

# THE HISTORY OF THE CHERVIN FAMILY

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(ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY P. BERNSTAM AND G. CHERLIN)

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CHERVIN FAMILY, SVIR

(<http://javax-slr.livejournal.com/530113.html>)

In the revision lists of 1834, 1850, and 1858 for the town of Svir, Vilna gubernia (this town now lies in Belarus), we can find the Chervin family:

Zalman Chervin
Kaufmann Chervin (1802-???)
+Mikhliya Fruma (1803-???)
Leyba Chervin (1821-???)
+Rusa Gita (1824-???)
Bunya Chervin (1824-???)
Lipman Chervin (1826-???)
Zalman Chervin (1828-???)
Leyzer Chervin (1832-???)
David Chervin (1831-???)
Erukhim Chervin (1837-???)
Abram Chervin (1811-???)
+Merka
Khaya Sora Chervin
Brayna Chervin
Movsha Chervin (1814-???)

It is interesting that we know about another Chervin family<sup>1</sup> who was described in Vilna at the beginning of the 20th century as coming from Svir, but is not listed in the census data for Svir. DNA analysis indicates no close relation to this family.

In the 1858 census we find:

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Kaufman Zalmanovich		
Chervin	1802—	From 1853 agricultural worker in the Ekaterinoslav gubernia
His children:		
<hr/>		
Leyba	b. 1821	absent from 1855
Zalma	b. 1828	absent from 1853 ag. worker
Leyzer	b. 1832	absent from 1853 ag. worker
Dovid	b. 1835	absent from 1853 ag. worker
Erukhim	b. 1837	absent from 1853 ag. worker

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Thanks to this, we know that Kaufman Chervin moved with 4 children to the Jewish agricultural colonies in the Ekaterinoslav gubernia. And indeed all Chervins of the southern Ukraine and all (or almost all) Chervins of Argentina are descended from them.

Scan of the revision list: [illustration]

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<sup>1</sup><http://home.earthlink.net/~cherlinfamily/Trees/cher1a.html>

## THE CHERVIN FAMILY: THE AGRICULTURAL COLONIES AND ARGENTINA

(<http://javax-slr.livejournal.com/530497.html>)

The Jewish agricultural colonies were founded in 1816–1860 in southern Russia—in the Tavria, Kherson, and Ekaterinoslav gubernias and in Siberia—with the goal of accustoming the Jews to agricultural work. Transfer there was voluntary. In the Ekaterinoslav gubernia the Chervins from Svir settled in the Nadezhnaya colony.

Here is a list of the Chervin family from the revision list for Nadezhnaya Colony in 1858.

Male Gender	In previous was	Now on hand	Female Gender	Now on hand
	and lived	after		
	Age	age		Age
Kaufman Zalmonov				
Chervin	48	56	Kaufman's wife Itka Yudova	55
Kaufman Sons:			Her daughter Diska	14
1st Zalman	22	30	Zel'man's wife Gida Abramovna	32
Zalman son of Itso	newborn	2		
Kaufman's 2nd son Leyzer	18	26	Leyzer's wife Feyga Leyserova	28
His 3rd son David	15	23	David's wife Khaya Feyga El'eva	23
David's son Khaim	newborn	2	Ar'ya's wife Yenta Kalmanovna	30
Kaufman's 4th son			Her daughters	
Erukhim	13	21	1. Mikhlya Fruma	7
His 5th son Movsha	10	18	2. Gida Basya	1
Kaufman's nephew Ar'ya Vul'fov Konoval	20	28		
Ar'ya's sons:				
Efraim	8	16		
Shneer	2	10		

From the book by Uleynikov, "Jewish Agricultural Colonies of Ekaterinoslav Gubernia in 1890" we know about the households of the Chervins in Nadezhnaya Colony.

