Rebbetzin Chana Etтел Miller, a"h

By Dr. Yitzchok Levine

With the recent passing of Rebbetzin Chana Etтел Miller, a"h, wife of Harav Avigdor Miller, on August 22, Aluf Yisrael lost a true eithei chayil. During May and June of 2004, I was doing research for an article about the first rabbinical post Harav Avigdor Miller, z"l (1908-2001), held, in Chelsea, Mass., where he served from 1939 to 1944.* My wife and I made a visit to Rav Miller’s beautiful shul in Chelsea, which has been designated a historical site. It occurred to me that it would be appropriate to interview Rav Miller’s widow. Rebbetzin Chana Etтел Miller, so I reached to meet with her on June 22, 2004. At that time, she was 91 years old, and she shared parts of her life story with me.

Chana Ettel Lesin was born in Lithuania in 1913, to Rav Yaakov Moshe Hakohen Lesin, z"l (1888-1975) and Sheina (nee Shapiro) Lesin. She had four siblings: three brothers and a sister. Her grandfathers were Harav Shmuel Nissin Lesin, z"l, and Harav Eliezer Yehoshua Zelig Shapiro, z"l, both distinguished Rabbanim. Rav Shapiro served as the Rav both distinguished Rabbanim.

Rebbetzin Miller’s father had devoted her life to her husband and family. There is no question that without her assistance, Harav Avigdor Miller would never have been able to accomplish all he did.

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*This article appeared in Hamodia Magazine on August 20, 2004.

Yehi zichro baruch.