

**FROM MLYNOV, RUSSIA TO LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS:
THE SEEFER FAMILY STORY**

mlynov

v.17

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From the desk of Mlynov descendant

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A note about the researcher/author:
Howard I. Schwartz, PhD, is descended from
the Demb and Gruber families in Mlynov.

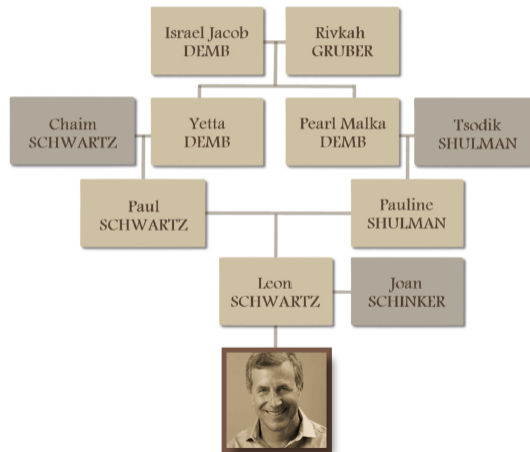
HOWARD SCHWARTZ'S PATERNAL ANCESTRY

Howard's great-great grandparents were Israel Jacob Demb and Rivkah Gruber.

Two of their daughters were Yetta and Pearl Malka Demb. Sister Yetta married Chaim Schwartz and Sister Pearl Malka married Tsodik Shulman.

The son of Yetta and Chaim, Paul Schwartz, married his first cousin, the daughter of Pearl Malka and Tsodik Shulman, Pauline Shulman.

Paul and Pauline, both born in Mlynov, were Howard's paternal grandparents. They were the parents of Leon Schwartz, Howard's father.



After Howard's parents, Joan and Leon Schwartz, passed away, Howard began researching his family roots, an effort which almost naturally expanded into an interest in the story of his ancestors' hometown Mlynov. As was the case in his own family, he discovered that interfamilial marriages were common among many of the families in the small town of Mlynov.

Howard has been publishing the results of his research on a website about Mlynov. This website tells the story of what became of Mlynov and the families that once lived there.

<https://kchilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/>

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Overview

Seven and possibly eight members of the Seefer (or Sefeer) family left the small shtetl of Mlynov, Russia (now Mlyniv, Ukraine) and migrated to Lawrence, Massachusetts, between 1899 and 1904. They were among the early emigrants from Mlynov. While the majority of Mlynov families migrated to Baltimore starting in 1890, some also settled in Chicago, New York, Jersey City, Providence, and Springfield, MA where they had relatives.

For reasons discussed below, the Seefer family settled in Lawrence, Massachusetts, one of the most ambitious textile manufacturing cities, in the American industrial revolution. What we know of their migration and early lives in the US is based on available US and Russian records and supplemented by oral traditions, photos and memories shared by descendant Daniel Krasnegor, a grandson of Annie (Sefeer) Krasnegor.¹

The patriarch, Abraham Seefer, met and married his wife, Rivka, before 1877 when their oldest daughter Beile Seefer was born. Rivka's first name was later anglicized in US records to Rebecca, Rosie, Rae and other variations. Her birth surname (aka maiden name) was almost certainly Tachman as indicated by several US records, though one record lists her surname as Katz. If Rivka was indeed born "Rivka Tachman" then she was the three-year-old child by that name listed in a population survey of Mlynov residents done in 1858, a record discussed in more detail below. Based on this record, Rivka would have been twenty-two years old when her first child, Beile, was born. We can assume she and Abraham married around 1875 or 1876.

Abraham's birthplace is not known to date because of a paucity of records. There is only one US record located that indicates his presence in the US. But, as discussed below, there are reasons to have doubts about the accuracy of this information. From population surveys available for Mlynov, it does not appear that Abraham was born there nor in the nearby town of Mervits. No family with the name Seefer (or some variation of the surname) is listed in the Mlynov population surveys from 1850 or 1858. While there is a "Shapir" family listed in the 1858 and 1850 surveys, they do not list a child named Abraham. The surname Sefeer or its variations also does not appear in the population surveys of the nearby town of Mervits from those same years.

It is possible that the Sefeer family arrived in Mlynov after 1858 or that Abraham was living in another town near Mlynov and that after he married Rivka, he settled down with her in Mlynov where her family was living. While several examples have been documented in which a woman who grew up in Mlynov went to live in her husband's town, there are also a few examples in which a man who grew up in Mlynov went to live in his wife's town.² Probably a variety of factors influenced the decision where to live including the relative wealth of the families, the economic opportunities and family attachments.

In any case, Abraham and Rivka Seefer had six children in total by 1897 when their youngest, Solomon Seefer, was born. All of them came to the US between 1899-1904, with the probable exception of the father Abraham. The children in birth order were Beile (married name Bessie Handler, 1877–1944), Joseph Jack (~1886 –1976), Chane (Annie Krasnegor, 1886–1979), Sheindel (Lizzie Meister 1888–1970), Fannie (Fannie

¹ I'd like to thank Daniel for sharing what he learned about his Seefer ancestors as well as the support of Amita Kiley, Collections Manager and Research Coordinator for the Lawrence History Center and Jaden Belizaire from the Lawrence Public Library.

² Examples of Mlynov women who moved to their husband's hometown include, Basia Ferteybaum who married Isador Borodacz (became Barditch in the US) and went to Dubno to live with him. Similarly Faiga Steinberg born in Mervits (sister of Bunia Steinberg) moved to Varkovichi to live with her husband. Gulza Rivitz born in Mlynov went to Berezchecho to live with her husband (see Clara Fram's memoir, [This is My Story](#)). An example of a Mlynov-born husband who went to live in his wife's hometown was Mlynov-born Abraham Gelberg who went to live in his wife's town of Radyvyliv.

Olans 1892–1975) and Solomon (Samuel Sefer 1897–1991). The migration of the family to America began not long after Solomon’s birth.

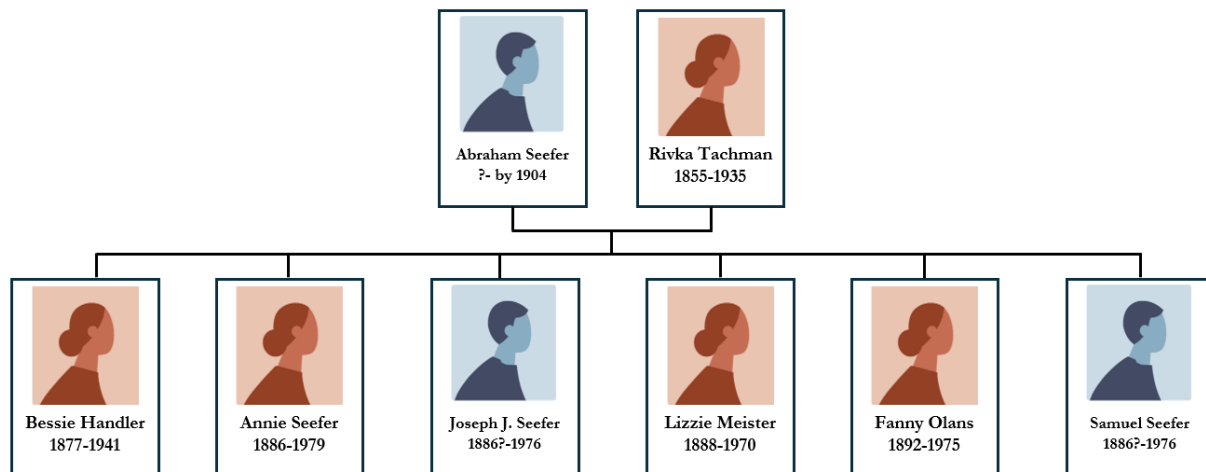


Figure 1 Overview of the Seefer Family

There are many variations in the spelling of the family surname in US records (Soifer, Seefer, Sefeer, Sefever, Sefer, Soifer, Seifert, Sefever). In fact, the spelling of the surname varies in every one of the US Federal censuses for Joseph. The origin of the surname is not certain. If based on the Hebrew it could be derived from the word “sofer” (סופר) meaning scribe or “sefer” meaning book. An oral family tradition recalls that Abraham was an illustrator for books, which could explain the origin of the name. Other possible Hebrew sources include the term “safir” ספיר meaning a sapphire, one of the twelve stones on the breastplate of the ancient high priest Aaron. Since Abraham Seefer is known from the tombstones of his children to have been a “kohen,” a descendant of the priestly line of Aaron, it is plausible that the surname of the family could have been based on the name of a stone on priestly breastplate (Exodus 28:17-20).

Four US naturalization records validate that three of the Seefer children were born in Mlynov. Two records belong to the son called “Joseph J. Sefeer.” Joseph (also called Jacob) filled out his naturalization petition in Lawrence, Massachusetts and signed it on March 28, 1904. The petition indicates he was a clerk, 22 years of age, living at 4 Concord Street in Lawrence, MA. Joseph listed his birthplace as “Melenoff” and his birthdate as Dec. 25, 1883, making him 22 years old. Later in 1942 when Joseph filled out his WWII draft registration card, he again listed “Milinov” as his birthplace. In that document he listed his birthday as Dec. 26, 1886. As we shall see, when Joseph in fact arrived with his sister Annie in 1900, his manifest indicates he was only 11 at the time, suggesting he was born about 1889.

A Declaration of Intention filled out on March 12, 1917, by the youngest son, “Samuel [Solomon] Seefer,” also indicates his birthplace was “Mlinov.” He was married by this time and working as a “clerk” while living at 174 Woodrow Ave in Boston. He listed his birthday as Dec. 7, 1897.

It appears that the children's father, Abraham Sefeer, never naturalized and probably never came to the US.³ If Abraham had naturalized, his sons would have been naturalized through his process since they were still minors.

For similar reasons, there are no naturalization records filled out by Rivka and her daughters because the naturalization status of girls and women followed their fathers or husbands before 1922, when the Cable Act required an independent process for women. As we shall see, Annie's birthplace is listed differently in the naturalization records of her first and second husbands.

Her first husband, Hyman Krasnegor, listed Annie's birthplace as Rivne (the larger town to the east of Mlynov). It seems probable didn't remember the name of her small shtetl, Mlynov, or just listed the larger better-known town in the area of Ukraine that he was familiar with. Annie's second husband, Myer Newmark, probably got the town correct, when he wrote "Molinov, Russia" for her birthplace in his naturalization petition from 1941.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
ESSEX, ss.

To the Honorable the Justice of the Police Court of Lawrence, within and for the County of Essex:

RESPECTFULLY represents *Joseph J. Sefer*
by occupation a: *Clerk*, in alien, now residing at
No. *4 Concord St* street, in *Lawrence*
in said County, *Essex*.

that he was born at *Russia* in the County of _____, in
Melnyoff A. D. _____, on or about the *25th Dec 1883* day of
of age; that he emigrated from *Russia July 1889* being now about *22* years

and arrived at *New York* in the United States of America, on or about the
20th July 1889 day of _____ A. D.

that it then was and still is his bona fide intention to become a citizen of the United States of America, and to renounce all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Prince, Potentate, State, and Sovereignty whatsoever, especially and in particular to *EDWARD VII King of the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, and Emperor of India, the Gar of Russia*

whose subject he has heretofore been; that he intends to summon as witnesses at his final hearing,
residing at No. *17th Hoyt* street, in *Lawrence*
and *Franklin House*
residing at No. *Alexander St* street, in _____
in said County, *464 Haverhill St*

Figure 2 Joseph J. Sefer's Naturalization Petition from March 28, 1904

³ A naturalization record dated May 19, 1902 for an Abraham Seiffeer, a peddler in Boston, cannot belong to Rivka's husband because the record indicates that that man was born in 1873 and thus was not old enough to have children in 1877 when daughter Beile was born.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

ORIGINAL 305

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

District of Massachusetts, ss: _____ In the District Court of the United States.

I, Samuel Sefer, aged 19 years,
occupation clerk, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Color white, complexion light, height 5 feet 6 inches,
weight 140 pounds, color of hair brown, color of eyes gray,
other visible distinctive marks none.
I was born in Milnov, Russia
on the 7th day of December, anno Domini 1897; I now reside
at 174 Woodrow Ave., Boston (Dor), Massachusetts.
I emigrated to the United States of America from Rotterdam, Holland
on the vessel Rotterdam; my last
foreign residence was said Russia; I am un married; the name
of my wife is Mary; she was born at Russia
and now resides at with me.
It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign

Figure 3 Samuel Sefer's Declaration of Intention 1917 showing birthplace of Milnov

As noted earlier, there is almost no evidence that the father Abraham Sefer even came to the US. The only record indicating his presence in the US is the passenger manifest of his wife and two younger children from 1904. Their record indicates they were headed to Rivka's husband "A. Soifer" at 4 Concord Street in Lawrence, MA. While it is possible Abraham was already in the US by then, this record has to be taken with a grain of salt. A Lawrence City Directory lists Rivka's son, Joseph J, at that address in 1904. It seems unlikely that Joseph would have been listed in the directory without his father if Abraham was in fact in Lawrence by this time. Abraham does not appear in the City Directory that year or in the preceding years. Suppose, however, that Abraham died in Mlynov before 1904. Clearly Rivka would not have wanted to admit she was a widow as she was trying to get through US customs. With children and no husband, custom officials could easily have labelled her LPC (likely public charge) and denied entrance to her and the children.

It is true that Abraham's name is listed on the marriage certificates of his daughters when they marry in Lawrence over the next several years. But such records, which ask for the name of parents, do not mean Abraham was alive or living in the US at the time. Indeed, by 1905, within a year of arriving, Rivka appears in the Lawrence city directory at 150 Arlington Street listed as a "widow of Abraham." Her son "Joseph J" is listed in the same record living at 152 Arlington Street and working as a porter at The Franklin hotel.

We are thus left with the possibility that Rivka was already widowed when she left for the US or if Abraham came first, he died very quickly without leaving any trace.

590	LAWRENCE [S] DIRECTORY
Seel Andrew, weaver, house 19 Mechanic	
Seelye Emeline C. widow, lodging house, 190 Essex	
Seeton Charles R. W. photographer, 283 Essex, rooms do.	
" David, removed to Readville	
Sefer Joseph J. porter, The Franklin, boards 4 Concord	

Figure 4 1904 Lawrence Directory showing Joseph J. Sefer, a porter, at The Franklin

562

LAWRENCE DIRECTORY 1905

Seefer Rose	widow of Abraham	house 150	Arlington
Seel Andrew	weaver	house 19	Mechanic
Seelye Emeline C	widow	removed to	Bellingham, Washing-
Seeton Charles R W	photographer	283	Essex rooms do
Sefer Joseph J	porter	The Franklin	boards 152 Arlington

Figure 5 1905 Lawrence City Directory showing Rose “Seefer, widowed,” and son Joseph “Sefer”

Besides the four records discussed above, no US records discovered to date list Mlynov as the *birthplace* of family members. We shall see ample evidence, however, that the family was living in Mlynov before they left for America. It thus appears safe to conclude that most or all of the Sefer children were born in Mlynov and grew up there.⁴

Rivka Tachman’s Birthplace and Family

Mlynov was apparently the birthplace of the children’s mother Rivka according to available Russian records. A population survey in Mlynov in 1858 (called a “revision list” in Russian), lists a household with a three-year-old girl named Rivka Tachman.⁵ As noted earlier, Rivka’s birth surname is listed in several credible US records as “Tachman” (or a variation of Tachman).⁶ In the 1858 population survey in Mlynov, a Tachman household is listed as household #49 and has five members.

Appears in 1850?	Family #	Surname	Name	Father’s Name	Estate	Implied Year of Birth (based on age in 1850)	Implied Year of Birth (based on age in 1858)	Previous Census Year	Age	Cause	When Exactly	Year	Age	Relation	Male Relative	Female Relative
yes	49	Tachman	Ios	Froim	townsman	1825	1825	1850	25			1858	33	head of the family		
yes	49	Tachman	Etya	not indicated	townsman		1826	1850	not indicated			1858	32	wife	Ios Froimov	
no	49	Tachman	Hana-Gittlya	Ios	townsman		1847	1850	not indicated			1858	11	daughter	Ios Froimov	Etta
no	49	Tachman	Sheva	Ios	townsman		1851	1850	not indicated			1858	7	daughter	Ios Froimov	Etta
no	49	Tachman	Rivka	Ios	townsman		1855	1850	not indicated			1858	3	daughter	Ios Froimov	Etta

Figure 6 1858 population survey in Mlynov showing the Tachman family

⁴ The US marriage record for Sheindel (Lizzie) Meister appears to say that she was born in “sorter Russia.” Ancestry and family researchers on Ancestry have mistakenly read the record that way and listed “Sorter Russia” as her birthplace. What the record actually says is “wool sorter” for occupation and the word “sorter” entered the space for birthplace!

⁵ See <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/Mlynov-Revision-1858.html#Tachman> for the 1858 revision list for Mlynov.