**Chervin****Movsha Kaufmanovich**

Children:	6 sons, 2 daughters
Construction:	House with 1 room and stable, thatched roof, in decent condition
Tools:	1 roller, one wagon
Livestock:	2 horses, 2 cows
Allotment:	besides his own allotment (2 desyatin) leases 4 desyatin
Who works:	himself
Certification:	Satisfactory

**Chervin****Dovid Kaufmanovich**

Children:	2 sons, 5 daughters
Construction:	House with 5 rooms and kitchen, tile roof, in good condition
Tools:	mower, three-shared plough, 2 harrows, 2 rollers, 2 wagons
Livestock:	5 horses, 7 cows, 5 calves
Allotment:	Besides 1/2 allotment leases from ??? a portion of 36 desyatin. The Chervins consist of 3 families All these families are registered in Konovalov, having received 1 allotment. This allotment is divided among the members, 2 desyatin per person Chervin Dovid having then just one son got 4 desyatin, Chervin Ierukhim 2 desyatin. A third son Chervin David whose time of military service expired came to the colony and took up farming
Who works:	themselves
Certification:	Satisfactory

**Elder son of****Chervin David Kaufmanovich**

Children: 4 sons, 1 daughter  
 Construction: House with 2 rooms and stable, thatched roof, in satisfactory condition

**Second son of Chervin David Kaufmanovich**

Children: 1 son, 2 daughters  
 Construction: clubs (???)

**Third son of Chervin David Kaufmanovich**

married

**Chervin Ierukhim Kaufmanovich**

Children: 3 sons, of whom 1 in military service  
 Construction: House with 2 rooms and kitchen, tiled roof, and stable, in good condition  
 Tools: two-shared plough, mower, roller, wagon  
 Livestock: 3 horses, 3 cows, 1 calf, 1 mule  
 Allotment: Besides 2 desyatin allotment leases from various people 9 desyatin in the Sladkovodnaya Colony  
 Who works: himself  
 Certification: Satisfactory

For a long time it was a puzzle what the link was between “our” Chervins from Nadezhnaya with the large Chervin family from Sladkovodnaya. Thanks to the book by Uleynikov the link has been found: Ierukhim Chervin *leased 9 desyatins from various people in the Sladkovodnaya colony in addition to his allotment of 2 desyatin.*

We know about the family from Sladkovodnaya from the genealogical tree of Roman Shparber.

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Ierukhim Chervin b. 1837  
 Kaufman Chervin  
 David Chervin  
 Mendel Chervin  
 Lazar Chervin b: after 1845  
 +Sheyne Reyza Epshteyn b: 1860  
 3–Rivka Chervin b:1880  
 3–Shul’ Chervin  
 3–Zalman Chervin  
 3–Berl Chervin  
 3–Khaim Chervin  
 3–Avrom Chervin b. 1909  
 3–Zina Chervin  
 3–Tsipa Chervin  
 ??? Chervin b: after 1845

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[Map]

Map from the site of Yakov Pasik *Jewish agricultural colonies in Southern Ukraine and Crimea*.

Scanned from the book by Uleynikov.

[Scanned documents]

At the beginning of the 20th century many began to emigrate from the colonies, some to other lands, some to large cities. Some families emigrated to Argentina.

In particular, we know of Isaak Chervin, who was born not far from Ekaterinoslav in 1870 and was married in Ekaterinoslav to Elena Yakobson. They had 5 children: Luis, Benyamin (both killed in the Russo-Japanese War), Carlos, Leon, and Bernardo (emigrated with parents and children to Argentina).

It is interesting that I probably have managed to find the link between the Nadezhnaya and Argentinean Chervins.

- (1) In a family tree created by Lorena Yael Litvak in the service Geni.com we see the name of Isaak Chervin’s mother: *Fanya*. We know that Isaak’s first wife died in 1900, bearing his fifth child. If the first child was born when she was 20 and there were three years between children, then she should have been born about 1865. This could be Isaak’s year of birth as well. That is, the mother of Isaak might have been born in the years 1825-1845.
- (2) In the family tree of the Ukrainian branch of the Chervins (resettled from Svir) we find Feyga, wife of Lazar Chervin b. 1830. Comparing the database of Jewish given names, Fanya and Feyga are the same name. Notice that the name of Isaak’s first child was Luis, an Argentinean variant of the name Lazar’.

This means that the Argentinean Chervins are descendants of Lazar' Kaufmanovich Chervin from Nadezhnaya Colony.

About 1917 Khaim Davidovich Chervin (son of David Kaufmanovich resettled from Svir) b. 1857 and his wife Khaya Iosefson b. 1866 left Nadezhnaya colony with their children and entered Mariupol.

