



# AVOTAYNU®

The International Review of Jewish Genealogy

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## New Family Histories in Print

*The Three Lives of My Father: From Feivel Pitum to Philip Halpern, A Pitum Family History*, by Barry S. Halpern. Years covered: 1915 to 1966 with an ancestry portion that dates back to the mid-1800s. Surnames covered are Pitum and Halpern.

This is my father's story, from his birth in Lithuania in 1915, his immigration to the United States in 1934, service in World War II, his later writings, until his death in 1966. He died suddenly at the young age of 50, while I was an only child who had recently become a bar mitzvah. I knew almost nothing about him or his family until my search in earnest began in 2008. My growing interest in genealogy and several fortuitous genealogical finds led me to discover my father's story and his legacy to me and his grandchildren.

In the book, I describe what I've learned about his life in three stages: as a young boy in Lithuania, as a single man acclimating to his new country and serving the United States during World War II, and as a married man working and supporting his family. In his later years, he was a prolific writer of editorials covering a wide range of subjects including Jewish education, race relations and anti-Semitism. The fate of his parents and sisters during 1940 and 1941 are described, along with brief histories of the Lithuanian towns of Aukstavaris and Stakliskes.

The book is held by the Denver Public Library, the library of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Colorado and the Library of Congress. It may be purchased through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) for \$7.95 or as a Kindle e-book for \$4.99.

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*Remember Me to the Little Ones: A Family History Book*, by Nancy R. Kravetz. Years covered: 1825–2010. Family names include Allen, Black, Clayman, Dubois, Jaffe, Kagan, Pelovsky, Perlow, Shube, Vayn, Wajn, Wein, Weinberger.

Journeys from the shtetls of Eastern Europe to cities and towns in America, France and Israel are described in this 191-page book printed on premium-quality paper with 400 illustrations and photographs; glossary; index and large, foldout family tree. The forward is by Arthur Kurzweil who says, "You will find yourself here. It is the story of every person."

The book is on deposit at Brandeis University Judaica Library; National Library of Israel; American Jewish Historical Society, Boston; HIAS; Beit Hatfutsoth; National

Yiddish Book Center and Merrimack Valley Library Consortium.

Price: \$25 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Check payable to Beth El Congregation, attention: Janette Silverman, 118 W. Glendale Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85021. Credit cards accepted by telephone at 808-844-3369, extension 123 or e-mail at [jsilverman@bethelphoenix.com](mailto:jsilverman@bethelphoenix.com). All proceeds to benefit religious school children.

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*The History of the Goitein Family 1771–2012*, by Ayala Goitein Gordon and Meriam Goitein Haringman, published in Hebrew in 2008 and in English in 2012.

The book begins with the progenitor of the family, Rabbi Baruch Benedict Goitein (1771–1842), who wrote the book *Kesef Nivhar*, a set of rules for studying the Talmud according to subjects. The first three generations were all rabbis

but during the late 19th century there was an integration of Jewish and secular learning in the family.

The family came from Kojetein (in Moravia) and moved to Hungary. Later most descendants became academics and excelled in various fields of medicine, such as Dr. Abraham Goitein-Galton in England, who developed treatment for leukemia or Dr. Michael Goitein, who pioneered the CT scan and Proton therapy. Others, such as Professor Shlomo Dov Goitein, were prominent in history. His five-volume book, *The Mediterranean Society*, about medieval trade based on the Cairo Geniza is considered the most important

book in this field. Many members of the family attended the First Zionist Congress, bought shares from the Jewish Colonial Trust and were pioneers in the establishment of the Jewish home in Eretz Yisrael. Today the family is scattered all over the world though many live in Israel.

The book not only describes the history of the family for the first three generations but has biographies of all the descendants of the fourth Rabbi Eliyahu Menhachem Goitein. There is a family tree and address section at the end of the book.

It is a private printing and two books were donated to the Israel National Library on the campus of the Hebrew University.

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*A Noble Heritage—The History and Legacy of the Polonsky and Paull Family in America*, by Jeffrey Mark Paull, publisher: Infinity Publishing, West Conshohocken, PA 19428, 2013. Years covered: 990 CE through 2012. Major names researched: Ashkenazi, Drucker, Eberles, Gelles, Heschel,