⁶ The surname Tachman (or its variations) for Rivka appears in a social security record, on a 1906 marriage record of her daughter Lizzie Sefer to Max Meister where she is called Rose Tratchman, and a 1913 marriage record of daughter Fannie Sefer to Louis Olans, where she is listed as Rose Tuchner. However, in the marriage record of her daughter “Annie Sefer” to “Hyman Krasniger” in 1905, Annie’s mother is listed as Rae Katz. It is unknown where the Katz surname came from.

The record indicates a daughter Rivka Tachman was 3 years old in 1858 and had two sisters, Hana Gitlya, age 11, and Sheva age 7. Their father was Ios [= Yosef/Joseph], who was born in 1825 and was present in Mlynov in the previous census year of 1834. He was the son of a man named Froim (Ephraim) Tachman and was also known as “Ios Froimov.”

Ios [Joseph] was married to woman named, Etya, who was born in 1826. Since their eldest child, Hana Gitlya, was born in 1847, they married before that date. It seems likely that Rivka Seefer’s first born son, Joseph, was the namesake for her grandfather by the same name (Ios) who appears in this survey.

Family #	Surname	Name	Father's Name	Implied Year of Birth (based on age in 1834)	Implied Year of Birth (based on age in 1850)	Previous Census Year	Age	Cause	When Exactly	Year	Age	Relation	Male Relative	Female Relative
44	Tachman	Paltiel	Meer	1822		1834	12	died	1835	1850	not indicated	head of the family		
44	Tachman	Froim	not indicated	1805		1834	29	died	1845	1850	not indicated	nephew	Paltiel Meerov	
44	Tachman	Ios	Froim		1825	1834	not present			1850	25	son	Froim	
44	Tachman	Etya	not indicated		1826	1834	not indicated			1850	24	wife	Ios Froimov	

Figure 7 1850 population survey for the Tachman family

From the earlier 1850 population survey before Rivka was born, we learn a bit more about her family.⁷ Rivka’s paternal grandfather, Froim, is listed though the record indicates Froim died in 1845 at the age of 40. The record suggests that he was living in Mlynov already by 1834 when an earlier survey was conducted and it seems probable he was born there in 1805.

Froim is described as the nephew of Paltiel Tachman, son of Meer (Meir), who was head of household and who died in 1835. Since they have the same surname, we can assume that Froim’s father (name unknown) was the brother of Paltiel Tachman and that Froim’s grandfather was Meer Tachman.

⁷ See <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/Mlynov-Revision-1850.html#Tachman> family #44 in the 1850 population survey (revision list) for Mlynov.

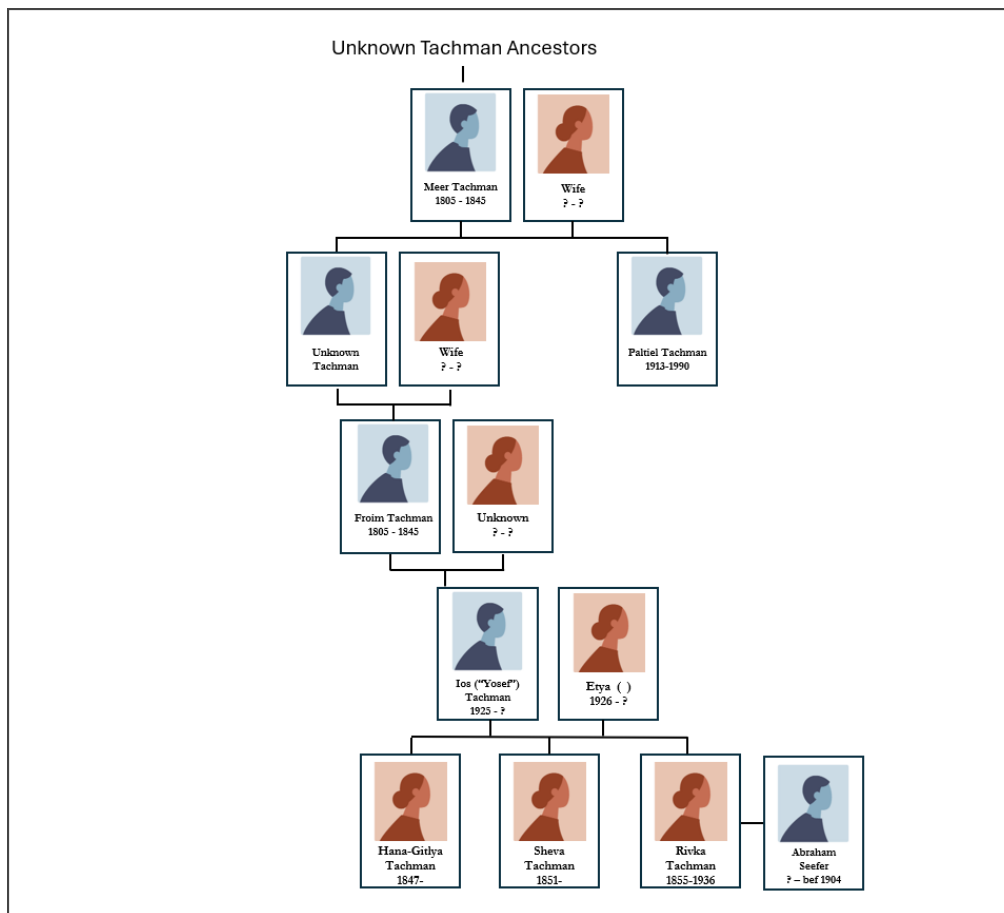


Figure 8 Rivka Tachman Family Tree Based on Mlynov 1850 and 1858 Revision Lists

Based on these population records, it appears that the Tachman family was present in Mlynov throughout the 19th century and perhaps was already living there in 1793 during the Second Partition of Poland when it became part of Russia. We can speculate that when Rivka married Abraham Sefeer, they settled in Mlynov and all the children were born there. As we shall now see, the Sefeer passenger manifests show the family was living in Mlynov before their migration. Unfortunately, these records do not record the travelers' birthplaces as well.

Mass migration of Jews from Eastern Europe began in the 1880s following the widespread pogroms following the assassination of Tsar Alexander II and the restrictive laws implemented by his son and successor Tsar Nicholas III. The lure of economic opportunity in America further accelerated the migration.

The Sefeer Migration to the US

Beile Sefeer, the eldest daughter of Abraham and Rivka, was the first to migrate to the US. She left "Mlinov" in 1899 to join her husband Benjamin Hendler who was already in Lawrence, Mass at 560 (or 564⁸) Hampshire St. By this point, Benjamin had been in the States for two years according to his later naturalization petition which he signed on Sept. 11, 1903, the earliest record discovered for the family in Lawrence. Benjamin's

⁸ The number is a somewhat illegible on the manifest. It looks more like a 4 but when her siblings arrive a year later their manifest indicates they are going to 560 Hampshire. A 560 Hampshire St has been located in the 1900 census but not an address at 564. In 1900, two other families are listed living at 560.

naturalization petition identifies his birthplace as “Volin,” (also spelled Volyn or Wolyn) which was the name of the province in Russia where Mlynov was also located. Unfortunately, the name of his specific town is not provided here or in other documents.⁹

Benjamin’s naturalization petition indicates he arrived in Philadelphia on November 15, 1897. A review of passenger manifests for ships arriving on or near that date arriving in Philadelphia has not located Benjamin on any record.¹⁰ We can speculate that Benjamin had relatives in Lawrence, MA since the city had begun to see an influx of Eastern and Southern European immigrants starting in the 1880s. By 1900, there were 44,600 individuals in Lawrence, 45% were foreign born from the massive influx of southern, Eastern European immigrants. One writer on Lawrence wrote that “the percentage of foreign-born to total residents was so high that that no more than three cities in the United States exceeded it between 1880 and 1900.”¹¹

What drew the immigrants there was the opportunity for work that developed around the textile mills. The town of Lawrence was originally incorporated in 1847 and was, according to the Lawrence History Center, the “the final and most ambitious of the New England planned textile-manufacturing cities by the Boston entrepreneurs who launched the American Industrial Revolution.”¹² The Lawrence family was one of the influential families involved in the early railroad in New England and in the development of the Boston skyline as the city competed to rival New York.

In any case, once Beile followed her husband Benjamin to Lawrence, the rest of the Sefer family followed her rather than heading to Baltimore where the majority of Mlynov immigrants were settling around the same time. “Beile Hendler” left Rotterdam on June 1, 1899, on the SS Amsterdam and arrived in New York on June 12th. The manifest describes her as 18 years old, and her last residence as “Mlinov.” The record does not provide a column listing birthplace. A woman listed next to Beila was from Dubno, a town close to Mlynov, and perhaps she was Beile’s traveling companion.¹³

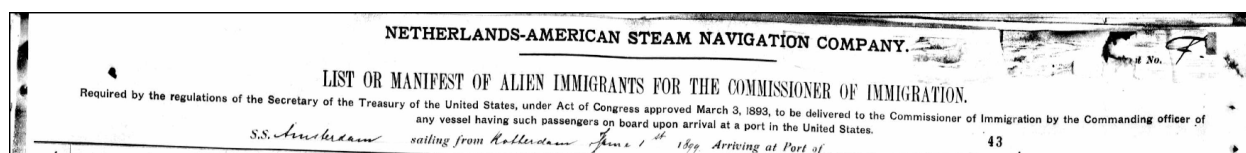


Figure 9 Masthead for the SS Amsterdam leaving Rotterdam on June 1, 1899

12	Beile	Hendler	18/	1/Jan. none	no Russia	Melinov
13	Rine	Shepper	23/	1/M	/	Dubno

Figure 10 Beile Hendler age 18, married, traveling on the SS Amsterdam, last residence “Melinov” Russia

⁹ Benjamin’s brother Nathan Handler also identified his birthplace as “Volin,” in his records.

¹⁰ A [ship arrived in Philadelphia on Nov. 14, 1897](#) from Antwerp but Benjamin’s name doesn’t appear to be on the manifest. Thus far Benjamin’s name has not been located on the [registry of ships arriving that year](#) in Philadelphia.

¹¹ Donald B. Cole, *Immigrant City: Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1845-1921*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, p. 11.

¹² See a history of Lawrence by the [Lawrence History Center](#).

¹³ The woman’s name appears to be Rive “Shepper” and perhaps she was a cousin or friend.

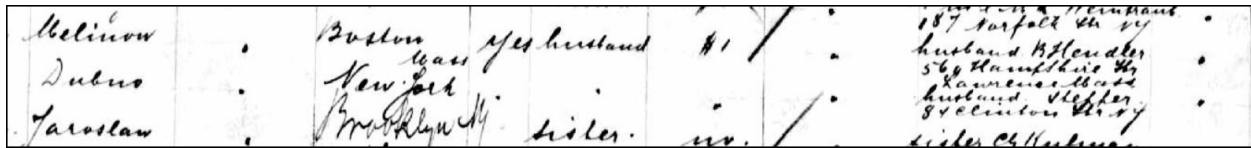


Figure 11 Right-hand columns showing Beile's destination was her "husband B Hendler at 560 (or 564?) Hampshire Str in Lawrence Mass

Since Beile's husband, Benjamin, was in the US already for two years by the time Beile arrived, as his Petition suggests, she may have married him when she was 16 years old before he left, unless Benjamin went back and forth from the US to Mlynov during this period and married her on one of those trips. The latter scenario seems plausible, since at least one other Mlynov man was traveling back and forth from the US to Mlynov during the 1890s and, as we shall see, Beile's sister, Annie, actually went back to Mlynov two years after she first arrived to bring her younger sister to the US.¹⁴

On June 24, 1900, a year after Beile's arrival, her younger siblings, Chane (Annie) "Sufer" and Eisik¹⁵ (Joseph) "Sufer" left Hamburg on the SS Pennsylvania and arrived in New York on July 6th. Chane is listed as age 14 and Eisik as 11 and both are described as "students." Their last residence reads "Mlinow." They were headed to Lawrence, MA to a "brother" [in-law] [actually it was their sister] "Basie Sufer" at 560 Hampshire Str. The address was nearly identical to the original address where Beile headed when she arrived in 1899. The fact that the two children were not headed to their father, Abraham, suggests that Abraham was not present when they arrived.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN IMMIGRANTS FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION														
Required by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1899, to be delivered to the Commissioner of Immigration by the master of every steamship, sailing from a port in the United States, and by the master of every foreign vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States														
S. S. PENNSYLVANIA sailing from Hamburg 24 June 1900 Arriving at Port of New York														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
No. of List	NAME IN FULL	Age	Sex	Married or Single	Calling or Occupation	Able to Read, Write	Nationality	Last Residence	Support for landing in the United States	Final destination in the United States, City or Town	Whether using a ticket to such final destination	By whom was passage paid	Whether in possession of money or other means of subsistence	Whether ever before in the United States, and if so, when and where
No. auf der Liste	Vollständige Namens-Aufgabe	Alter	Sex	Verheiratet oder ledig	Beruf oder Besch.	Ob fähig zu lesen, schreiben	Nationalität	Letzter Wohnort	Anknüpfungspunkt in den Vereinigten Staaten	Endgültiges Reiseziel in den Vereinigten Staaten	Benutzt die Einwanderer-Karte	Wer hat das Reisegehalt gezahlt	Hat der Einwanderer noch andere Mittel zum Leben mit sich, als 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 9.00, 10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00, 16.00, 17.00, 18.00, 19.00, 20.00, 21.00, 22.00, 23.00, 24.00, 25.00, 26.00, 27.00, 28.00, 29.00, 30.00, 31.00, 32.00, 33.00, 34.00, 35.00, 36.00, 37.00, 38.00, 39.00, 40.00, 41.00, 42.00, 43.00, 44.00, 45.00, 46.00, 47.00, 48.00, 49.00, 50.00, 51.00, 52.00, 53.00, 54.00, 55.00, 56.00, 57.00, 58.00, 59.00, 60.00, 61.00, 62.00, 63.00, 64.00, 65.00, 66.00, 67.00, 68.00, 69.00, 70.00, 71.00, 72.00, 73.00, 74.00, 75.00, 76.00, 77.00, 78.00, 79.00, 80.00, 81.00, 82.00, 83.00, 84.00, 85.00, 86.00, 87.00, 88.00, 89.00, 90.00, 91.00, 92.00, 93.00, 94.00, 95.00, 96.00, 97.00, 98.00, 99.00, 100.00	Wurde der Einwanderer schon in den Vereinigten Staaten, falls wo und wann

Figure 12 Manifest masthead of the SS Pennsylvania sailing from Hamburg to New York, leaving June 24, 1900

10	Chane Sufer	14	F	Single	Student			Mlinow						
11	Eisik	11	M	Single	Student			Mlinow						

Figure 13 Chane Sufer and Eisik, 14 and 11, students, last residence Mlinow

	Lawrence Mass							Basie Sufer		560 Hampshire Str				
--	---------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	-------------	--	-------------------	--	--	--	--

Figure 14 Headed to Lawrence Mass to a brother, Basie Sufer at 560 Hampshire

The young man named "Eisik" traveling with Chane was her brother who appears in subsequent records as Joseph J. Seefeer. Like many individuals in Mlynov, who were known by a first and middle name

¹⁴ Clara Fram who was born in Mlynov in 1902 recalls in her memoir that her father went back and forth from Baltimore to Mlynov during the 1890s. Her mother was called "Pesse the American" as a result. Clara migrated to Baltimore in 1909. See Clara H. Fram, "[This is My Story](#)."

¹⁵ Eisik was the first name of Joseph as discussed below.

rather than a surname, Eisik was the Hebrew first name of Joseph Seefer. His tombstone reads in Hebrew “Eisik Yosef” [Isaac Joseph] son of Abraham the Kohen.



Figure 15 Joseph Seefer's tombstone reads "Eisik Yosef son of Abraham the Kohen"

The siblings' manifest indicates that Chane (Annie) was born in 1886 and Eisik (Jacob) in 1889, rather than 1883 as suggested on his subsequent 1903 naturalization record. The inconsistency in birth dates was fairly common among Jewish immigrants from Russia since birthdates were not considered very important by the Jewish community in Russia and because the Julian (not Gregorian) calendar was followed adding confusion to the whole matter.¹⁶ But Joseph may also have been motivated to pretend he was older than he was if in fact his father Abraham never immigrated and he was the oldest male in his family.

We can assume that Chane (Annie) and Eisik (Joseph) spent their first couple of years living with their sister Beile and her husband Benjamin, though they do not appear in the 1900 Federal census at 560 Hampshire Street¹⁷ or in the City Directory between 1899–1903.

For a long time, research failed to produce the manifest of the Seefer daughter remembered as Lizzie (or Sheindel) Sefeer (later married name Lizzie Meister). Her later US records suggested she arrived in 1902. Did she come with the children's father, Abraham Seefer? Focus on just the name Sheindel and the year of arrival finally turned up the missing record. Sheindel in fact arrived in 1902, but the manifest lists her name as "Sheindel Mander." She was traveling with her sister "Chane Mander." We know this manifest belongs to the two Sefeer sisters because they are headed to the address of their "brother-in-law, Benjamin Handler," who was living in Lawrence at 10 Melvin Street that year. Their last residence was also listed as "Mytnow" (one of the variations for Mlynov that appears in other records as well).

