

This chapbook is an effort to recover my family history, as I write, will be filled with “secrets and distortions.” I search for a sort of truth in childhood memories, in documents, in historical testimonies, and a heritage tour that took me to towns my grandparents came from. A story unfolds in this sequence of poems that remains ambiguous and painful. As I grew stronger as a poet, I felt I could take on this subject, which I had visited in the past, but in retirement I finally had time to write. These poems have roots in my Brooklyn childhood. The subjects I explore were in a sense obsessions, urging me to spend several years writing and rewriting the sequence that I finally published in this chapbook. The toughest challenge: simply to write better poems. My chapbook was a finalist in the publisher’s Cathy Smith Bowers Poetry Chapbook Prize.