

Józef Kaufman

A son of Reb Berisz¹, the [rabbinical] judge z"l, he was born in Częstochowa on 24th December 1892. In the parental home, just like any other Jewish child in those days, he received a national-religious² education and he walked the path from *cheder* through to private religious lessons.

In 1909, he emigrated to America.

But the threads binding him to the *Old Home* were not torn, despite the distance that separated him from it. He began seeking contact with his fellow *landsleit*, who had arrived there earlier, with the aim of founding an association of Częstochowa *landsleit* in New York.

In 1910, he became a member of Branch 261 of *Der Arbeiter Ring* [Workmen's Circle], where he remains to this day. In later days, he was able to show his connection to his birthplace and his dedication as a communal worker.

This happened in 1914, when the *Częstochower Hilfs Verein* [Aid Society] was founded in New York.

Contemporaries say that Józef Kaufman took upon himself the arduous duties of secretary and, more than once, put his private and communal affairs aside.

In 1917, he became a member of the "Young Men's" and occupied the office of Vice President for a time in 1918. To this day, he is one of its most active members.

Suffice it to note that, in acknowledgement of his work for Częstochowa and the *Częstochowers* in America, the United Czenstochover Relief Committee held a banquet on 18th September 1938 in honour of him and his wife, at which other *Częstochower* organisations in New York also expressed their gratitude.

His printing shop, at 416 4th Avenue, was the "Little Częstochowa" of New York. All dealings took place there, with Józef Kaufman serving and welcoming everyone with comradely love and a *landsman's* [neighbourly] devotion.

¹ [TN: See Volume One, col.531.]

² [TN: It is unclear whether the author uses the term "national" here in the Zionist sense, or the ethnic and vernacular one.]