Chane, who already arrived in the US with her brother two years earlier, must have gone back to Mlynov to bring her younger sister Sheindel to the US. It seems likely that the girls probably were using the "Handler" surname to get into the US since this was the surname of their brother-in-law and sister. "Handler" probably became "Mander" through a verbal miscommunication or transcription error. The two sisters were not the only Mlynov immigrants to adopt an inlaw's surname to ease their immigration process.¹⁸ The fact that

¹⁶ On birthdates not being considered very important to the Russian Jewish communities, see Eugene M. Avrutin, *Jews and the Imperial State: Identification Politics in Tsarist Russia*. Ithaca: Cornell University, 2010.

¹⁷ Using the [Steven Morse tools](#) for locating census addresses, I checked the Hampshire census pages for those addresses and found another family at 560 Hampshire in 1900 but couldn't locate an address for 564 Hampshire in the census or in the city directory. It is not certain that such an address exists.

¹⁸ The father and sister of the Yiddish poet Aleph Katz who was born in Mlynov entered the US using a variation of the Hirsch surname, the birth surname of Annie Katz, the children's mother.

Chane went back to get her sister, Sheindel, lends further credence to the conclusion that their father Abraham never came to the US, as discussed in more detail below.

The two sisters traveled on the SS Kroonland leaving July 12 and arriving in New York on July 22nd. Chane is listed as 16 and Scheindel as 10. Their last residence was “Mlynów” and they were, as noted, headed to their brother-in-law Benjmain Handler in Lawrence.

List or Manifest of Alien Immigrants for the Commissioner of Immigration. List No. C.

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1883, to be delivered to the Commissioner of Immigration by the Commanding officer of any vessel having such passengers on board at a port in the United States.

U.S. KROONLAND	sailing from Antwerp.	July 12 th	1904	Arriving at Port of	JUL 22 1902
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36

Figure 16 Masthead of the manifest for the SS Kroonland leaving Antwerp on July 12th

X	Chen	Mander	16	10/11/94	—	"	"	"	Thyris	"	"	Lawrence, Moss.
X	Scheindel	" - "	10	"	—	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

Figure 17 Chane and Scheindel "Manter" arriving July 22, 1902 in New York

[illegible]

Figure 18 Right-hand columns of manifest showing the sisters were headed to Lawrence, Mass to brother-in-law Benjamin Handler at 10 Melvin Street.

In 1903, Beile's husband Benjamin Handler filled out his naturalization petition at the Lawrence city courthouse. The older version of the Petition form does not include much information but indicates that Benjamin Handler was a dry goods peddler living at 255 Chestnut Street. He listed his birthday as June 25, 1877 in "Volin." This is the document that indicates his arrival in Philadelphia on Nov. 15, 1987. Benjamin had two witnesses: Joseph Freedman who lived at 128 Valley Street and Samuel Berman at 48 Concord.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Filed, 22.

To the Honorable the Justice of the Police Court of Lawrence holden at Lawrence, within and for the County of Essex:

RESPECTFULLY represents Benjamin Handler
by occupation a dry goods peddler, an alien, now residing at
No. 235 Chatham street, in Lawrence
in said County,

that he was born at Holm in the County of,
Denmark, on or about the 25 th,
June A. D. 1877, being now about 26
days of age; that he emigrated from Russia

and arrived at Philadelphia in the United States of America, on or about the
fifteenth day of November A. D. 1897,
that it then was and still is his bona fide intention to become a citizen of the United States of America,
and to renounce all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Prince, Potentate, State, and Sovereignty
whatsoever, especially and in particular to GEORGE V. King of the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India.

The Bear of Russia

whose subject he has heretofore been; that he intends to summon as witnesses at his final
hearing, Joseph Friedman
residing at No. 28 Valley street, in Lawrence
and Samuel Bayman
residing at No. 78 Concord street, in Lawrence
in said County.

Figure 19 Benjamin Handler's Petition from Sept. 11, 1903

A year later, in 1904, “Riwke Soifer,” age 39, arrived with her two youngest children, “Witie” (later Fannie Olans), age 9, and Salomon (Samuel) age 7. They left Rotterdam on July 16, 1904, on the SS Rotterdam and arrived in New York on July 26th. Their last residence was “Mlynov” and they were headed to Riwke’s husband “A Soifer” at 4 Concord Street in Lawrence, MA.

152
27

REGISTRATION OFFICE
Form 100-10

BALCON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED.
THIS SHEET IS FOR STEERAGE PASSENGERS.

HOLLAND-AMERICA LINE.
List **R**

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE U. S. IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1903, to be delivered to the U. S. Immigration Officer by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

S. S. *Rotterdam* sailing from *Rotterdam*, *July 11*, 190*4* Arriving at Port of *New York*, 190*4*

Figure 20 Manifest masthead of SS Rotterdam leaving Rotterdam on July 11th for New York

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. on List.	NAME IN FULL.	Age.	Married	Calling	Able to—	Nationality.	* Race or People.	Last Residence.	Final Destination.	Whether having a ticket to such final destination.	By whom was passage paid?	Whether in	Whether ever	Whether going to join a relative or friend; and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address.	
		Yrs. Mos.	Sex.	or Single.	or Occupation.	Read. Write.						(Country of last per- manent residence.)	(Province, City, or Town.)		(State, City, or Town.)
1	Rivke Soifer	39	f	married	housewife	no	Russia	Hebrew	Mlynov	Lawrence	yes	husb	\$5.00	no	husband A Soifer
2	Witie	9	f	child							father				4 Concord St Lawrence Mass
3	Salomon	7	m	child											---

Figure 21 Rivke Soifer with two children on the SS Rotterdam headed to husband A. Soifer at 4 Concord Street

As previously discussed, there are reasons to suspect that Rivka’s husband, Abraham Soifer, did not actually come to the US and that by listing him Rivka was trying to avoid being considered “LPC” (a likely public charge).

Early Days in Lawrence, Massachusetts

By the time Benjamin and Beile arrived, Lawrence had grown into a thriving industrial town especially known for its textile production. The city became infamous in 1912 for its massive “Bread and Roses” textile strike which captured the front pages of the New York Times for two months, triggered Congressional hearings and reshaped the labor movement in this country.

The town of Lawrence was still a relatively young town when the Sefeers arrived. It was originally incorporated in 1847 and was, according to the Lawrence History Center, the “the final and most ambitious of the New England planned textile-manufacturing cities by the Boston entrepreneurs who launched the American Industrial Revolution.”¹⁹ The Lawrence family was one of the influential families involved in the early railroad in New England and in the development of the Boston skyline as the city competed to rival New York.

The Lawrence family and others (Lowells, Appletons, Jacksons) chartered the Essex Company in 1845 to build a dam and canals on the Merrimack River for the purpose of providing waterpower for textile mills. The directors planned to sell land on either side of the river for mills, homes for workers and managers, stores, churches, schools and local government. The Essex company exercised a great deal of control over the design of Lawrence, developing state-of-the-art mills as well as corporation boarding houses, which allowed mill owners to have sway over the behavior of their workers and demonstrating to the world that workers could be accommodated in good quality housing. The company also micro-managed the development of churches, schools and the local government.

Starting in the 1890s, Jewish merchants became increasingly numerous in Lawrence and specialized in dry goods and retail shops. In the 1880s, the first Jewish arrivals established a community around Common,

¹⁹ Lawrence History Center (<https://lawrencehistory.org/history>)

Valley, Concord, and Lowell streets. The Jewish congregation, Sons of Israel, was organized October 3, 1894. and built their synagogue at 70 Concord Street in 1913. The Congregation of Anshe Sfarad, organized on April 6, 1900, built their synagogue at 85 Concord Street in the autumn of 1907.²⁰

Beile's husband, Benjamin Handler, was living in Lawrence in 1898 when the town experienced its biggest blizzard of the nineteenth century which occurred on February 1, 1898. The city was paralyzed by 30 inches of snow blowing into drifts 8 feet deep. In 1899, the combined Lawrence Police Station and courthouse was built on the corner of Lawrence and Common Streets. This is the courthouse where Benjamin Handler filled out his naturalization petition in 1903.

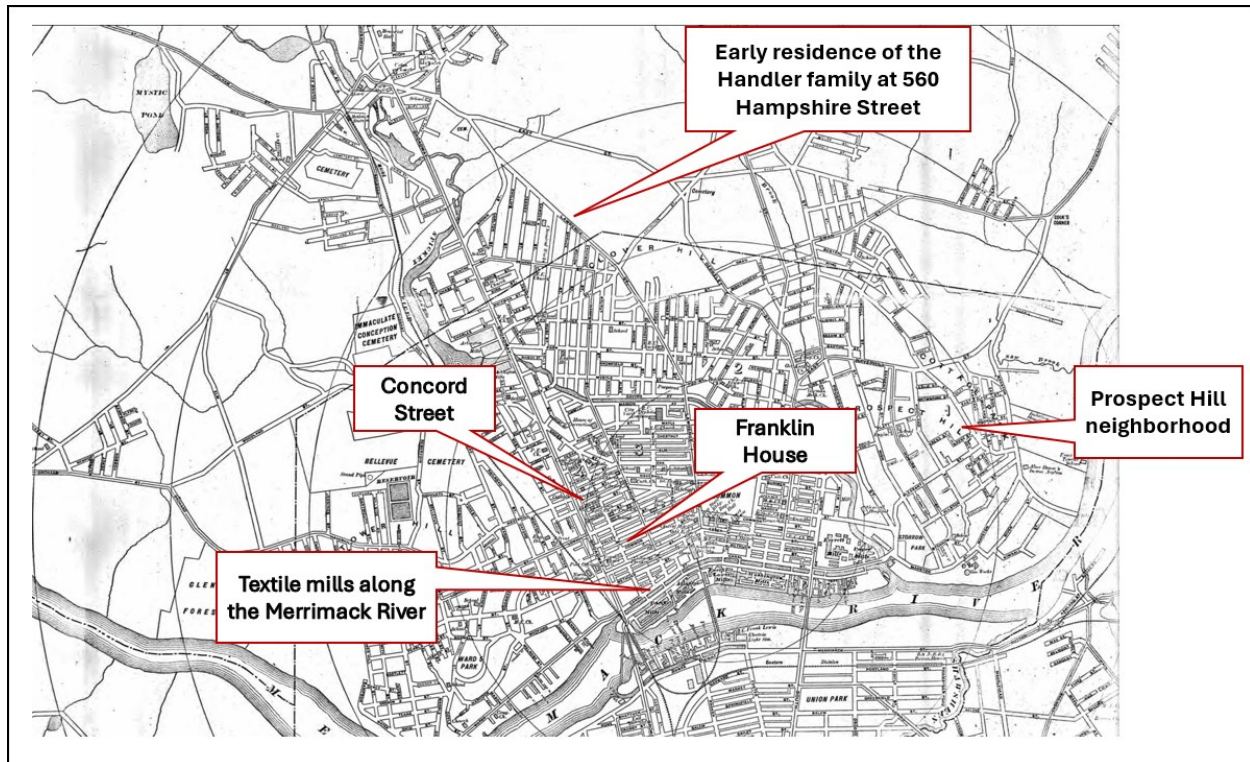


Figure 22 Lawrence Map from 1904 City Directory

²⁰ Information comes from several sources: "[Jewish Community \(Lawrence\)](#)," published by the Haverhill Public Library (known as "Queen City"). "Lawrence, MA," in Wikipedia drawing on the *Municipal History of Essex County in Massachusetts*, Tercentenary Edition, Benj. F. Arrington, Editor-in-chief, Volume II 1922 Lewis Historical Publishing Company New York. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence,_Massachusetts

HAMPSHIRE, fr. 431 Canal, across Spicket river, to 302 Lawrence	
0	0 Canal
2	0 Methuen
0	17 Essex
44	43 Common
80	77 Valley
118	117 Lowell
150	151 Concord
182	173 Bradford
0	0 St. Mary's Church
0	0 Haverhill
220	0 Cross
221	0 Oak
0	0 Pine
0	0 Hampshire-st. school
236	0 Chardon
237	0 Chestnut
276	0 Cedar
299	0 Auburn
339	0 Marion avenue
0	341 Spicket river
0	343 Irving avenue
370	371 Myrtle
414	417 Park
456	459 Alder
0	511 Arlington
0	0 Centre
560	0 Lawrence

Figure 23 The 1900 City directory showing 560 Hampshire was at the intersection with Lawrence

CONCORD, from 18 Bradford to 195 Broadway	
2	1 Bradford
26	19 Hampshire
36	First Presbyterian Ch.
60	Advent Chapel
92	Engine-house
92	93 Franklin
126	132 Broadway

Figure 24 The 1900 City Directory showing that 4 Concord was close to the intersection with Bradford

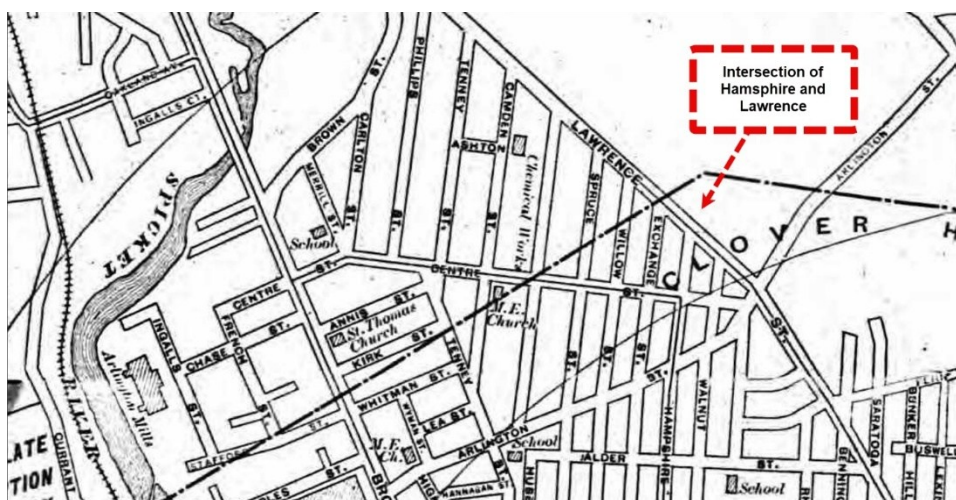


Figure 25 A map of Lawrence from the 1904-1905 city directory, showing 560 Hampshire St where Benjamin Handler was living was at the intersection of Hampshire and Lawrence.



Figure 26 A view of the city showing locations of the Sefers, first at 560 Hampshire, then 255 Chestnut and 4 Concord

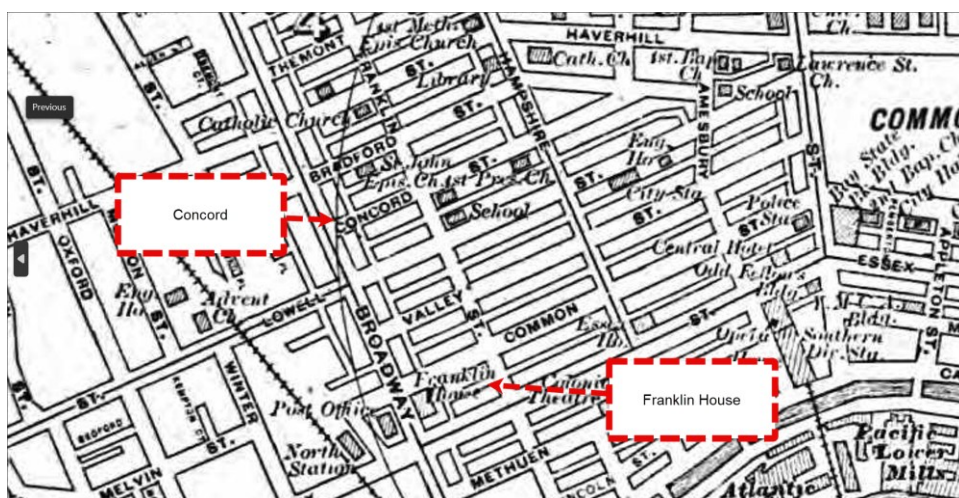


Figure 27 Enlarged 1900 map showing approximate location of 4 Concord and relative distance to the Franklin House where Joseph was porter

The Sefers in Lawrence, 1904–1910

In July 1904, when Rivka and her two younger children arrived in the US, they joined the rest of family living at 4 Concord Street. Beile's husband Benjamin Handler appears for the first time in the city directory in 1904 at that address. He is listed as a peddler and living at "house 4 Concord."

