1935 (י"א ניסן התרצ"ה) (picture 3).

In Israel, Freide changed her name to "Aliza" (the Hebrew translation of her Yiddish name).

They came to Israel with lots of money, and lived in Jerusalem in a house that was then considered luxurious - they had a bathroom inside the house.

With the advice of a broker, her father bought lands in Ramallah, but it turned out that they were deceived: the lands were already someone else's, and they lost most

of their money. Freide Aliza had to leave her school and help the family financially. She worked at a biscuits factory.

The Binke family wanted to move back to Poland, but then world war 2 started. All of their family members who stayed in Poland got murdered, and they were the only survivors. The immigration to Israel saved their lives.

When Rabbi Avraham Mordechai Alter immigrated to Israel, he told them that they lost Coins, that are called "blood" in Mishnaic Hebrew, instead of their actual blood.

After a few years, the family's financial situation became better.

One day, Yaakov Shalom Wilf saw her and fell in love. He went to a matchmaker to offer himself as a husband to Aliza, and they married on September 9, 1941 (י"ז אלול), in Babad Hotel, Jerusalem, Jerusalem District, Mandatory Palestine (now Israel).

They had four children: Sara Rivka, Refael, Michael Aryeh and Aharon (my grandfather) (picture 4).

She was a housewife and a wonderful mother.

Aliza passed away on July 19, 1997 (י"ד תמוז התשנ"ז) in Jerusalem, Jerusalem District, Israel.

She was buried in Har HaMenuchot, Jerusalem, Jerusalem District, Israel, next to her husband (picture 5).

