

Family in Russia



The collection includes images from three trips to Russia (1964, 1980 and 1986). The first trip was undertaken by Laurie Jaffee and Joe Bloom and a lawyer, Charles Friedman, who assisted in tracking down the relatives of Joffe Marks. After Joffe Marks' death in 1955, it was discovered that there were relatives (three great-nieces of Joffe Marks – the children of his sister Pera Kapelus) alive in Russia. It was initially thought that they had died in the Holocaust in Lithuania. In terms of Joffe Marks' wishes, he had left money in trust to his relatives and Laurie Jaffee was obliged to find out whether they were alive. Through advertising in Russian newspapers, the nieces of Joffe Marks were alerted to the advert by a friend. Although most of the family were killed in the Holocaust, the children had miraculously survived. Pera Kapelus (née Jaffee), Joffe Marks' sister was killed in the Ninth Fort and documented by a very unique letter dated 20 July 1945, written by one of her friends proving her death. The full story, as well as the letter, is contained in the book written by Georgina Jaffee. In the 1980s, Laurie Jaffee again went to Russia, first with his daughter, Georgina and Tony and Gesila Bloom, and then a third trip with his dear friend Graham Beck. This latter trip, he was also accompanied by Georgina. Visiting the Ninth Fort in Kovno in 1989, where 80 000 people were murdered, was an especially moving experience while remembering Pera Kapelus. There is a [video](#) of Georgina's trip to Russia which shows meetings with the relatives.



This Pyramid (dedicated to the murdered Jews of Plunge in 1941 is build as a personal endeavour by Boris Kaplan, son of Julia Kaplan (niece of Joffe Marks) and stands on the top of the Judea mountain 5 kim East of the Adam settlement. Boris was so upset by the demolishing of the Plunge synagogue in 1997. He took a stone from the synagogue and placed it in this mound to create a memorial. Plunge is where the family originated.