Rivka's son, "Joseph J. Sefer" (Eisik), is also listed for the first time in the directory that year. He is described as "boarding" at the same address and working as a "porter" at "The Franklin," a hotel which was a

hotel originally built by the Essex Company.²¹ Later in life, Joseph would become a hotel manager and his role of porter at The Franklin was his start in the hotel business. Joseph's naturalization petition signed in March 1904 shows he was living at the 4 Concord address. In this document, he described himself as "Joseph J. Sefeer," a clerk, and one of his witnesses was a man from The Franklin. As discussed earlier, this is the document in which he specified "Melenoff" as his birthplace and his birthday as Dec. 25, 1883. In all probability he was just pretending he was older than he was.

Sometime in 1905, the family moved from Concord to Arlington Street and occupied three addresses sequentially close together. Beile and her husband Benjamin were listed in the directory at 146 Arlington and Benjamin was still listed as a peddler. Rivka (now called "Rose Sefeer") was listed for the first time in the directory, appearing as "the widow of Abraham at 150 Arlington Street." Her son "Josef J Sefer" was listed separately as a porter at The Franklin, while boarding at 152 Arlington.²²



Figure 28 The Franklin House hotel where Joseph was a porter in 1904

Beile and Benjamin remained on Arlington Street through the end of the decade and Benjamin continued to be listed as a peddler until 1908. In that year, for the first time, Benjamin is also listed in "clothing" still living at 146 Arlington. It may be that Beile was running the clothing business because a second Benjamin Handler is listed in the directory that year in "dry goods" but with a home address at 49 Tenney Street. It appears that the two listings for Benjamin Handler were for the same person since the family appears again later at the 49 Tenney Street address. If so, Beile's husband Benjamin had expanded into a new business and asked for or received a second listing in the directory. The 1909 directory has a similar ambiguity with another address for the Benjamin Handler in dry goods.

The 1910 Federal census appears to confirm that both Benjamin Handlers were likely the same person since Benjamin Handler and Beila (called Bassie here) are living at 51 Tenney. This Benjamin is naturalized and a peddler in clothing.

²¹ <https://queencityma.wordpress.com/2009/11/12/lawrence-massachusetts/>

²² <https://www.facebook.com/lawrencehistory/posts/isaac-edward-allston-arrived-in-lawrence-from-north-carolina-in-the-latter-part-/3963375183680981/>

STATE Massachusetts COUNTY Essex TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Princeton 12 (East of) NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE City of Lawrence

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910-POPULATION

NAME OF INSTITUTION X ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 29 DAY OF April, 1910.

LOCATION.	NAME	RELATION.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.	NATIVITY.			LANGUAGE.	OCCUPATION.
				Place of birth of each person and parents of each person enumerated. If born in the United States, give the state or territory. If of foreign birth, give the country.	Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of father of this person.		
51 74 264	Handler Benjamin Bessie	Head Wife	Mr 47 51 741 12 2 0 0	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	English	General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which this person works, as cotton mill, dry goods store, farm, etc.

Figure 29 1910 Federal census showing Benjamin Handler and Bessie at 51 Tenney Street.

Rivka Seefer, and son, Joseph, also remained on Arlington through 1910. It is interesting to see how the spelling of the Seefer name kept changing its English spelling in this period. In 1905 Rose appears as "Seefer" and Joseph as "Sefer." In 1906, Rose is again "Seefer" but Joseph is "Sefeer."

In 1908, both Joseph and Rose are listed as "Sefeer" at 150 Arlington Street. This is the first year Joseph moved back in with his mother, Rose, at 150 Arlington from where he had been living at 152 Arlington. He is listed as boarding at his mother's address. Room may have opened up in his mother's unit since two of his sisters married and moved out by that point. This is also the first years that Joseph describes himself in "real estate" and not at The Franklin.

1905	Seefer Rose widow of Abraham house 150 Arlington Seel Andrew weaver house 19 Mechanic [ton Seelye Emeline C widow removed to Bellingham, Washing- Seeton Charles R W photographer 283 Essex rooms do Sefer Joseph J porter The Franklin boards 152 Arlington
1906	Seefer Rose widow of Abraham house 150 Arlington Seel Andrew weaver house 19 Mechanic Sefeer Joseph Jacob porter The Franklin bds 152 Arlington
1907	Seeton Charles R W photographer 283 Essex house do Sefeer Joseph Jacob porter The Franklin boards 152 Arlington " Rose widow of Abraham house 150 Arlington Sefton Joseph Abram section hand house 26 Pleasant terrace
1908	Seeton Charles R W photographer 283 Essex house do Sefeer Joseph Jacob real estate boards 150 Arlington " Rose widow of Abraham house 150 Arlington Sefton Joseph Abram section hand house 26 Pleasant ter
1909	Sefeer Joseph Jacob real estate boards 150 Arlington " Rose widow of Abraham house 105 Arlington Sefton Joseph Abram section hand house 26 Pleasant terrace Phill

In 1910, Joseph, his mother Rivka and his two younger siblings, Samuel and Fannie, are all living at 152 Arlington Street instead of 150 and are one of two families at the address. "Jacob Sefever" (Joseph) is listed as head of household with his mother "Rebbace" [Rebecca/Rivka] now age 45, widowed [wd]. Younger brother Samuel is age 14, and sister Fannie age 18. The 1910 record indicates that Joseph/Jacob arrived in 1900 and was 24 (suggesting he was born in about 1886). Jacob is listed as an "agent" in "real estate."

STATE Massachusetts COUNTY Essex TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Princeton 12 (East of) NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE City of Lawrence

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910-POPULATION

NAME OF INSTITUTION X ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 29 DAY OF April, 1910.

SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 119 SHEET NO. 352
ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. 352 WARD OF CITY 4 (East of)
NAME OF INSTITUTION X ENUMERATOR Frederick Smoot

152	207	29	Sefee Jacob	Head	1872	24	m		Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	1900	91a
			Rivka	Wife	1877	45	m		Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	1904	
			Samuel	Brother	1877	14	s		Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	1904	
			Fannie	Sister	1877	15	s		Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	Russ. Yiddish	1904	

Figure 30 1910 Federal Census for Jacob, Rivka, Samuel and Fannie

Annie Sefeer Marries Hyman Krasnigor

On Jan. 24, 1905, not long after Rivka and the two younger children arrived in Lawrence, Rivka's daughter Annie (Chane) Sefeer married a man named Hyman "Krasnigor," who was eight years her senior and had been previously married. It seems likely that financial pressures and the new cultural scene encouraged the daughters to begin marrying, though Annie was 20 and of marrying age. Annie's address on the marriage record was 252 Hampshire Street, suggesting she moved out and was living on her own. (When her mother arrived in 1904, she was heading to 560 Hampshire). Annie was working as a mill operator according to the record, though her specific role was not indicated. This marriage is the one that lists her mother's name mysteriously as "Rae Katz." Perhaps Hyman provided the information and got it wrong.

The marriage record describes Hyman as 28 years old, a junk dealer living at 168 Lowell Street. He is described as medium build, with blue eyes and black hair on his WWI draft card from 1918. "Hamin's" later naturalization petition filled out on October 26, 1906, lists his birthday as Sept. 20, 1876, in "Chuptowkou, Russia." Other records indicate he and his brother Morris were from Shchetpetovka (Yiddish: שפּעטעטיווקע), Russia (now Shepetivka, Ukraine), which was approximately 138 km southeast of Mlynov.

Hyman's petition indicates he departed Liverpool for Canada and then arrived in the US from Quebec via rail on June 22, 1900, ironically just two days ahead of Annie Sefeer's arrival; they didn't know each other at the time.

Hyman Krasnigor	28	Second	168 Lowell St	Junk-dealer	Russia	Ethel	Feige Spiegel	Rev. Solomon Kaufman, Rabbi.
Annie Sefeer	20	First	252 Hampshire	Mill op.	Russia	Abraham	Rae Katz	

Figure 31 Marriage record of Annie Sefeer and Hyman Krasnigor

Hyman does not appear in the Lawrence directory until 1904. In that year he is listed with a junk business and a business partner, "M. Barenboum," at 23 Winter Street. Hyman's home address is 168 Lowell Street, the same address on the marriage record. A listing in the directory that year under the letter "B" shows that the business partner was a man named Morris Barenboum who was living close to him at 187 Lowell Street.

> Lawrence > 1904 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1904	
Kraft Martin J. barber, 225 Broadway, house 144 Margin	
Krasnigor Hyman & Co. (M. Barenboum), junk, 23 Winter, house 168 Lowell	
Krasovsky Ivan, Pacific, house 38 Lowell	

Figure 32 1904 Directory listing for Hyman Krasnigor

> Lawrence > 1904 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1904	
" Cam, laborer, boards 61 Valley	
" Mackool, laborer, boards 61 Valley	[187 Lowell
Barenbaum Morris (H. Krasnigor & Co.), junk, 23 Winter, h.	
" Samuel & Co. junk dealers, Hampshire, near Arlington, h. 487 Hampshire	

Figure 33 1904 Directory listing for Hyman's business partner

In October, nine months after Hyman and Annie married, Hyman declared his intention to become a citizen (according to his Petition from 1906). By 1905, Hyman appears in the city directory with Harry

Krasnegor (his father?), who was a “bobbin maker.” He was living at a new address (14 Concord), not far from where the Seefers were living (at 4 Concord in 1904).

By 1906 Hyman and Annie, and Hyman’s brother Morris, are listed at 52 Oxford Street. This was the address Hyman listed on his Petition in 1906. Annie and Hyman’s son, Abraham, was born that year. He was most probably named for Annie’s father, Abraham, who died by 1904.

The 1907 city directory shows that Hyman, Annie, and Hyman’s brother, Morris, were still residing at 52 Oxford Street. In 1908 Hyman’s brother Morris married and moved to a new address at 62 Oxford Street. That same year Hyman, Annie, and their son Abraham appear in the directory nearby at 58 ½ Oxford Street. Hyman and Annie’s daughter, Mary, was born that year.

Hyman and Annie were still at that address (58 1/2 Oxford) in the 1910 Federal Census. (There is a page break between Hyman and Annie on the census). Hyman was age 33, Annie age 25, Abraham age 4, and Mary, age 2. Hyman was still listed as a junk dealer.

LOCATION.			NAME of each person whose place of abode on April 15, 1910, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on April 15, 1910. Omit children born since April 15, 1910.	RELATION. Relationship of this person to the head of the family.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.							NATIVITY.			CITIZEN.		
Street, house, apt., etc.	Room or apart. in house or apart.	Number of family and of children.			Sex.	Color or race.	Age at last birth.	Married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of previous marriages.	Mother of how many children.	Name of her own husband.	Place of birth of this person.	Place of birth of father of this person.	Place of birth of mother of this person.			
		1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10-7-11																	
502 1/2 12 th St. Krasnegor, Hyman			Head	br	33	21	5				Russ - Jewish	Russ - Jewish	Russ - Jewish	Russ - Jewish	1900	21	
58 1/2 12 th St. Krasnegor, Annie			Wife	w	25	23	2	2	2	2	Russ - Jewish	Russ - Jewish	Russ - Jewish	Russ - Jewish	1900	21	
— Abraham			Son	m	4	4					Massachusetts	Russ - Jewish	Russ - Jewish	Russ - Jewish			
— Mary			Daughter	f	2	2					Massachusetts	Russ - Jewish	Russ - Jewish	Russ - Jewish			

Figure 34 1910 Federal Census for Hyman and Annie Krasnegor and children.

Lizzie Sefer Marries Max Meister

In 1906, a year after her older sister Annie married Hyman Krasnegor, Lizzie married a man named Max Meister. It was 4 years since she arrived in the US. According to their marriage record, they were both living at 150 Arlington Street, suggesting that Lizzie met Max while she was still living with her mother, Rivka, who was living at that address in 1906. Max may have been living in another unit at the same address. Lizzie’s mother is listed as “Rose Tratchman” on the record.

According to Max’s naturalization petition which he filled out on Jan. 26, 1905, he was born on Feb. 7, 1886. The marriage record indicates he was 21 years old when he and Lizzie Sefer married. Lizzie was age 19. His Petition indicates he arrived in Boston on Sept. 1, 1903, and his occupation was carpenter. His Draft registration card from 1918 indicates he was of medium height and build, with brown hair and gray eyes.

June 5	Max Meister	21	*	150 Arlington	Cabinet maker-Russia	Maier	Rachel Pilch	Rev. William Wittmstedt
	Lizzie Sefer	19	*	150 Arlington	At home - Russia	Abram	Rose Tratchman	Rabbi, Lawrence, Mass.
				5 Willow St				

Figure 35 Marriage record of Max Meister and Lizzie Sefer

On March 20, 1907, Max and Lizzie’s daughter, Ethel, was born while they were still living at 150 Arlington Street, according to the record of Ethel’s birth. In the 1908 directory, Max is listed a few doors away at 144 Arlington where the family remained until 1909. In the 1910 census, they were living a few more doors away, at 148 Arlington and Max was still described as a carpenter.

148	210	473	Meister Max	Head	35	M	4	Russ-Jewish	Russ-Jewish	Russ-Jewish	1903	al
			Lizzie	Wife	22	F	4	Russ-Jewish	Russ-Jewish	Russ-Jewish	1902	
			Gittel	Daughter	3	F		Russ-Jewish	Russ-Jewish	Russ-Jewish		
			Benjamin	Son	1	M		Russ-Jewish	Russ-Jewish	Russ-Jewish		
			Michael	Child	1	F		Russ-Jewish	Russ-Jewish	Russ-Jewish		

Figure 36 1910 Federal Census showing Max and Lizzie Meister and children at 148 Arlington Street

The Seefer Family, 1910-1920

Overview

At the start of the family's second decade in Lawrence, all the Seefer members were still living in Lawrence and three of the Seefer daughters were married (Beile Handler, Annie Krasnegor, and Lizzie Meister). The family became more mobile in this next decade as some of the members moved to Boston, probably following the marriage of the youngest daughter Fannie to Louis Olans, about whom more below.

At the start of the decade there were three grandchildren of Abraham and Rivka who were born in the US and more were on their way. Beile and Benjmain Handler were still childless. Hyman and Annie had two children (Abraham and Mary). Max and Lizzie Meister had one child, Ethel, but another child, Abraham would soon arrive in 1911. In this decade, Fannie Seefer married Louis Olans and they had two children. Samuel Seefer, the youngest child of Rivka and Abraham, also married in this decade though he and his wife didn't have children until after 1920. Only Joseph Seefer remained single by the end of the decade.

The Sefeers were all still in Lawrence during the famous Bread and Roses textile strike that began in January 1912 and lasted for two months. We don't know if any of them were involved in the strike itself, though Annie was described as a mill operator her earlier marriage record. But the strike was massive and avoiding impact of the event was impossible.

The proximate impetus for the strike was a pay cut imposed in response to a new Massachusetts law that reduced women and children's working hours from 56 to 54 hours a week. While the intent was to protect women and children, this time the mill owners reduced their pay proportionally. "For workers who only averaged \$8.76 per week, every penny was precious, and 32 cents made the difference between eating a meal or going hungry." By the end of Jan. 12, 10,000 workers were out on strike. The banners they carried demanding both living wages and dignity—"We want bread, and roses, too"—gave the work stoppage its name, the Bread and Roses Strike. While the reduction in pay was the proximate cause of the strike, the foundation for a strike was put in place by the hard work of the labor unions that were present in Lawrence mills for some time.²³

With the city on a hair trigger, striking families sent 119 of their children out of harm's way to Manhattan on February 10 to live with relatives or, in some cases, complete strangers who could provide food and a safe shelter. A cheering crowd of 5,000 greeted the children at Grand Central Terminal, and after a second train load arrived from Lawrence the following week, the children paraded down Fifth Avenue. The "children's exodus" proved to be a publicity coup for the strikers, and Lawrence authorities intended to halt it.

²³ Robert Forrant, "The Real Bread and Roses Strike Story Missing from Textbooks." 2013. See also <https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/bread-and-roses-strike-story/>



Figure 37 Standoff in Lawrence during the Bread and Roses Strike²⁴

Hyman and Annie Krasnegor (1910-1920)

In 1910, Hyman and Annie were living at 58 ½ Oxford. In 1911, their home address remained the same and Hyman's junk business was listed 18 Melvin Court. By 1915, they moved their home address nearby to 110 Melvin Street and remained there through 1919. They were living at that address when Hyman filled out his Draft registration card in September 1918.

²⁴ In the public domain: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1912_Lawrence_Textile_Strike_1.jpg

REGISTRATION CARD	
SERIAL NUMBER 15081	ORDER NUMBER K3995
1. <i>Hyman</i> (First name) <i>Krasnegor</i> (Last name)	
2. PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: <i>110 Melrose</i> (City or town) <i>Essex</i> (County) <i>Mass.</i> (State)	
3. Age in Years <i>42</i>	Date of Birth <i>October 5 1876</i>
RACE	
White ☒	Negro ☐
Oriental ☐	Indian ☐
Citizen ☒	Alien ☐
U. S. CITIZEN	
Native Born ☐	Naturalized ☒
Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrar's Majority ☐	Declarant ☐
Non-declarant ☐	
15. If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?	
PRESENT OCCUPATION	
16. <i>Wholesale Junk</i>	EMPLOYER'S NAME
17. <i>Self</i>	
18. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: <i>18 Melrose Ct. Lawrence Essex Mass</i> (City or town) (County) (State)	
19. Name <i>Annie Krasnegor (wife)</i>	20. Address <i>110 Melrose Lawrence Essex Mass</i> (City or town) (County) (State)
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE	
P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Rev. 03-01)	<i>Hyman Krasnegor</i> (Registrar's signature of mark)

Figure 38 Hyman Krasnegor's registration card.



