

## Mother Mary's (Ajgengold) twin sister Hetty (Burstein) story

### ETTY BURSTEIN (NEE SHEINBAUM) EXPERIENCES

We lived in a small town near Grodno. We grew our own potatoes, onions, cabbages and owned two cows, one I recall was named Ztippa. and from the milk we churned butter. One of the favourite vegetables was the root part of the onion split down the middle with salt and homemade bread and rolls. One day Mary and I were sitting on the doorstep eating corn on the cjob and a company of soldiers marched by, we were scared and ran indoors. On Saturday afternoon we used to sleep on the pripachduk (oven). Pears were

I remember the night before coming to England (when I was nine years old} we went to a public bathhouse. We met a gang of drunken peasants and they attacked my mother and smacked her face. Fortunately we had an aunt living nearby and she took us in till the mob cleared away. It was a very hard life. Mother, brother David, Mary and myself emigrated after father and Yossel. When we embarked the sea was very rough, my brother David clambered up the mast with dear mother calling them down. Eventually he did. After this everybody was laying around on the bunks in a sickly state. After the storm abated somewhat we had to eat uncooked Russian fresh salmon and cooked potatoes. Eventually we arrived at Tilbury docks and my brother Yossel met us there and took us to his house in Church Lane, Whitechapel. We had a meal and this was the first time I had bananas.

Next to my father's shop in Brately Street we ate a few oranges and chocolate, both a luxury. Our first school in England was non-Jewish then to Deal street School. The head there was a Miss Mansfield, she taught us English. One morning an inspector came and the teacher picked us two out to show her the great improvement we had made. July 1992