

Lazar Gurfinkel's Father Michael Gurfinkel, His Older Brother Moisey Gurfinkel And His Father's Employee



This photo was taken on the porch of my father's pharmacy in Khotin in 1936. From left to right are my father's employee, my father, Michael Gurfinkel, and my older brother Moisey Gurfinkel. My brother and sister went to a lyceum after elementary school. After that they entered the Pharmaceutical Faculty of Bucharest University. They both wanted to follow into my father's footsteps, who was a pharmacist. In 1937 my brother graduated from university and came back home. He began to work at my father's pharmacy. My father was the manager of the pharmacy, and my brother joined two other pharmacists to do everyday work. My father died in 1939. He died

within two days. He had intestinal obstruction that caused peritonitis. My father was buried according to Jewish traditions. After the funeral my brother and I went to the synagogue every day to recite the Kaddish for a whole year. My brother went to the cemetery twice or three times a week. Somebody reported to the rabbi that my brother was a frequent visitor at the cemetery. The rabbi explained to my brother that it was against Jewish rules to come to the cemetery so often. He told him that a deceased relative needed to have his peace. My brother became the manager of the pharmacy. The pharmacy generated a good income, and my mother didn't have to worry about how to support the family.