Figure 39 Photo of Hyman and Annie. Courtesy of Daniel Krasnegor.

In 1920, Annie and Hyman apparently moved to 352 Lowell Street, according to the city directory. However, they don't appear in the 1920 census at that address or at their previous address, so they may have been in transition when the census taker went door to door.

It appears Hyman's business was doing well about that time. That year in fact he opened a new business called the Racket Store at 103 Hampshire Street which sold kitchenware, furnishing and related items. He paid for a 1/4-page ad in the city directory that year for his businesses.

KRASNEGOR HYMAN (Annie) junk
18 Melvin Ct and Racket Store 103
Hampshire St 352 Lowell—See page
934

934 LAWRENCE DIRECTORY, FOR YEAR ENDING SEP. '21	
HYMAN KRASNEGOR	
Rags, Paper Stock, Scrap Iron, Metals and Rubber	The Racket Store
	<i>Crockery, Kitchen Furnish- ing Goods, Tinware, Glass- ware, Enamelware, Hard- ware and Notions</i>
18 MELVIN COURT	103 HAMPSHIRE ST.
TELEPHONE 1101-W	

Figure 40 1920 City Directory showing Hyman's listing and the ad he placed at the back

While all was apparently going well for the family based on the 1920 records, financially matters fell apart for Hyman Krasnegor by 1925, as we shall see. By then he could not meet his financial obligations and a tragedy fell on the family, which is taken up in a discussion of their lives in the next decade.

Fannie marries Louis Olans (1910-1920)

A year after the Bread and Roses Strike, Fannie, the youngest Sefeer daughter, married Louis Olans. The date of their marriage was Jan 25, 1913. Louis was 21 and Fannie was 20. Their marriage record in Lawrence lists 150 Arlington Street for both of them, though Louis was from Boston, as we shall see.

The marriage record lists Fannie's parents' names as Abraham Seefer and "Rosie Tuchner" and describe Fannie as a wool sorter. Given that Fannie was working in the textile industry she must have been caught up in the Bread and Roses strike. This marriage record is the one that mistakenly gave rise to Ancestry and some researchers listing Fannie as born in "sorter Russia," a misreading of the record. "Wool sorter" is her occupation, and the word "sorter" spilled into the column for birthplace.

Jan. 25th	Louis Olans	21	*	150 Arlington St-Cloak Maker-Russia	Abraham	Hannah Loitz	Rev. Josef Desnitrowsky
	Fannie Seefer	20	*	150 Arlington St-Wool sorter-Russia	Abraham	Rosie Tuchner	Rabbi

Figure 41 Marriage record of Louis Olans and Fannie Seefer

Louis's parents are listed in the marriage record as Abraham Olans and Hannah (née Loitz) and Louis's occupation was cloak maker. Research indicates that Louis was living in Boston before he married Fannie Seefer in Lawrence. He appears with his family in the 1910 census in Boston at 54 Poplar Street with the surname Orlansky. Louis was listed as 17 years old in that record and his occupation was "operator" in "ladies waists."

54	Orlansky Abraham	Habit	77	42	M	23	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	1907	English	Solomon	Orlansky
	Jennie	Wife	77	41	M	23	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	1907	English	none	Orlansky
	Lev	Son	18	22	M	2	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	1907	English	Operator	Solomon
	Anna	Daughter	18	19	M	1	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	1907	English	Operator	Solomon
	Hyman	Son	18	17	M	1	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	1907	English	Operator	Solomon
	Carl	Son	18	15	M	1	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	1907	English	Operator	Solomon
	Ellie	Daughter	18	13	M	1	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	Russ Poland	1907	English	none	Orlansky

Figure 42 1910 Federal Census for the Orlansky (Olans) family at 54 Poplar Street in Boston

Louis's father, Abram, was using the "Olans" surname already in the 1908 directory while living at the same address (54 Poplar), though the family still appears as Orlansky in the 1910 census. The 1910 record indicates that Louis arrived in the US in 1907 with his mother and several of his siblings. Along with Louis in the 1910 census are his parents, Abraham and Jennie (or Annie), ages 42 and 41 respectively, and four other siblings: Lev (Leo Olans), age 22, Anna age 19 (later married name Anna Orlansky), Hyman age 15 (later Dr. Herman Olans), and Carl (later Karl Olans) age 13. The father, Abraham, was a laborer in construction at the time, but the older children were all working in ladies clothing.

Before arriving in the US, the Orlansky family lived in Lithuania, which was still part of Russia. Several of Louis's siblings list Vilna as their birthplace, though they were probably from a smaller town not far away. Louis identified his birthplace as "Ossmena Lithuania" on his WWI registration card in June 1917. This likely refers to the town known as Oszmiana (Yiddish: Oshmyane / אָשמינע) known today as Ashmyany, Belarus, but considered part of Lithuania as late as 1920. Louis indicated on the record that his birthday was March 27, 1892. From the tombstone of Louis's son, Elliot, we learn that Louis was born with the Hebrew name, Arie Leib, Louis being an anglicized version of Leib. According to his 1917 registration card, Louis was of medium height and build with brown hair and brown eyes.

We can speculate that Fannie Seefer met Louis Olans when he came to Lawrence for business related to the clothing industry, since Louis's and his siblings were involved in the industry in Boston already in 1910. After they married, Fannie and Louis moved back to Boston. A record shows that their son Sydney Olans was born in Boston on April 19, 1913, while the family was living at 26 Browning Ave.

5749	Apr 19	Sydney	Olans	M	26 Browning Ave
------	--------	--------	-------	---	-----------------

Figure 43 Birth record of Sydney Olans on April 19, 1913

Louis	Fannie	Seefer	Cloakmaker	Russia	Russia
-------	--------	--------	------------	--------	--------

Figure 44 Right hand columns of birth record indicating parents' names

The date of Sydney Olans birth is notable. Fannie and Louis married in January 1913, but Sydney was born in April that year. It thus appears Fannie was pregnant before they were married and possibly showing. Perhaps the marriage in January and the rapid move to Boston was designed to hide Fannie's pregnancy from neighbors. We'll never know.

By 1915, Fannie and Louis had a second child, Elliot Olans, while the family was living at 15 Hollander Street in Boston. Louis is still described as a "cloak maker." B Parvey was the name of the physician.

14322	Aug 28	ELLIOT	OLANS	M- LOUIS	FANNIE SEEFER	B PARVEY
15 HOLLANDER ST				CLOAK MAKER	RUSSIA	RUSSIA

Figure 45 Elliot Olans Birth record with left and right columns

In March 8, 1917, Fannie and Louis's daughter Bernice (later married name Bernice Shaffer) was born. A few months later, on June 5, 1917, Louis filled out his registration card. This is the record that lists his birth in Ossema, Lithuania and his birthdate. He had not yet started his naturalization process and was still an alien. The family of five now lived at 40 Irma Street in Boston. Louis is still described as a cloak maker and is working at a family business called Shapiro and Olans. The name of the family business provided the clue to identify his siblings.

Form 1		REGISTRATION CARD		No. 118	
1	Name in full	Louis Olans			Age, in yrs. 25
2	Home address	40 Irma St Boston Mass			
3	Date of birth	Mar 27 1892			
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)?				
5	Where were you born? Ossema Lithuania Russia				
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? Russia				
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Cloak maker (11)				
8	By whom employed? Shapiro & Olans				
9	Where employed? 120 Harrison Ave Boston				
10	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, wholly dependent on you for support (specify which)?				
11	Wife - 3 children				
12	Married or single (which)? Married Race (specify which)? Caucasian				
13	What military service have you had? Rank _____; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____				
14	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? Support of Family				
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.					

Figure 46 Louis Olans WWI registration card

In the 1916 Boston city directory, Louis and his brother Leo Olans appear side by side. Leo is listed in the business "Shapiro & Olans." Louis is listed just below him as a tailor listed at 15 Hollander in the Roxbury area.

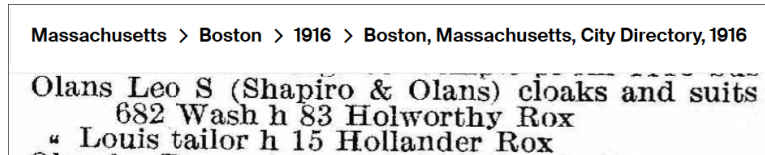


Figure 47 1916 Boston City Directory

By 1920, Louis and Fannie were back in Lawrence. They appear in the city directory in 1920 at 467 Essex room 7, which may have been temporary since they appear in Boston after this point.

Rivka and Her Son Joseph, From Lawrence to Boston and Back again

In the 1910 census, Joseph was listed as head of household, living with his mother and two younger siblings, Fannie and Samuel. Fannie soon married Louis Olans and moved to Boston, as discussed above. It seems likely that Fannie's move to Boston triggered the move of Joseph, Rose and Samuel to Boston as well. In 1911 and 1912, Joseph and his mother, Rose (Rivka), still appear in the city directory at 150 Arlington Street in Lawrence. In 1913, Joseph and Rose are still listed in the Lawrence directory but their listing says "removed to Boston" indicating they moved the same year as Fannie and Louis married.



Figure 48 1913 Lawrence City Directory

2

REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER 25894 ORDER NUMBER 42056

1. NAME Joseph Jacob Seefer

2. PRESENT HOME ADDRESS 49 Tenney Street Lawrence, Essex, Mass.

Age in Years 36 Date of Birth March 28, 1882

RACE White

U. S. CITIZEN

10. Native Born 11. Naturalized 12. Citizen by Father's Naturalization 13. Declarant 14. Non-declarant

15. If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?

16. PRESENT OCCUPATION Real Estate Agent

17. EMPLOYER'S NAME Essex Trust Co.

18. I am a U. S. Citizen or a U. S. Resident Alien

19. NEAREST RELATIVE Rebecca Seefer

20. Address 209 Essex Street Lawrence, Mass.

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

T. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Rev. 11-11)

Figure 49 Joseph Jacob Seefer's WWI registration card

By the time Joseph filled out his WWI registration card in September 1918, Joseph and his mother were back in Lawrence. According to that record, he was living at 49 Tenney Street. This was the address of his older sister Beile and her husband Benjamin Handler and Joseph is still living with them at that address in the 1920 census (see below).

According to his draft registration record from 1918, Joseph was 36 years old, still single and was still working as a real estate agent. Joseph listed his mother “Rebecca Sefer” as his closest relative living at 699 Essex Street also back in Lawrence at the time. (When Fannie and Louis returned to Lawrence in 1920 they were at 467 Essex Street.).

In the 1920 census, Joseph “Seifert” appears with his older sister Bessie and her husband Benjamin Handler. They were at 49 Tenney Street in Lawrence. Benjamin was now a merchant in coal and wood. Joseph was age 38, naturalized and his immigration year is listed as 1901 (we saw he arrived in 1900). In the right-hand columns of this record, Joseph is listed as a dealer in real estate.

97	49	53	120	Handler Benjamin	Head	0	F	M	w	47	M	1898	74	1903	Yes	Yes	FR	Russian	Galicia	Hebrew	Aspern	Galicia
98				Bessie	Wife				F	w	41	M	1900	74	1903	Yes	Yes	FR	Russian	Hebrew	Aspern	Galicia
99				Seifert Joseph	Born in Law				M	w	38	S	1901	74	1904	Yes	Yes	FR	Russian	Hebrew	Aspern	Galicia

Lizzie and Max Meister (1910-1920)

In the 1910 census, when her mother Rivka was still living at 16 Arlington Street, Lizzie and her husband, Max Meister, were at 148 Arlington Street. Max was 23 years old that year and Lizzie 22 and their first child, Ethel, was three years. Louis's occupation was carpenter. Louis is still listed as an “al[ien]” even though he already submitted his Petition in 1905, as discussed earlier (see Lizzie and Max Meister p. 29ff).

148	248	475	Meister Max	Head	M	M	23	M	4									Russ. Yid. dish	Russ. Yid. dish	Russ. Yid. dish	1903	al
			Lizzie	Wife	M	w	22	M	4	1	1							Russ. Yid. dish	Russ. Yid. dish	Russ. Yid. dish	1902	
			Ethel	Daughter	M	w	3	S										Massachusetts	Russ. Yid. dish	Russ. Yid. dish		
144	271	325	Brennan Michael	Boarder	M	M	18	S										Massachusetts	de English	de English		

Figure 50 1910 Federal census for Max and Lizzie Meister and their children

On May 3, 1910, after the census was taken, their son Abraham J. Meister was born. He was probably named for Lizzie's father, Abraham Sefer, who had passed away some time before. Max is listed in the Lawrence City Directory as a carpenter until 1912. The carpentry occupation must not have worked out for Max. In 1913, he was still at the same address but now listed as a “pedler.” In the 1914 City Directory, Max was again listed as a “pedler” but his home address was now 57 Tenney Street.

The 1915 Directory for Lawrence indicates that “he rem[oved] to Methuen,” which was the next town over. The Methuen directory for the same years indicates Max was a grocer living at 24 Lowell Street which was also their home address (“do” is an abbreviation for ditto). The Methuen City Directory lists their home address that year at 24 Lowell Street where they also ran a grocery. Lowell Street ran between the towns of Lawrence and Methuen so they were not far from the rest of the family.

1915 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1915

Meister Abram, Arlington b 152 Arlington
 “Adolph J (Annie) baker 267 Prospect
 h 273 do [h 24 Boehm
 “Herbert J (Ida A) driver 267 Prospect
 “Katarina wid George h 18 Park
 “Louis (Mary) lab 433 Common bds 48
 Exchange
 “Max rem to Methuen
 “Myer (Rachel) junk h 152 Arlington
 “Sam, Arlington bds 152 Arlington

1915 > Methuen, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1915

Meinert Hattie Miss, mill op, bds 21 Boylston
 Meinert Tilda Miss, died Oct 27, 1914
 Meister Max, grocer 24 Lowell, h Lowell n do
 Melanson Eva Miss, stenog (L), bds Nevins rd
 Melanson Fred G. h Nevins
 Meldrum William, h 290 Lowell
 Melia Mary Mrs, h 12 Camden

1915 Methuen City listings showing Max Meister

Figure 51 1915 Lawrence City listings

1917 > Methuen, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1917

McSorley Edward F. blacksmith, h 4 French
 Means Mary E. Mrs. inmate H. C. Nevins Home
 Megson Fred W. overseer (L) h 20 Madison
 Meister Max, grocer 24 Lowell, h 17 Lowell
 Melanson Eva Miss, stenographer (L), bds Nevins
 Melanson Fred G. h Nevins

1917 Methuen City listings

In 1917, Max and Lizzie's grocery was still at 24 Lowell Street but their home moved a few doors away to 17 Lowell Street. They were not long in Methuen apparently. In September 1918, when Max filled out his draft registration card, their home address was back in Lawrence, at 33 Alder Street, which intersected with Arlington Street where they previously lived. The registration card describes Max as a "provision dealer" and the address of his business is 336/338 Park Street in Lawrence. The record also describes Max as a "declarant" now, meaning he filled out his first papers but had not yet been fully naturalized.

In 1919, Max and Lizzie are listed with a grocery at 338 Park Street but "home in Methuen." The Methuen directory for that year, however, does not list Max at all.

In the 1920 census, they are back in Lawrence. They now own ("o") a unit at 49 Kirk Street, which intersects Tenney Street. Max was 32, Lizzie 31, Ethel was 12 and Abraham was 7. The wording for Max's occupation is effaced but probably says grocery.

REGISTRATION CARD									
SERIAL NUMBER 3648		ORDER NUMBER 3371							
1 NAME Max Meister (Last name)									
2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS 33 Alder LAWRENCE, MASS. (City or town) (State)									
Age in Years 32		Date of Birth Feb 7 1886 (Month) (Day) (Year)							
RACE									
White		Negro		Oriental		Indian		Citizen	
5 X		6		7		8		9	
U. S. CITIZEN									
Native Born		Naturalized		Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority		Declarant		Non-declarant	
10		11		12		13 X		14	
15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject? Russia									
PRESENT OCCUPATION Provision Dealer					EMPLOYER'S NAME Max Meister				
16 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 336 & 338 Park LAWRENCE, MASS. (City or town) (State)									
17 NEAREST RELATIVE Lizzie Meister 33 Alder St. LAWRENCE, MASS. (City or town) (State)									
18 I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE									
P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Red) (Signature of registrant or clerk) (Date)									

Figure 52 Max Meister WWI Draft Registration Card, September 12, 1918

1919 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1919

" Katarina widow George h 6 Blaser et
 " Louis (Mary) driver 433 Common h 90
 Bunker Hill [thuen
 " Max (Lizzie) grocer 338 Park h at Me-
 " Ruth bds 267 Prospect [Elm
 Mela Giovanni (Anna) plasterer h 288
 Melaian Krikor opr bds 175 Essex
 Mele Antonio (Filomena) laborer h 352½

Figure 53 1919 listing for Max and Lizzie in Lawrence

Samuel, the youngest of the Seefer children, was only 7 years old when he arrived in the US with his mother and sister Fannie in 1904. In the 1910 census, he was 14 and still living at home with his mother Rivka, his brother Joseph and his sister Fannie. He was still with his mother, sister, and brother Joseph when they moved to Boston in about 1915.

