

Kamil Kopera

Goldman family: people helped by Ulmas

Over two hundred years of co-existence of the Roman Catholic and Jewish communities in the village of Markowa resulted in neighborly and friendly ties between the members of these communities. In the nineteen-nineties, one of the saved Jews of Markowa, Aaron Bezem (Weltz), recalled that the ties of friendship and trust between his family and the Szylar family (i.e. the family that saved him) had been decades long. It was well proven by the fact of 1914, when Aaron's family entrusted the Szylar family with the care of *Sefertojre* (meaning *The Torah Scrolls* in Yiddish). This act was intended to save the priceless element of Jewish religious life from the Russians conquering the region of Galicia in World War One. (The accounts of the Russians' anti-Semitism were then widespread.) The *Torah* scrolls, then hidden by the Szylar family, had belonged to the Jewish house of worship located in the center of the village. The house was the property of one of the Jewish residents of the longest history in Markowa: the Goldman family.

Baruch Gold (born in 1835, died in 1898) known in the village by the name of "Borek" was the family nestor. His children lived with their families outside Markowa. Baruch's eldest son was Mechel (born in 1857). He married Chana Rosengarten from the village of Mrowla. They initially lived in Jawornik Polski and later they moved to the village of Hadle Kańczuckie where his second son, Saul, was born in 1883. Around 1889, Mechel and his family returned to Markowa, where he worked as a trader and raised his youngest children for the following twenty years. In line with the custom of referring to the family members by the name of the head of the family, this family was known in the village as "the Mechels". Around 1912, Mechel and

Chana left Markowa to join their eldest son who lived in the city of Rzeszów. At that time their second son Saul had already lived outside Markowa. He married Golda Sauer and moved to live in the city of Łańcut. His five sons were born there: Baruch (born on October 27, 1911), Mechel (born on September 15, 1912), Joachim (born on November 28, 1919), and Moses Feiwei (born on December 19, 1921). Together with his father-in-law Abe Sauer, Saul ran an abattoir and they travelled to buy cattle in the surrounding villages. Markowa was obviously one of these villages, hence the inhabitants remembered the visit the two paid in the 1930s. In line with the traditional custom, Saul's family was referred to as "the Shals" in the nearby area. (Their name was sometimes also written down as "Chol" in the records). There was a personal touch to their visits too; their relatives in Markowa included Saul's aunt Miriam (who was addressed as Mania, or Maria). She used to live in the seat of the Goldman family. One of its chambers served as a place of worship, where the *Torah* Scrolls had been kept (the same scrolls recollected years later by Miriam's son, Aaron).

In the vicinity of the Goldman family seat, there lived the family of Baruch Goldman's distant relative Chaim Hersh Goldman. In 1907, Chaim married Ettel Riesenbach, who came from the village of Gać. Their children: Lea (born on July 1, 1907), Jakub, Golda Genia (born on January 24, 1913), and Chana and Matylda were all born in Markowa. In 1932, Lea married Abraham Didner, with whom she raised three children in Markowa: Becael, Izzak Hersch and Reiszal. Lea's younger sister married Feiwei Grunfeld and their daughter was Reszla, who was also named after the Biblical Rachel.

From August 1942, the Jews in the Jarosław region had to go into hiding in order to survive. In Łańcut, the Germans found and murdered Saul's wife Golda in the early weeks following the so-called "relocation". Most of the family of Lea and Golda, with parents, siblings and children were killed. Only a single daughter of one of the women survived.

Lea and Golda approached for help the people they had known in their family village: Wiktorja and Józef Ulma. Their relationship went beyond the village domicile they all shared: Lea, Golda and Wiktorja had known each other well. They lived closely, they were of the same age, and they had married and gave birth to children in the same period. Also, Saul Goldman and his sons sought help in the village where they had lived for years. Saul believed he could count on help as his aunt Miriam and her family also went into hiding in Markowa. Eventually, he also found refuge in the Ulma household.

On March 24, 1944, Saul Goldman and his sons: Baruch, Mechel, Joachim and Moses Feiwel, Lea Didner and Golda Grunfeld together with a daughter of one of the women were murdered alongside the Ulma family, who harbored them all in their household. The Jewish victims of that crime were buried outside the house. In 1947, their remains were transferred to an unmarked mass grave in the War Cemetery of the Victims of Hitlerism located in the forest by the Jagiello-Niechciałki township.

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(This article was edited for English by Bartosz Liczbiński)

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