

With God's Help

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# Preface

When I was commissioned on my 65th birthday by Chuck, his wife Kitty, and children Ben and Becca to put my story on paper, I was deeply moved. They wanted my children, grandchildren, and future generations of our family to know what transpired in the faraway place where I was born and brought up. It was a time and place that became extinct because of the Nazi atrocities.

There are no words that can express my great appreciation to Chuck for the many hours he spent to edit and see that this book was published. My special thanks to Kitty for the support and encouragement she gave to Chuck. It was a concerted effort by all concerned—my grandchildren's excited interest and their continuous prodding me to complete the book, Estelle's correction of my spelling, all the time Richard spent to select, set up, and teach me how to use the computer, and Mark's belief that I could and would do this—that helped me during the five years it took for this to become a reality.

Framingham, Massachusetts  
April, 1990

# Introduction

I, Samuil Manski, was born October 11, 1920, in the town of Lida, Poland. Prior to 1920, Lida was part of greater Russia ruled by the Tsars. In 1920, Lida was conquered from the Soviet Union by Poland and remained Polish until September 1939. At the start of World War II, Lida was retaken by Russia and became part of the Belorussian Soviet Republic (White Russia). It might be logical to think of Lida as a Russian town. I lived there during the short period when the Poles tried to assimilate the area into Poland; so I think of Lida as Polish.

As for the date of my birth, there were two opinions. My aunt Rose, my father's sister who left Lida in the early twenties for Palestine, insisted that I was born on July 11th. My mother claimed that October 11th was my birth date. The discrepancy was important. If my aunt Rose was right, I was born seven months after my parents' wedding. So I always went along with the October 11th date. Be that as it may, I am here. For that I thank them.