Sometime before he filled out his Declaration in 1917, Samuel married a woman name Mary. Online family trees listed her surname as Bolan but no records in Ancestry were located that validated that name. Instead, a Boston marriage record for Samuel Seefer in 1916 was located on the FamilySearch website.²⁵ The record shows that Samuel Seefer married a woman named Mary Hershman. The date of their wedding was June 20, 1916 and was a first marriage for both of them. Samuel is listed as 21, a laborer, living at 15 Hollander St. Mary was 18, a dress machine worker, living at 1742 Woodrow Ave.

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN THE CITY OF BOSTON						
No	Place of Marriage Boston Date	Full Name of Groom and Bride Maiden name of bride if divorced or widowed (Color, if other than white)	Age in Yrs.	Number of Marriage Widowed or Divorced	Residence of each at time of Marriage (Street and Number) Boston if not Specified	Occupation
3369	JUN 20	SAMUEL SEEFER MARY HIRSHMAN	21 18	FIRST FIRST	15 HOLLANDER ST 1742 WOODROW AVE	LABORER DRESS MACHINE WKR

Figure 55 Marriage record of Samuel Seefer and Mary Hirshman

FOR THE YEAR 1916			
Place of Birth of Each	Names of Parents of Each		Name, Residence and Official Station of Person by whom Married
	Full Name of Father	Maiden Name of Mother	

²⁵ Ancestry does not appear to have this marriage record which was found on FamilySearch: [Massachusetts State Vital Records](#), Marriages, 1916 vol 1, page 261 Record number 3369.

RUSSIA	ABRAHAM	SEEFER	ROSE	KAUFMAN	ROBERT HERTER	J P
RUSSIA	JACOB	HIRSHMAN	SARAH	GOLDENBERG	15 CATAWBA ST	

Figure 56 Right-hand columns of marriage record showing parents' names

It is clear from the names of his parents that appear in the right-hand columns that this is our Samuel Seefer. His father's name is listed as Abraham Seefer and his mother as Rose Kaufman. "Kaufman" may be a misremembering of "Tachman."

Mary Hirshman, Samuel's wife, was living at 1742 Woodrow Ave in Boston. This is the same address that appears on Samuel's 1917 draft registration card (discussed below), indicating that Samuel moved in with Mary's family. Mary's parents are listed on the marriage record as Jacob Hirshman and Sarah Goldenberg living at 15 Catawba Street. Research on Mary's family shows that Jacob Hirshman was in fact her brother, not her father. Her parents were David Hirshman and Jennie (Goldenberg).

Mary's brother, Jacob Hirshman, was living at the same address as Mary (174 Woodrow) in 1917 according to his draft registration card. That record shows Mary and Jacob's mother, Jennie Hirschman, was at that address too in 1917. The Hirshman parents are also listed living at that address, 174 Woodrow Ave, in the 1920 census as well. It thus appears that Mary and Samuel moved into the home of Mary's parents, where her brother was also living. Whether the obfuscation of Mary's parents' names on the marriage record was because of some disapproval by her parents seems possible.

Serial No. _____ Registration No. _____

1 Name in full Jacob Herschman Age 21 yrs.

2 Home address 174 Woodrow Ave, Dorchester, Mass.

3 Date of birth Aug 8 1897

4 Where were you born? Dorchester, Russia

5 I am: ☒ 1. A citizen of the United States.
☐ 2. An alien.
☐ 3. I have declared my intention.
☐ 4. An alien subject to military law.
(Strike out lines or words not applicable)

6 If not a citizen, of what Nation are you a citizen or subject? U.S.A.

7 Father's birthplace Dorchester, Russia

8 Name of employer David Herschman (Father)

9 Place of employment 174 Woodrow Ave, Boston

10 Name of nearest relative Mrs. Jennie Herschman

Address of nearest relative 174 Woodrow Ave, Dorchester, Mass.

11 Race—White, Negro, Indian, or Oriental
(Strike out words not applicable)

I affirm that the above answers and that they are true.

64 ORDER NO. _____

Signature Jacob Herschman

P. M. G. O.
Form 1 (1-16)

REGISTRATION CARD.

Figure 57 Registration card of Mary's brother Jacob Herschman

From the registration card of Mary's brother, Jacob, and other records, it is apparent that Mary and her family came from Kulchin [Yiddish], now Kul'chyn Ukraine. Kulchin was in Volyn, the same district as Mlynov. On contemporary maps, it is 121 km northwest of Mlynov. Mary appears to have been the youngest of at least five siblings. Her two brothers Jacob and Julius arrived in 1907 according to their naturalization papers and there is evidence that other siblings were present in Boston by 1907.

On October 22, 1916, four months after Samuel Seefer and Mary Hirschman married, a Massachusetts death record shows that Mary had a premature delivery by cesarean section due to severe pyelitis, an

inflammation of the mucous membrane of the pelvis and calices of the kidney. The baby girl who died was registered with no first name. She appears to have been the only child that Samuel and Mary had together.

10374	OCT 22	SEEFER	F	8	174 WOODROW AV	BOSTON	MRS HERSHMAN
			S	(OCT 22 1916)	ST MARGARETS HOSP		

Figure 58 Record of premature birth of a baby girl

0374	SAMUEL SEEFER	RUSSIA	(A) PREMATUREITY (VAGINAL CAESAREAN FOR SEVERE PYELITIS)	WOBURN BETH JOSEPH
	MARY HERSHMAN	RUSSIA	M G BERLIN	J STANETSKY

Figure 59 Right-hand columns showing parents' names and cause of death

In Samuel's 1917 Declaration of Intention, Samuel and Mary were still living with Mary's family at 174 Woodrow Ave in the Dorchester area of Boston. A year and a half later, Samuel was twenty and was required to register for the WWI draft. He did so on Sept. 12th, 1918. He was still at the same address. This is the record showing he was born in "Milinov, Russia."

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

ORIGINAL 305

No. 57405

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

District of Massachusetts, ss: In the District Court of the United States.

I, Samuel Seefer, aged 19 years, occupation clerk, do declare on oath that my personal description is: Color white, complexion light, height 5 feet 6 inches, weight 140 pounds, color of hair brown, color of eyes gray, other visible distinctive marks none.

I was born in Milinov, Russia on the 7th day of December, anno Domini 1897; I now reside at 174 Woodrow Ave., Boston (Dor), Massachusetts.

I emigrated to the United States of America from Rotterdam, Holland on the vessel Rotterdam; my last foreign residence was Russia; I am married; the name of my wife is Mary; she was born at Russia and now resides at with me.

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Nicholas II, Emperor of all the Russias, of whom I am now a subject; I arrived at the port of New York, in the State of New York, on or about the 7 day of December, anno Domini 1904; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein: SO HELP ME GOD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court at Boston, Mass., this 12th day of March, anno Domini 1917.

Thomas A. Willing
Deputy Clerk of the District Court of the United States.

Figure 60 Samuel Seefer, Declaration of Intention
March 12, 1917

REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER 2293 ORDER NUMBER 1489

1. Name: Seefer (not name) Seefer (middle name)

2. PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: 57 Stanton St Dorchester Mass

Age in Years 20 Date of Birth December 7 1897

RACE: ☒ White ☐ Negro ☐ Oriental ☐ Chinese ☐ Japanese ☐ Korean

U. S. CITIZEN ☐ NATURALIZED ☐ ALIEN ☒ NATIVE BORN

15. If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject? Russia

16. PRESENT OCCUPATION: clerk 17. EMPLOYER'S NAME: Wm. Thompson Co.

18. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: 57 Stanton St Boston, Mass.

NEAREST RELATIVE: Name Mary Seefer Address 57 Stanton St Boston, Mass.

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true

P. M. G. O. Seefer

Figure 61 Samuel Seefer Registration Card
Sept. 12, 1918

"Lieutenant Samuel Seefer" is listed under a group photo in the *Boston Globe* on May 5, 1917 showing the 4th Regiment of the Boston School Cadets during a high school drilling competition.

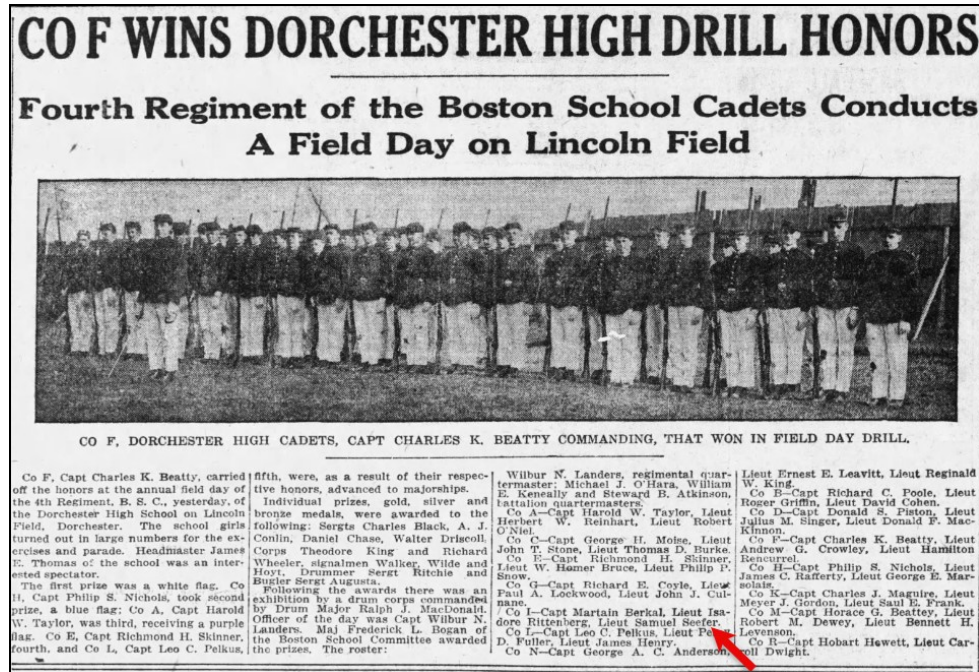


Figure 62 Boston Globe, May 5, 1917, page 6

By the 1920 census, Samuel and Mary Seefer had moved to 140 Gove Street in Boston. Samuel was 22 and Mary was 20. No children were listed. Samuel was listed as a proprietor of a grocery. For some reason the date of their respective immigrations is listed as "UN" (unknown) in the census, though Samuel's was reported earlier in his earlier Declaration and his subsequent Petition.

STATE Massachusetts COUNTY Suffolk TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY East Boston District NAME OF INSTITUTION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS 263 (D1-878) SUPERVISOR'S ENUMERATION

FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION

NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE Boston City ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 13th DAY OF January 1920.

NAME	SEX	AGE	RACE	BIRTHPLACE
Seefer Samuel	M	22	W	Russia
Seefer Mary	F	20	W	Russia

Figure 63 1920 Federal census for Samuel and Mary Seefer living at 142 Gove Street

Later in 1920, Samuel filled out his Naturalization Petition which lists their address as one door away at 142 Gove Street. This record gives the birthday of his wife, Mary, as March 8, 1899.

Since Samuel's mother and brother Joseph moved back to Lawrence by 1920, as did his sister Fannie and her husband Louis Olans, Samuel appears to be the only Seefer family member who remained in Boston at this time.

Figure 64 Samuel Seefer's Petition, signed April 20, 1920

Bessie and Benjamin Handler (1920 and beyond)

In the 1920 census, Bessie and her husband Benjamin were living at 49 Tenney Street in Lawrence. They were still childless. Bessie's brother, Joseph J. Seefer was living with them that year, but he moved to Providence soon thereafter as we shall see. In the 1930 and 1940 census, Bessie and Benjamin were still at the same address. In 1930 they are both listed as 52 years old, and Benjamin is retired. On July 4, 1936, Beile's mother, Rivka Seefer passed away, a date we know from her tombstone.

In 1940 Benjamin is listed as age 62 and Bessie, for some reason, is listed as age 64. Bessie passed away on February 19, 1941. Benjamin was still at 49 Tenney Street in 1942 when he filled out his WWII draft registration card. He appears at that same address in a record from as late as 1958. By that point he had remarried. His wife's name was Delia. Benjamin Handler, didn't pass away until 1964.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)			
SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)		ORDER NUMBER
U. 32	Benjamin Handler		
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)			
49 Tenney Lawrence Essex Mass			
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)			
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]			
3. MAILING ADDRESS			
Same			
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If none insert word none)			
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS	6. PLACE OF BIRTH	
26725	64	(Town or county)	
DATE OF BIRTH		(State)	
Aug 16 1877		Russia	
(Exchange) (Number) (Day) (Year) (State or country)			
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS			
Nathan Handler (brother) Howard St			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS			
Unemployed			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS			
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
Dr. R. S. PUGH, JR. (Revised 4-1-42)		10-51430-8 Benjamin Handler (Registrant's signature)	

Figure 65 1942 WWII draft registration for Benjamin Handler

Joseph J. Seefer Goes to Providence (1920 and beyond)

Joseph Jacob Seefer appeared in the 1920 census living with his sister Bessie and brother-in-law Benjamin. He does not appear in the subsequent Lawrence city directories in the 1920s, so his stay with his sister Bessie was probably temporary. He reappears by 1928 in Providence, Rhode Island married to a woman named C. Minnie Seefer. The "C." in her name stood for Charlotte. She was born in Rhode Island in 1898 and appears in the 1900 and 1910 census with the name Minnie Siegal. Both of her parents were Romanian immigrants. She was married once before by the time she and Joseph tied the knot.

On March 2, 1919, "Charlotte M. Siegal" married Irving L. Shein and was called Charlotte M. Siegal in their marriage record. She appears in the 1920 census as Charlotte M. Shein living with her husband's family. Sadly her husband Irving died in 1922 of pulmonary tuberculosis in Roanoke Virginia. His occupation was "traveling salesman" which may explain the place of his death. It does not appear that they had any children. In the 1925 census for Providence, Minnie C. Shine is back home living with her parents and listed as age 26.

Sometime between 1925 and 1928, Charlotte met Joseph J. Seefer and they married. They appear in the Providence city directory together that year. Joseph J is an assistant manager at the Narragansett Hotel and they were living at 97 Dorrance Street. Joseph, of course, had hotel experience having been a porter when he was younger at the Franklin Hotel in Lawrence, though he was listed in real estate in the intervening years.

> 1928 > Providence, Rhode Island, City Directory, 1928
Seefer Joseph J (C Minnie) asst mgr Narragansett Hotel 97 Dorrance res do

Figure 66 1928 Providence City Directory

The Narragansett Hotel, once referred to as "the finest hotel in the city's history" was built in 1878. An account published in 1882 not long after its opening describes the beautiful building.

Conducted by Chapin and Robinson it is one of the largest, grandest, best furnished and most satisfactorily kept hotels in the world. It is one of the most imposing structures of any kind in Providence, and is situated in the heart of the city. Surrounded by smaller buildings, it stands as a huge and majestic building commanding the attention of every visitor. It is 8 stories high on the inner court, although only 7 stories are seen from the

street. It fronts on Broad, Dorrance and Eddy Streets, the frontage being respectively 134, 181 and 184 feet.

The above quote appears in a historical article about the hotel written about a man named Max Zinn who rose from busboy there to hotel executive and part owner of the Narragansett Hotel.²⁶ Max Zinn was already head waiter by the time Joseph J. Seefer was assistant manager. The author of the historical essay about Zinn interviewed Joseph J. Seefer and Minnie for the essay:

Joseph J. "Jake" and Minnie Seefer have recalled their days with Max in the hotel. They recollected with amusement the Thanksgiving morning when Max went into the kitchen to check on the preparations. About five hundred turkeys were being roasted at that time. One of the chefs did not take kindly to Max's criticisms. He suddenly took a large ladle of soup and threw it all over Max's new tuxedo. Max was so dumbfounded he just walked out of the kitchen into his office. The Seefers have said that they will never forget the look of bewilderment on his face.



Figure 67 A depiction of the Narragansett Hotel ²⁷

In the 1930 census, Joseph and Charlotte M. ("Minnie") were still listed as lodgers at 97 Dorrance Street. Joseph was twelve years Charlotte's senior. He is listed as 44 and she is 32. Joseph's occupation is described as hotel manager. The 1940 census shows them at the same address and Joseph's occupation still the same, though their ages are only 5 years apart in this census. In 1950, they appear at 254 Blackstone Blvd. in Providence (Apartment 14). Their ages are again 12 years apart.