#### ILLUSTRATIONS

- Mariupol synagogue registry
- Revision lists for the town of Svir in Vilna gubernia, 1834, 1850, 1858
- Testimonial pages dedicated to E. M. Chervin in Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum
- Yad Vashem database
- Report of the special commission on fascist atrocities in the Novozlatopolsk district [raion]
- Letter from Roberto Abramzon (Argentina) about his recollections of his grandfather
- Uleynikov L. Jewish Agricultural Colonies in the Ekaterinoslav gubernia in 1890. SPB (St. Pbg.) 1891.

## THE CHERVINS OF NADEZHAYA AND SLADKOVODNAYA IN TIME OF WAR

(<http://javax-slr.livejournal.com//578549.html>)

Before the war the Chervins lived in Sladkovodnaya and Nadezhnaya colonies, and some moved to large cities.

Grigori Tsygutkin writes as follows in his memoir *Wild Field*.

... Our village was founded 1824–25 on “cabinet” (imperial) lands, on the *Wild Field*, which was annexed to Russia by Catherine II and finally consolidated by her nephew Nikolai I.

A part of this land was settled by Jews and they, “not sparing the stomach” (giving their all) mastered the wild steppe, turning Wild Field into a flourishing region. This is a historic fact!

We know that in these lands there were no landlords, allotments were obtained without charge, and were considered the property of whomever they fell to by lot, the land could not be sold, but it could be leased out or inherited.

My father told me: *About 1895 in our uyezd General Gelert came to the governor of our area accompanied by a large entourage and security. Apparently in the Senate there had been a statement that the Jews settled in the black soil of southern Russia were not working the land and that the land was going to waste.*

*... This happened after the sowing and the time of weeding sunflower, beets, etc. The General sent representatives into the field, where the villagers were weeding, and ordered them brought to him. As they approached, the general ordered them to show the palms of their hands to his entourage, where there were representatives of the Senate. You can imagine the hands of the laborers. and “vacant!?” — fields worked by these calloused hands?.’ This did not suit the gentlemen who wanted to grab a nice morsel. The case was dropped; the Jews, as the owners of the plots, so they remained ” My father told me this, he remembered that episode well all his life; he was 10-12 years old at the time.*

... Our family continued to work in the colonies. We made the acquaintance of the members of our family above. They survived! All the members of our family built dwellings and settled in that dull Wild Field. And so they lived—without connections, without hospitals, without roads and a little more “without” They began to look for a better life, but this only happened in about 50-60 years, the third generation of settlers began to search for another life, and went to the city, but did not spread very far. 100 km and a bit more: Yuzovka, Gorlovka, Enakievo, Mariupol’. They were looking for a place where they could more easily support themselves, they went farther from hard labor than the pioneers, where the basic means of work were only one’s hands.

Later, describing the inhabitants in Nadezhnaya before the war, he states:

House #16— Chervin Avrom-Khaim, Chervin Iosif [Chervin Tsemakh - husband of my sister Dora

That is, according to Grigori Tsygutkin's book, there was just one Chervin family remaining in Nadezhnaya.

Later he writes

What became of the settlers of our colony? Coming from the Soviet Army on a visit after the war I found that only a few families remained: the family of my father Tsygutkin Efrem Grigorievich, the family returned after evacuation to Nadezhnaya Colony; two families—Shikhanovich Avrom and Kofman Alyesha returned from evacuation to the town of Voroshilovgrad (Puzansk). The family of Meller Sholom-Zalman, his youngest son Isaak (b. 1920) and older sister Brokha and her husband Ezra Dikensteyn with their children, the family of Ayzik Svirski with their children, the family of Geshel (Heschel) Zaprudski., Peretz Kaufman, the Vinnik family—Manya and Etya. Their parents died in the evacuation. These families before the war lived in our colony. These are all . . . . The other families, at the end of July 1942, or at the beginning of August 33 were shot near the village of Balabanovka, in the Rostov district (oblast) and thrown into an anti-tank ditch. Almost all the inhabitants of our settlement spent the winter of 1941–42 in German villages in the the Rostov district. After the breakthrough by German forces at Kharkov, they were going to leave the German towns and go to the rear. And . . . began "bargaining—to go, not to go?" A certain Zaprudski did not stop to listen, lashed his horse and drove off into the land along the Danube and his family stayed alive. The others stayed to wait: for what? And they waited.

