

L'Dor V'Dor

From Generation to Generation • The Newsletter of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society

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The History of the Kirshenbaum Family

By: "Big" Joe Kirshenbaum

This is about the Meyer Kirshenbaum Family and his wife Dora Moreno who lived in the small shtetel of Kupel in the Russian province of the Ukraine.

The Kirshenbaums had a small farm and sold grain. Keva, the father of the brothers spent most of his time studying torah. Since he was a very religious man, he was referred to as Reb Keva.

The only brothers that migrated to the United States were, Joseph and Max. The other brothers and sister remained in Russia. Both Meyer and Dora said that if it wasn't for the pogroms in Russia they would not have left Russia as their families had lived there several

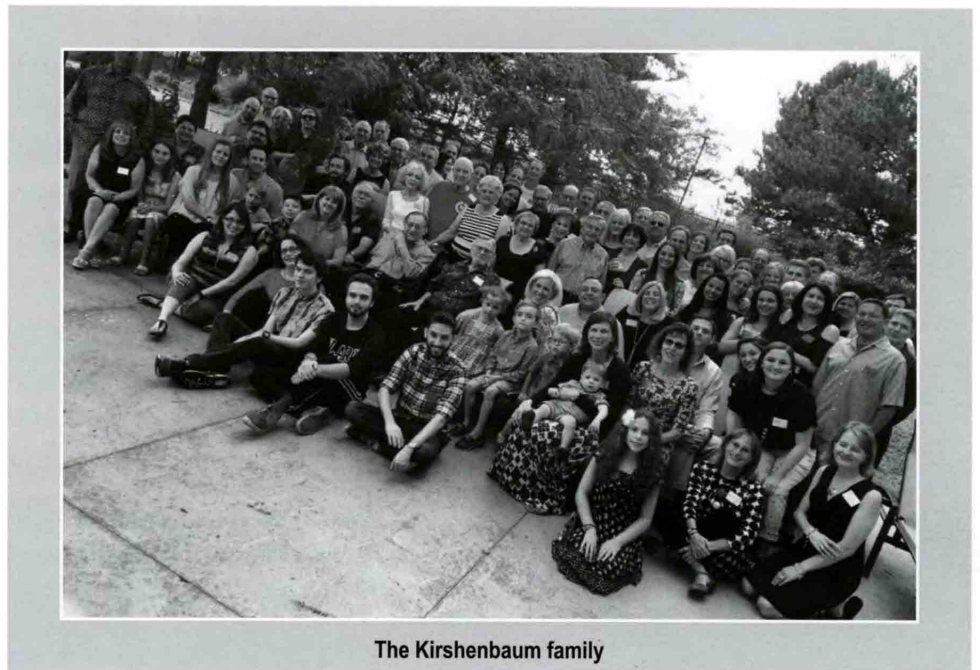
hundred years. Dora said that the movie and play "Fiddler on the Roof" was an actual replica of their home town. There were hundreds of small villages like theirs. Most Jews didn't live in big cities but in small villages.

Dora Moreno had two brothers, Maylech and Beryl and one sister. Her family had a little dry goods store, plus a cow, chickens and garden. Both brothers immigrated to the U.S. Maylech to Minneapolis where he raised two daughters, Shirley and Arlene. Beryl returned to his fiancée in Russia and later was killed during pogroms.

In 1913 Meyer and Dora became engaged. According to Jewish custom, the families of the bride and groom would sit down at a table and discuss the type of dowry the bride would bring to the groom. After this was agreed upon, the groom would pick up a plate and throw it on the ground, meaning the engagement was approved. Meyers' family didn't feel the dowry was sufficient. However, Meyer grabbed a plate from the table and threw it on the ground, signifying the engagement was official.

Meyer and Dora were married in 1914. Meyer was immediately forced to serve in the Russian Army and was sent to Siberia for three years. He returned home in 1917. A year later Rosie was born and the following year Joe.

The pogroms got pretty bad in 1919 and 1920. The Bolsheviks would ransack the village and the Russian army would chase them out. However, during one of the massacres Dora's brother Beryl was killed. *(Continued on pg. 6)*



The Kirshenbaum family