7	Seefer Joseph J	Lodger	1	M	W	44	M	41	710	400	Poland	Poland	Poland
8	Seefer Charlotte M	Lodger	7	W	32	M	21	710	300	Rhode Island	Romania	Romania	

Figure 68 1930 Federal census in Providence showing Joseph J and Charlotte M Seefer

3	4	SEEFER J. J.	ASST. MANAGER	M	W	49	M	72	1	Russia	No	JAME HOUSE
4		SEEFER CHARLOTTE M.	WIFE	F	W	42	M	74	1	Rhode Island	No	JAME HOUSE

Figure 69 1940 Federal census showing Joseph J Seefer and Charlotte M. Seefer as lodgers at same address

²⁶ Eleanor F. Horvitz, "Max Zinn and the Naragassett Hotel," Rhode Island History Navigator, 1972.

²⁷ The photo comes from the Providence Journal, "From the Archive: Hotels in Rhode Island," 2019.

13	APR 25 1940	Seefer Joseph J. Head	W M 64	mae Russia	155 lbs	U	no	no	no
14		Charlotte M. Wife	W F 52	mae Rhode Island		H	no	no	no

Figure 70 1950 Federal census showing J. J. Seefer and Charlotte M at

Joseph's wife Charlotte ("Mrs. Joseph J. Seefer") appears many times in the local Jewish Advocate newspaper active in Jewish communal organizations as the following examples illustrate.

Providence Y. W. to Install Officers

The closing event of the Young Women's Hebrew Association of Providence will be held next Tuesday evening at the Jewish Community Center. The following officers will be installed: Honorary presidents, Mrs. Joseph J. Seefer and Freda Simon; president, Ethel A. Levene; first vice-president, Edith Abrams; second vice-president, Ida Snell; recording secretary, Harriet Winnerman; corresponding secretary, Evelyn Pansy. An interesting program is being prepared consisting of a fashion show prepared by Harry Pinkerson, musical selections by the WPA string ensemble, and vocal selections by Ethel S. Shukofsky. Mrs. Saul Abrams, former president of the Y. W. H., will make a brief address. Executive Director J. I. Cohen will install the officers. A committee consisting of Sadie Kamaras, Hannah Scollard, Evelyn Pansy, and Ann Gellman is arranging a reception in the main building following the program.

Figure 71 Installation of Mrs. Joseph J. Seefer as honorary presidents, Jewish Advocate, May 21, 1937, p. 6

THE JEWISH ADVOCATE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1940

800 Attend N. E. Conference of B'nai Brith in Providence, R. I.



B'NAI BRITH LEADERS AT PROVIDENCE CONFERENCE
Seated, left to right: Judge David A. Rose, Council president; Mrs. J. J. Seefer, Conference co-chairman, Providence; Honorable Thomas G. Hazard, Rhode Island State Treasurer; Harry B. Epstein, president of District Grand Lodge No. 1, New York; Judge Myron Sulzberger, guest speaker, New York; and Joseph -M. Finkle, Conference chairman, Providence.
Standing, left to right: Arthur Seeserman, first vice-president of Council; Rabbi Morris Schussheim, Providence; Joseph Goldberg, past Council president, Worcester; Rabbi William F. Rosenblum, New York; Judge Jacob Asher, Worcester; Lawrence White, District secretary, New York; and Benjamin Shoolman, honorary Council president.

Figure 72 Mrs. J. J. Seefer, co-chair of conference, and only woman in photo of B'nai Brith Leaders

JEWISH GROUP WILL HOLD MASQUERADE ON MARCH 1

Queen Esther's Purim Ball One of Features of Winter Program.
An important social event on the Jewish calendar will be the Queen Esther Purim masquerade to be sponsored by the Jewish Centre Council of the Jewish Community Centre March 1 at the



MRS. JOSEPH J. SEEFER -

Figure 73 Mrs. Joseph J. Seefer ("Minnie") Evening Bulletin, Feb. 7, 1934

In 1942, Joseph Jacob Seefer filled out a WWII draft registration card. The record like his earlier naturalization records indicates his place of birth was "Milinov Russia." He was 55 years old, unemployed that year and living on 20 Blackstone Blvd in Providence, RI.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1897 and on or before February 16, 1897)			
SERIAL NUMBER		ORDER NUMBER	
1. NAME (Print) U 1637 Joseph Jacob Seefer			
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 20 Blackstone Blvd Providence Rhode Island			
3. MAILING ADDRESS Same			
4. TELEPHONE Yes	5. AGE IN YEARS 55	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Milinov	
DATE OF BIRTH Dec 25 1886		Russia	
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Charlotte M. Seefer			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Unemployed at Present			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
D. N. S. FORM 1 (Revised 4-1-42)		Joseph Jacob Seefer	

Figure 74 Joseph Jacob Seefer WWII Draft Registration Card

Joseph J. Seefer died in Providence in January 1976, at approximately 90 years old. His wife Charlotte Minnie passed away in 1982.

Annie and Hyman Krasnegor (1920 and beyond)

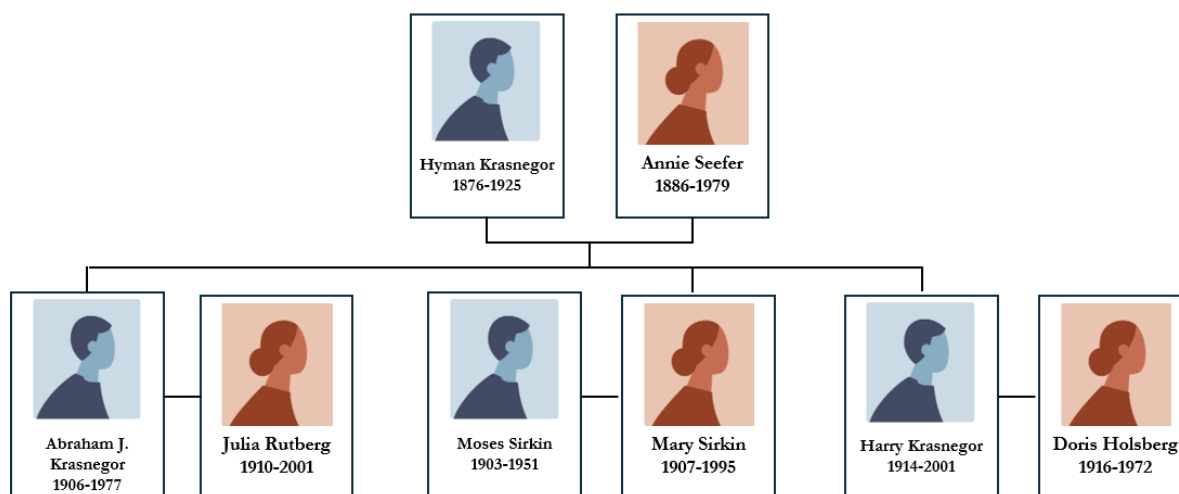


Figure 75 Hyman Krasnegor and Annie Seefer family tree

In 1920, records suggested that Hyman Krasnegor was doing well in his junk business and expanding into other adjacent opportunities including a confectionery business, which is listed in the 1925 Lawrence City Directory for the family. 1925 is the first time that Hyman and Annie's son Abraham is listed in the directory, shown there as a student.

1925

1925 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1925

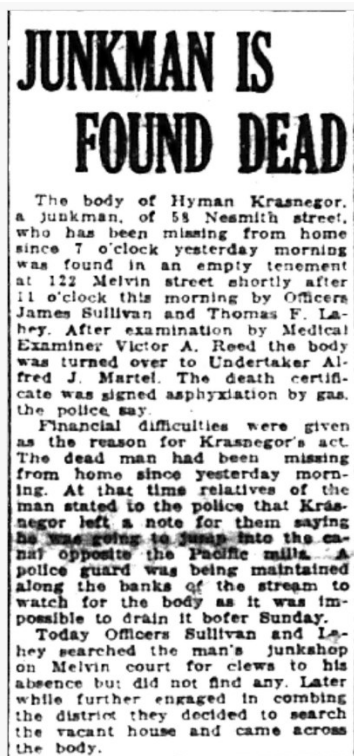
Krasnegor Abraham student res 58 Nes-
mith
" Hyman (Annie) junk 18 Melvin et and
confectionery 120 Melvin h 58 Nes-
mith

By 1925, however, it is clear that Hyman was over his head financially which triggered him to take his own life on Nov. 18, 1925. The tragic circumstances of his death was recorded on the front page of the Lawrence newspaper, *The Evening Tribune*, on November 19, 1925. "Financial Worries Lead to Suicide" read the headline "Body of Well Known Junk Dealer Found By Police in Empty Tenement with Gas Tube In His Mouth-Left Note Telling of his Intention." A second smaller article appeared the same day in the *Lawrence Telegram*.

Transcription of article in The Evening Tribune.

The house in which the body of the deceased was found was owned by him. Police said they learned that Wednesday he purchased the rubber tubing found attached to the gas jet.

A second article appeared in the Lawrence Telegram the same day.



Transcription of *Lawrence Telegram* article from Nov. 19, page 1.

The body of Hyman Krasnegor, a junkman of 53 Nesmith street, who has been missing from home since 7 o'clock yesterday morning was found in an empty tenement at 122 Melvin street shortly after 11 o'clock this morning by Officers James Sullivan and Thomas F. Lahey. After examination by Medical Examiner Victor A. Reed the body was turned over to Undertaker Alfred J. Martel. The death certificate was signed asphyxiation by gas, the police say.

Financial difficulties were given as the reason for Krasnegor's act. The dead man had been missing from home since yesterday morning. At that time relatives of the man stated to the police that Krasnegor left a note for them saying he was going to jump into the canal opposite the Pacific mills. A police guard was being maintained along the banks of the stream to watch for the body as it was impossible to drain it bofer [sic before] Sunday.

Today Officers Sullivan and Lehey searched the man's junkshop on Melvin court for clews [sic] to his absence but did not find any. Later while further engaged in combing the district they decided to search the vacant house and came across the body.

Hyman's suicide obviously must have been devastating to Annie and her children and evidently explains why the family picked up and moved to Roxbury, Mass. as indicated in the 1926 Lawrence City Directory ("rem to Roxbury"). Roxbury is about 50 miles south of Lawrence and a suburb of Boston. It seems likely that Annie followed her sister Fannie Olans to Roxbury since they lived close by.

1926

> 1926 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1926

Krasnegor Abraham rem to Roxbury
 " Annie widow Hyman rem to Roxbury
 " Hyman (Annie) died Nov 19 1925

1928

> 1928 > Boston, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1928

Krasnegor Abraham J clerk res 20 Holborn
 Rox
 " Annie widow Hyman h 20 Holborn Rox

In 1928, Annie and her son Abraham both appear in the Boston City Directory at 20 Holborn "Rox[bury] a neighborhood that was incorporated into Boston in 1868 and had a vibrant Jewish community in the early 20th century. Their address was close to Annie's sister, Fannie Olans, who settled with her husband at 3 Holborn Terrace.

Annie remarried in Roxbury, on March 28, 1928, when she was 40. Her new husband, Myer Newmark, was 44 years old and was a merchant for a shoe store. Their blended family appears together in the 1930 census on Crawford Street in Boston. Myer's two children, Esther and Elliot, were still in the household, ages 22 and 13. And Annie's two younger children, Miriam and Harry Krasnegor, now 22 and 15, were listed as well. Miriam

was working as a bookkeeper in a business office. Harry did not yet have an occupation.

13	502	Newmark Myer	Head	45	00	R	M	W	44	M	20	no	the	Russia	Russia	Russia
14		Annie	Wife	40	04		F	W	40	M	19	no	the	Russia	Russia	Russia
15		Ester	Daughter				F	W	22	S		no	the	Massachusetts	Russia	Russia
16		Krasnegor Myram	Daughter				F	W	22	S		no	the	Massachusetts	Russia	Russia
17		Harry	Son				M	W	18	S		no	the	Massachusetts	Russia	Russia
18		Newmark Elliott	Son				M	W	13	S		no	the	Massachusetts	Russia	Russia

Figure 77 1930 Federal Census showing the blended family of Annie married to Myer Newmark

In the 1930 census, Annie's son, Abraham, was no longer listed in the household and apparently was living on his own at this point. He married Julia Rutberg in 1934. They appear in the Boston directory that year at 28 York Street in the Dorchester neighborhood. Abraham was 28 and described as a merchant. Julia was 24. In 1936 Abraham listed himself in the shoe business and perhaps got into the business via his mother's new husband Meyer Newmark who was in the business.

Abraham and Julia's son, Harvey Albert Krasnegor, was born in 1936. He was probably named for Abraham's deceased father, Hyman. A second son, Norman Krasnegor, was born in 1940. The young family appears in the 1940 census at 27 Mallon St. in Boston. Abraham was now listed as an insurance agent. They were still on Mallon St. in the 1950 census as well.

28	27	13	R	35	Krasnegor Abraham	Head	0	M	W	34	M	4	0	30	Massachusetts	53	Same place
29					Julia	Wife	1	F	W	30	M	4	0	30	Massachusetts	53	Same place
30					Harvey	Son	2	M	W	4	S	0	0		Massachusetts	53	
31					Norman	Son	2	M	W	4	S	0	0		Massachusetts	53	

Figure 78 1940 Federal census for Abraham and Julia Krasnegor and two children

In the 1940 city directory, Annie's daughter Miriam Krasnegor was still single, living at 22A Crawford in Roxbury, MA and listed as a clerk. She was 33 years old at the time. She appears to have married a man named Moses Sirkin in 1941 who a year before was still living with his mother and two siblings and was a proprietor of retail meats. A daughter Barbara Gale Sirkin was born in 1942. Mary's husband, Moses, passed away in 1951.

Annie's younger son, Harry Krasnegor, married a woman named Doris Holsberg. Their son Ira Herbert Krasnegor was born January 24, 1940. In the 1940 Federal census, they were living with Doris's family at 47 Columbia Road in Boston. Harry appearing as "Son-in-law" was described as a salesman in wholesale dry goods. A second son, Stanley, was born in 1947. In the 1950 census they were still all living together at the same address, but Harry had shortened the family name from Krasnegor to Kaye.

1					Ester	Wife	1	F	W	54	M	10	-	40	Russia	18	Same House
2					Krasnegor Harry	Son-in-law	5	M	W	26	M	10	4	30	Massachusetts	53	Same House
3	47				Doris	Daughter	2	F	W	24	M	10	4	30	Massachusetts	53	Same House
4					Ira H. Krasnegor	Son	4	M	W	14	S	0	0		Massachusetts	53	

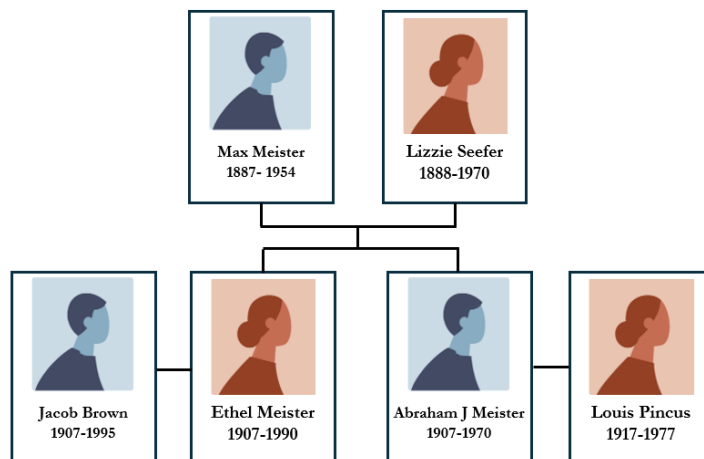
Figure 79 1940 Federal census for Harry Krasnegor and family

3	47	55	No	No	Kale King	Samuel	Head	W	M	65	Mar.	Russia	Yes	WK	50	Proprietor	Wholesale Dry Co	0
4					Ester	Wife	W	F	63	Mar.	Russia	Yes	H	No	No	No	No	No
5					Kaye, Harry	Son	W	M	36	Mar.	Mass.	Yes	WK	45	Salesman	Wholesale Dry Co	0	P
6					Doris	Daughter	W	F	34	Mar.	Mass.	Yes	H	No	No	No	No	No
7					Ira	Son	W	M	10	Res.	Mass.	Yes	H	No	No	No	No	No

Figure 80 1950 Federal census for Harry Kaye and family

Annie's second husband, Meyer Newmark, sadly passed away in 1943. Annie remarried again to a man named David Kahn in 1945. Sadly she outlived her third husband who died in 1957. Annie passed away March 6, 1979. Her son Abraham predeceased her, passing away on July 18, 1977. Mary passed away July 16, 1995. Harry (Krasnegor) Kave passed away in 2001.

Lizzie and Max Meister (1920 and beyond)



Max and Lizzie and their two children were living in Lawrence in 1920. Max remained in the grocery business throughout the 1920s. There is some inconsistency in the records about their home address from 1920–1923. In the Lawrence City directory for those years, the grocery store is listed on Park Street, but the directory indicates their home was still in the town of Methuen.