In 1965 in the newspaper "Soviet Heimland" an article was published (unfortunately the newspaper was not preserved) by a former secretary of the German council for Balanovka in the Rostov district. It appeared that the Germans returned them all to the village and this female secretary of the local council recorded all who were driven into the anti-tank ditch and shot by guns. These were the inhabitants of our colony and their relations. The oldest, Avrom-Khaim Chervin, was 72, the youngest was a child two years old.

. . . A few families, not leaving the colony, stayed alive till August 1943. The leader of this "kolkhoz" was Isaak Chertkov, there was a policeman in our colony, escaped from a train when they deported the Germans to Kazakhstan, a German from our colony named Artur Vetsel', he also protected these people. When the Germans left, he told them to leave their homes and hide in the forest but they were seen from a hill in the neighboring village Petrakivki, denounced to the Germans, were found, and shot on capture.

So all perished except for a few families, from the Nadezhnaya colony, Novo-Zlatopolsk district. A settlement ceased to exist which had been founded more than a century before.

The Yad Vashem database gives us the following list of deceased Chervins from Nadezhnaya.

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Chervin Abram E (?)	b. 1870
Chervin Efim Abromovich	b. 1892
Chervin Faina (wife of Efim)	b. 1894
Chervin Abram Efimovich	b. 1934
Chervin Lyubov Efimovna	b. 1926
Chervin Etya Efimovna	b. 1922
Chervin Lyuba (daughter of Shmuel Epshteyn and Frida Fligelman)	b. 1917
Chervin Grigori Isaakovich	b. 1927
Chervin Alyona (Anna?)	b. 1930
Chervin Faina	b. 1932
Chervin Adelaida	b. 1904
Chervin Dora	b. 1939
Chervin Ita	b. 1898
Chervin Ida	b. 1936
Chervin Nekhama	b. 1936
Chervin Grisha	b. 1929

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We may suppose that Chervin Abram E. b. 1870 is the son of Erukhim b. 1837 and in this way link up the whole of his family with the remaining tree of Chervins. But connecting the rest of the Chervins to the known ancestors is not possible

## Deceased Chervins from Sladkovodnaya.

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Chervin Raya	b. 1928
Chervin Etká Abramovna	b. 1937
Chervin Manyá Abramovna	b. 1936
Chervin Roza Abramovna	b. 1939
Chervin Tsilya, wife of Boris	b. 1903
Chervin Lyubov' Borisovna	b. 1930
Chervin Mina Borisovna	b. 1932
Chervin Abram Lazarovich	b. 1906
Chervin Boris Lazarovich (mother Sonya)	2 children
Chervin Sonya, wife of Avrom	3 children (Rokhele, b. 1928) b. 1908
Chervin Avrom	b. 1909 (mother Taibl)
Sonya Gruchik	b. 1912
Chervin Zina, Sima, Tanya	b. 1936, 1939, ???
Chervin Yuma	b. 1907
Chervin Tsilya	b. 1927 and her children
Chervin Lida	b. 1881
Chervin Sonya	b. 1861
Chervin David Shimonovich	b. 1919 missing
Chervin Grigoriy Rafailovich	missing May 1942 b. 1908 Zaporozhe
Chervin née Shparber Rivka	b. 1880

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## THE CHERVINS IN MARIUPOL

(<http://javadoc-slr.livejournal.com/578665.html>)

Khaim Chervin had several children—we know of Mikhl b. 1886, Sof'ya Chervin and at least another two. At the time of the move to Mariupol Mikhl and his wife Khaya Shimonovna b. 1887 had the children Tat'yana, Grigoriy, Evgeniya, Il'ya, and Yakov, and in Mariupol in 1918 the youngest son Semen was born.

Khaim Davidovich Chervin died Aug. 18 1919 in Mariupol.

In Mariupol Mikhl Chervin worked as a smith, he had two smithies and a few workers. His children started families—Grigoriy married Anna Iosifovna and their daughter Mina was born in 1937.

Il'ya married Faina Isaakovna.

Yakov married Basya b. 1918 and they had Tat'yana in 1935 and Nina in 1938. He worked in trade.

