



# Tell Us Your Story

Jerry Kreitzer

My maternal grandmother Dora (Kraines) Dole came from Russia around 1901. From the stories I was told, my great grandfather (her father) was an architect for the government in what is now Belarus. Under the Czar, things got very difficult for Jews in Russia.

My grandmother grew up as a young child quite affluent with servants in the household. The family was doing quite well. My great grandfather, seeing the writing on the wall (the pogroms), sent two of his four children (my grandmother Dora and her brother Morris) to the United States. One daughter and one son stayed behind. The son was sent to Siberia and they never heard from him again. The daughter cared for her parents, stayed in Russia for two generations and later immigrated to Israel.

My grandmother Dora came into Ellis Island at the age of 14 with her older brother Morris who was 16. She quickly married in Brooklyn (through an arranged marriage). My Grandfather, Jacob Dole was from their village in Russia and had arrived a year earlier.

Jacob was a tailor in Brooklyn. His brother, Joseph was later gassed in WWI. Then for health

reasons, both families moved to upstate New York (Catskill Mountains) and opened a grocery store. There was not enough income for both families so my grandfather bought a small kosher hotel (the Woodbine) in Ulster Heights - a small community near Ellenville. Dora (who had never cooked before) ended up as Chef of the Woodbine serving 140 guests 3 meals a day.

It means so much for me to have shared time with Bubbe (she was the only grandparent that I got to know). She died when she was in her late 70's and when I was in my late 30's. Before she passed, I spent time with her collecting her recipes (she ended up being a great chef). It was a hilarious experience, because she never measured ingredients and did not write English. I followed her around the kitchen and measured everything. What a joy for my family to have her recipes live on. Their story connects me to my past and provides me with a sense of belonging and perspective. This creates who I am today!

Bubbe - your memory still brings a smile to my face.



Dora (Kraines) Dole and Jerry Kreitzer