Starting in 1923 the grocery is listed at 335 Howard Street in Lawrence and their home is also there. Howard Street was in the Prospect Hill area of Lawrence on the East side of town. For the years 1923 and 1924, Max and Lizzie were both listed separately in the directory with a grocery which was the same as their home address. Max is listed as a mgr and Lizzie as grocer. The purpose of the double listing is not clear, though they may have found some financial value in listing Lizzie independently from Max. Then in 1925 both are again listed but “Lizzie” appears now as “Mrs. Elizabeth Meister.” In 1926, Ethel Meister, the daughter of Max and Lizzie begins appearing in the directory on her own. She was 19 years old, listed as a stenographer at 469 Essex Street, and living at the same home address as her parents.

In 1928, an interesting shift happens in the directory listings, pointing to a business transition. Elizabeth (Lizzie) is now listed with “Meister Market & Co.” This is the first time the name of the grocery appears in the directory. A separate listing for Meister Market appears as well. Next to the market name appear the name of Elizabeth and her sibling Jack in parentheses: (Jack Seefer, Mrs. Elizabeth Meister). In addition, Max is now listed with just a home address and no longer a grocery. Ethel is still listed living at home that year.

The 1928 directory suggests that Max and Lizzie went into business with Lizzie's brother Jack Seefer. Perhaps Jack even bought out Max for financial reasons or they took Max's name off the business for other reasons. As discussed earlier, Jack was already in Providence by this time, about 90 miles away. It appears

therefore that he invested in the Meister grocery business or he was named as an owner for some other financial reason. Jack's name appears with Meister Market into the 1930s.

In 1929, Lizzie and Max's son Abraham appears for the first time in the directory. He is living at the home address as well.

> 1923 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1923 " Katrina widow George h 6 Blaser ct " Lizzie Mrs grocer 335 Howard h 333 do " Louis (Mary) driver h 90 Bunker Hill " Max (Elizabeth) mgr 335 Howard h 333 do	> 1924 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1924 " Lizzie Mrs grocer 335 Howard h 333 do " Louis (Mary) driver h 90 Bunker Hill " Max (Elizabeth) mgr 335 Howard h 333 do
1925 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1925 " Elizabeth Mrs grocer 335 Howard h 333 " Frieda died May 1925 " Herbert J (Ida A) baker 267 Prospect h 24 Boehm " Louis (Mary) died March 4 1925 " Mary widow Louis h 90 Bunker Hill " Max (Elizabeth) mgr 335 Howard h 333 do	1926 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1926 do " Ethel clerk 469 Essex res 335 Howard " Herbert J (Ida A) baker 267 Prospect h 24 Boehm " Mary widow Louis h 90 Bunker Hill " Max (Elizabeth) mgr 335 Howard h 333 do " Meyer (Rose) junk h 21 Medford " Samuel (Jennie) opr h 122 Willow
1927 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1927 " Elizabeth Mrs grocer 335 Howard h 333 do " Ethel clerk 469 Essex res 335 Howard " Herbert J (Ida A) baker 267 Prospect h 24 Boehm " Mary widow Louis h 90 Bunker Hill " Max (Elizabeth) mgr 335 Howard h 333 do	1928 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1928 " Elizabeth Mrs (Meisters Market & Co) 335 Howard h 333 do " Ethel clerk res 333 Howard " Herbert J (Ida A) baker 267 Prospect h 24 Boehm " Joseph salesman 529 Common h at Methuen " Mary widow Louis h 90 Bunker Hill " Max (Elizabeth) h 333 Howard Meister's Market & Co (Jack Seefer, Mrs Elizabeth Meister) grocers 335 Howard
> 1929 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1929 " Abraham clerk 335 Howard res 333 do " Adolph J (Annie) baker 267 Prospect h 273 do " Ethel clerk res 333 Howard " Herbert J (Ida A) baker 267 Prospect h 6 Boehm " Joseph salesman 529 Common h at Methuen " Max (Elizabeth) h 333 Howard Meister's Market & Co (Jack Seefer) grocers 335 Howard	1930 > Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Directory, 1930 " Abraham clerk 335 Howard res 333 do " Adolph J (Annie) baker 267 Prospect h 273 do " Ethel steno res 333 Howard " Herbert J (Ida A) baker 267 Prospect h 6 Boehm " Joseph salesman 529 Common h at Methuen " Max (Elizabeth) h 333 Howard Meister's Market & Co (Jack Seefer) grocers 335 Howard

The Meister family is still at the same address in the 1930 census. Max is listed as renting at 333 Howard Street which is a two-unit building. He is 44 and Lizzie is 42. Their son Abraham, now 19, is still living at home. Ethel their older child is not listed on the census, but she too was apparently still living at home. She appears in the Lawrence directory from 1930-1932 at the same address with the occupation of stenographer.

333	121	122	Moller, Walter H.	Head	R	30	00		M	W	33	M	24	No	400	Rhode Island	Germany	New York
			— Mary A.	Wife	H				F	W	31	M	24	No	400	Massachusetts	High Free State	High Free State
			— Marguerite	Daughter					F	W	5	S				Massachusetts	Rhode Island	Massachusetts
			— Walter H. Jr.	Son					M	W	3 1/2	S				Massachusetts	Rhode Island	Massachusetts
122	123		Meister, Max	Head	R	30	05		M	W	44	M	20	No	400	Russia	Russia	Russia
			— Lizzie	Wife-H					F	W	42	M	18	No	400	Russia	Russia	Russia
			— Abraham	Son					M	W	19	S			400	Massachusetts	Russia	Russia

Figure 81 1930 Census for Max and Lizzie Meister and son Abraham at 333 Howard Street

In 1933 Ethel is no longer listed living at home. Sometime in the 1930s she married a man named Jacob Brown. In 1939, they had a daughter Rhoda (married name Saltiel). The family appears in the 1940 census living in Boston at 24 Bradshaw Street. Ethel and Jacob are both 33. Rhoda is age 1. The record implies they were living at the same address as early as 1935 and remained at the same address through the 1950 census. Jacob was 43, Ethel 42 and Rhoda 11.

24	40	50	Brown, Jacob	Head	M	W	33	M	Dec-4	70	Massachusetts	53	immigrant
			— Ethel	Wife	F	W	33	M	Dec-4	70	Russia	18	immigrant
			— Rhoda L.	Daughter	F	W	1	S	Dec-0		Massachusetts	53	

Figure 82 1940 Federal census for Jacob and Ethel Brown

16	24	175	no	no	Brown, Jacob	Head	W	M	43	mar	Mass
17					— Ethel	Wife	W	F	42	mar	Mass
18					— Rhoda	Daughter	W	F	11	mar	Mass

Figure 83 1950 Federal census for Jacob and Ethel Brown

Ethel passed away on March 18, 1990 and Jacob passed away Jan 31, 1995. Their daughter Rhoda Saltiel passed away in 2005.

Lizzie and Max's son, Abraham, married Louise Pincus April 14, 1942. The announcement appeared in *Press and Sun Bulletin* from Binghamton, NY (p. 21)

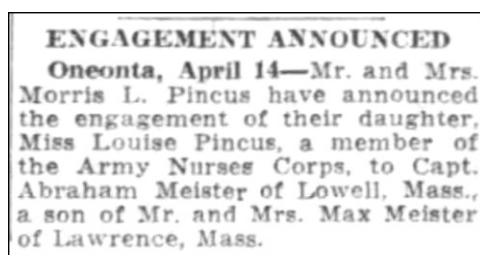


Figure 84 Engagement announcement of Abraham Meister and Louise Pincus

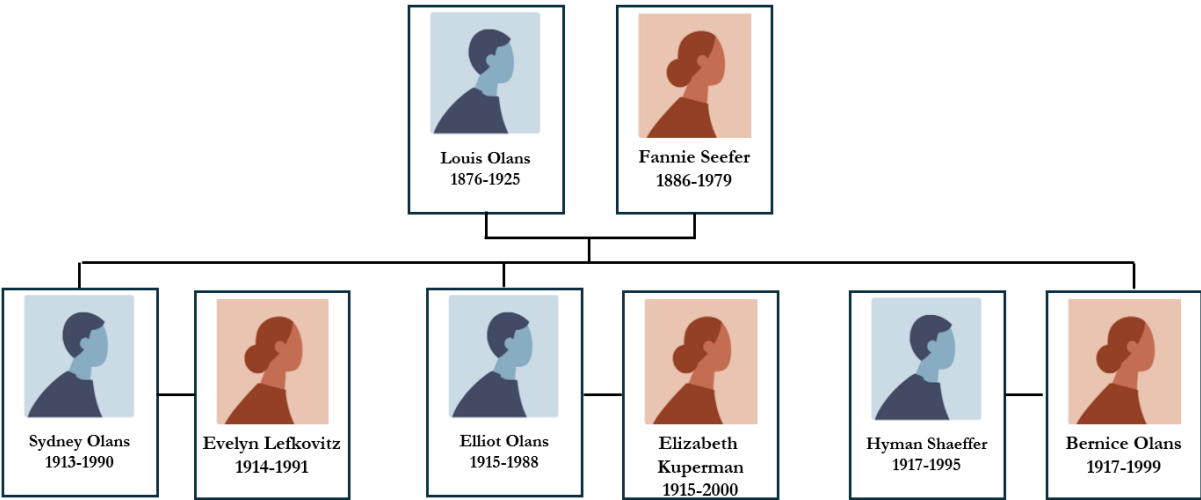
In 1950 Abraham and Louise appear at 30 Frothingham Street in Lowell, MA. Abraham is 39, Louise 33 and Abraham is listed as a physician. Their son William is 3 and their daughter, Martha, is 2. A housekeeper was living with them.

F	10	W	No	Meister, Abraham	Head	W	M	39	Mar	Mass	WK			50	physician
A				— Louise	Wife	W	F	33	Mar	New York	H	No	No		
P				— William	Son	W	M	3	Mar	Mass					
H				— Martha	Daughter	W	F	2	Mar	Mass					
19				— Louise	Wife	W	F	20	Mar	Illinois	WK				housekeeper

Figure 85 1950 census for Abraham and Louise Meister and children

Abraham passed away Dec. 26, 1970, the same year as his mother Lizzie. Louise passed away in 1977.

Fannie and Louis Olans (1920 and beyond)



As noted earlier, Fannie and Louis were in Boston after they got married but reappear in Lawrence in 1920. The records are confusing because Louis Olans appears in both Boston and Lawrence for several years and it may be that he was maintaining two addresses and traveling back and forth for business and family reasons. For example, in the directory for 1920 he is listed still at 40 Irma Street in Boston but at 467 Essex Street rm 7 in Lawrence. The latter address appears to be more temporary. Then in 1921 he appears at 70 S. Broadway with a business listing and a home listing at 92 Tenney Street in nearby Methuen. In 1923-1924 he is listed at Glenway Street in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston.

Then starting in 1926 Louis appears in the Boston directories at 3 Holbom Terrace in the Roxbury area of Boston, which becomes the family’s stable address. The family was there in both the 1930 and 1940 census.

30	Dover	3	106	176	O. Carl Seefer	Head	A	62	100	A	M	W	35	M	15	13	40	Mass	Mass
31					Fannie	Wife H				V	F	W	35	M	15	13	40	Mass	Mass
32					Sydney	Son				V	M	W	17	S	13	40	Massachusetts	Mass	
33					Elliot	Son				V	M	W	14	S	13	40	Massachusetts	Mass	
34				Bernice	Daughter					V	F	W	13	S	13	40	Massachusetts	Mass	

Figure 86 1930 Federal census for Samuel and Fannie Olans and three children at 3 Holborn Terrace in the Roxbury neighborhood

31			190	8	48	Olans Louis	Head	0	M	W	48	M	20	5	5	Mass	18	Albany house
32						Fanny	Wife	1	F	W	48	M	20	5	5	Mass	18	Albany house
33						Elliot	Son	2	M	W	24	S	20	4	30	Massachusetts	5	Same house
34						Bernice	Daughter	2	F	W	23	S	20	4	30	Massachusetts	13	Same house

Figure 87 1940 census for the Olans family

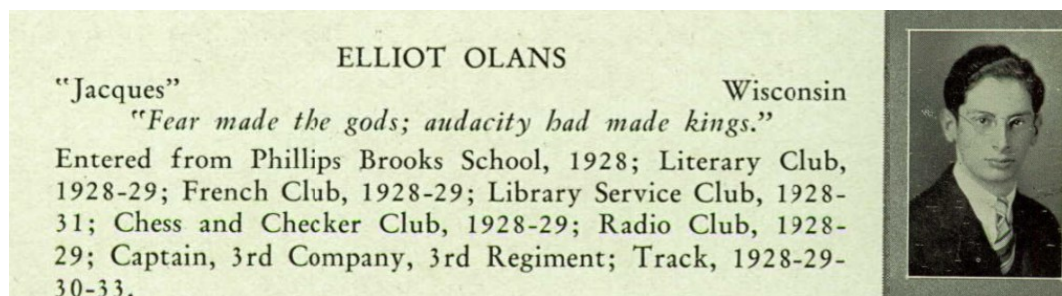


Figure 88 1933 Boston Latin School school photo and bio for Elliot Olans

In 1940, Louis and Fannie were both listed as 48 and their son Elliott was 24 and their daughter Bernice was 22.

By that year, Louis and Fannie's son, Sydney Olans, was married to Evelyn Lefkovitz and they were living at 57 College Ave in Sommerville, Mass. near Tufts which is located to the northwest of Boston proper. Sidney was described as a medical doctor in general practice and Evelyn worked in a general office in cosmetics. They did not yet have any children. A daughter Judith (married name Brown) was born in 1942 and a son Richard in 1946.

69	57	92	R	45	No	Olans, Sidney	Head	M	W	26	24	No	C4	Massachusetts
70						—, Evelyn	wife	F	W	26	24	No	C4	Massachusetts

In 1941, Louis and Fannie's son Elliot Olans married Elizabeth Kuperman (also spelled Cooperman). Their son Jay Olans was born in 1943.

Louis and Fannie's daughter Bernice married Hyman Shaffer in the 1940s. They appear in the 1950 census in Natick, Massachusetts at 29 Hardwick Road.

27	29	70	-	No	No	Shaffer, Hyman	Head	W	M	32	Mar	Mass.
28						—, Bernice O	Wife	W	F	33	Mar.	Mass.
29						—, Roberta J.	Daughter	W	F	7	Mar.	Mass.
30						—, Marjory A.	Daughter	W	F	6	Mar.	Mass.

Louis Olans passed away in 1952. Fannie in 1975. Son Elliot passed away in 1988. Son Sidney in 1990 and daughter Bernice in 1999.

Samuel and Mary Seefer (1920 and beyond)

In 1920, Samuel and his wife Mary (Hirshman) were living at 142 Gove Street in Boston and Sam was a proprietor of a grocery. That is the address that appears on the naturalization petition that he filled out in April that year.

In 1921 Sam was still listed as a storekeeper living at the same address. Samuel reappears in 1927 as an insurance agent living in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston at 12 Flower Street. In 1928, his occupation is the same, but his home address is listed as 50 Angell Street in Dorchester. They appear renting one of the two units at that same address in the 1930 census. Samuel "Siffer" was 36 and his wife Mary 31. Both were naturalized. Samuel is listed as a lawyer in a law office. No children were listed.

22	50	9th	1st	Rozak	Alie	Head	R# 50	1	M	W	40	M	AR	Chs	2	Russia	Russia	Russia
23				Lepke	Alie H				F	W	36	M	24	Chs	2	Poland	Poland	Poland
24				Siffer	Samuel	Head	R# 50		M	W	38	M	26	Chs	2	Massachusetts	Russia	Russia
25				Mary	Alie H				F	W	34	M	24	Chs	2	Massachusetts	Russia	Russia

Figure 89 1930 Federal census for Samuel and Mary "Siffer" on Angell Street in Boston

15	40	cont'd	Seefer, Samuel	Lodger	6	M	W	42	D	1624	70	Russia	NA	NA	Same
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Figure 90 1940 Federal census showing Samuel divorced

0	88	24	70	BUSALACCHI, MARIETTA	HEAD	W	F	48	MAN	NEW YORK	221	H	74	70	70
1				NINA	DAUGHTER	W	F	18	NEV	MASS		KK			
2				SEEFER SAMUEL	LODGER	W	M	52	7	RUSSIA	15	YES	KK	40	ATTORNEY V-A.

Figure 91 1950 Federal census

Samuel appears at several different addresses in the 1930s directories as an insurance agent. The mobility and instability may have been related to his divorce that occurred sometime in the 1930s. He appears as a lodger and divorced in the 1940 census and listed as a broker. In the 1950 census, Samuel was 52, remained unmarried, and was listed as an attorney for the VA. It appears he and his wife never had additional children before their divorce. Sometime after this point, Samuel married Anne Smargon (née Kaplan) who was previously married and had two children. Samuel died on Sept. 20, 1991.