Evgeniya got married in Kiev to Efim Svyatkovski.

Nothing is known about Semen's family.

Tat'yana died sometime in the 1930's.

Many relatives continued to live in the colonies of Nadezhnaya and Sladkovodnaya, which had become a Kolkhoz; some moved to larger cities—Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk (form. Ekaterinoslav), Zaporozhe.

Sof'ya Chervin (sister of Mikhl, daughter of Khaim Chervin) got married to Isaak Bronshteyn.

Riva lived in Moscow, where her descendants now live.. Mar'ya lived in Tol'yati.

The coming of war almost completely destroyed this large family. In Novoslatopol (regional center) thousands of Jews were killed from neighboring villages, former Jewish agricultural colonies. Among them were more than 20 Chervins, mainly children, the elderly, and women, from Nadezhnaya and Sladkovodnaya.

In Mariupol, in October, tens of thousands of Jews were killed on the "Agrobase."

Among them Khaya Iosifovna, Mikhl and Khaya Semnovna Chervin, their son Il'ya, their daughters-in-law Basya and Anna, their granddaughters Nina, Mina and Tat'yana, their grandson Felix Svyatkovski (son of Evgeniya).

Grigoriy and Semen Chervin were killed at the front. Evgeniya Mikhaylovna's husband Efim Svyatkovski died in the defense of Kiev.

Descendants of Khaim Chervin:

Khaim Chervin (1856-18 Aug. 1919)

+Khaya (1866-Oct. 1941)

Mikhl Chervin (1886-1941)

+Khaya (1887-Oct. 1941)

Tat'yana Chervin

Grigoriy Chervin (- 1941)

Evgeniya Chervin (25 Aug. 1912-6 Jan. 2004)

Il'ya Chervin (1913-Oct. 1941)

Yakov Chervin (25 Apr. 1914-19 Nov. 1983)

Shimon Chervin (24 Jan. 1918-1941)

Sof'ya Chervin

+Isaak Bronshteyn

Riva Bronshteyn

Marya Bronshteyn

Rakhil' Bronshteyn

/578549/.

Tat'yana Bronshteyn

Moisey Bronshteyn

??? Chervin

???Chervin

## YAKOV MIKHAILOVICH CHERVIN

(<http://jvax-slr.livejournal.com/500777.html>)

Yakov Mikhailovich Chervin was born on April 25 1914 in Mariupol in a family coming from the Jewish agricultural colony Nadezhnaya, to Mikhl Chervin and his wife Khaya. I will write later about Yakov's ancestors.

Yakov married Basya (b. 1918) and they had Tat'yana b. 1935 and Nina b. 1938. He worked in trade. First he served in the army in the war. His wife Frida wrote that he participated in the annexation of the eastern provinces of Poland in 1939.

At the beginning of the war Yakov Chervin was assigned to an independent local rifle company of the Danube military fleet.

*The Danube military fleet's first formation was set up in June 1940 as a component of the Black Sea fleet from the main base in Izmail. It consisted of monitor divisions (5 units), armored ships, (22 units), minesweepers (7 units), frigates (up to 30 units), a squadron of powerboats (6 units), individual aviation squadrons, individual ant-aircraft artillery divisions, 6 batteries of shore artillery, rifles and machine guns. At the start of the Great Patriotic War it had the 4th Black Sea squadron foreign vessels of the NKVD. According to prewar plans the flotilla was intended to block the invasion by enemy ships below the town of Reni, the crossing of the enemy on the Danube on the stretch of land from Galatsa to the mouth of the river, to cut off together with land forces its strike from the Galatsa district to Dzhurdzhulest. To solve this problem the establishment of three squadrons of ships was envisioned: the Renii, Izmaili, and Kili. The flotilla entered battle action in joint action with the forces of the Southern Front on the Danube, Bug, Dnepr, on the shores of the Kerch strait. In September 1941 it went to Sevastopol, and in October was transferred to Kerch.*

*In November 1941 it was restructured and ships were given to the Azov military flotilla and the Kerch military-naval base.*

*Commanders: rear-admiral Abramov N. O. (June–September 1941): captain first class, from September 1941 rear-admiral Frolov A. S. (September–November 1941).*

*Military commissars: brigade commissar Belenkov V. K. (July–September 1941); people's commissar Dvoryanenko S. I. (September–October 1941 interim); people's commissar Maslov I. V. (October–November 1941).*

*Chief staff captain 2nd class Grigor'ev V. V. (June–November 1941).*

From the Danube military fleet Yakov Chervin was send to Kerch battlefield. During one of the battles there he was seriously wounded and left on the field of battle. His comrades thought he had been killed.

[documents]

From a letter from Yakov's nephew, Felix Zlochisti.

*He did not like to talk about the war. He talked about the war only when he drank. As I recall, when he received that wound at Kerch, he took on a kamikaze role. He said that because he was already a communist, that it was up to him and some others to hold back the Germans, to give time to the main division to get away, he was practically condemned to death. I also recall that he said that they threw grenades in the houses that greeted the Germans with music and flowers. . . . In this battle he was wounded and cared for by a Tatar woman. She no doubt risked her life, and possibly not just her own, but her family's. After the war he found her, and gave her material assistance all her life. He was in her basement. But gangrene began in his feet, he would have died without medical aid. He always considered it a miracle that Soviet forces then, in 1941, took back that village. They did not want to get him from the basement, fearing that it would be a provocation, but the woman convinced them to do it.*

After the battle near Kerch Yakov Chervin received the medal "For Service in Battle."  
[document, 2 pp.]

In the hospital his foot was amputated.  
[photo]

It was there that he learned that his whole family had been killed by the Germans in Mariupol—parents, his wife, children (three year old Nina and six year old Tanya), his brothers. Only his sister Zhenya remained alive; her son was killed with the family in Mariupol, and her husband died at the front.

From a letter by Felix Zlochisti:

*. . . grandmother Grandma Zhenya was a journalist. Before the war she worked for Pioneer Truth newspaper. Sill sometimes she liked to tell me about her encounters with celebrities, for example Zhukov (after Halkin-Gol). Therefore when Grandpa Yasha was in the hospital, he tried to find her through the newspaper, where she worked before the war, but without success, and he thought that she must have been killed in Kiev. But then in the hospital a delegation of children came, just when [Arkady] Gaidar's book<sup>2</sup> had come out. He very much liked one of the girls, and she came once with pies, wrapped up in newspaper. In this newspaper there was an article by Grandma Zhenya, and in this way he found her.*

From the letter of Felix Zlochisti:

*The party assigned Grandma Zhenya to other work. She became the commander of a camp for Soviet Germans, who were exiled to Kazakhstan at the beginning of the war. . . . She told me she never believed for a moment that these Volga Germans were enemies. She was proud therefore that in her camp the rate of mortality was substantially less than in others, and that she may have managed to help the people.*

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<sup>2</sup>*Timur and his Squad* (pub. 1940)

*When Grandpa Yasha left the hospital he went with her to this camp in Kazakhstan. She told me that he used his rations as far as possible to buy food for these people. In spite of everything the Germans did to his family, he did not believe either that these “Volga Germans,” who had not [even] been German speaking for generations, were guilty of anything. Then after the end of the war, Grandpa returned to Mariupol, worked in trade. As I understand it, they sent Grandma Frida to Mariupol as a trainee after sewing school and since there after the occupation the conditions were very difficult, her father (Grandfather Misha) gave her things, to be sold if necessary. She settled in with another girl who came with her from Kuibyshev, and who ran off after a while with those things. Grandmother felt herself to be very much alone, but still did not decide to return to Kuibyshev.*

*Then she met grandfather and married him. Soon they named grandfather manager of a store, and then, within about a week, there was an audit. They found a shortage and arrested him. Grandmother went to the directors and asked them to overturn the matter, since the shortage came from the previous manager. In the end they let him go, but that was a very hard case. He did not want to stay in Mariupol, or the Ukraine generally, he wanted to go to Russia, but they did not convince grandmother. Then her sister died, they convinced her to go to the funeral, and they moved all together to Kuibyshev and remained there.*

Yakov Mikhailovich worked in trade in Samara, ran a butcher shop for many years in the Samara market. He died November 19, 1983. Buried in Samara.

[picture]

Yakov Mikhailovich with his wife Frida.

Evgeniya Mikhailovna Chervin, journalist.

[list of illustrations]