



זְכֵרוֹנוֹת *ZichronNote*

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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Myth and Reality

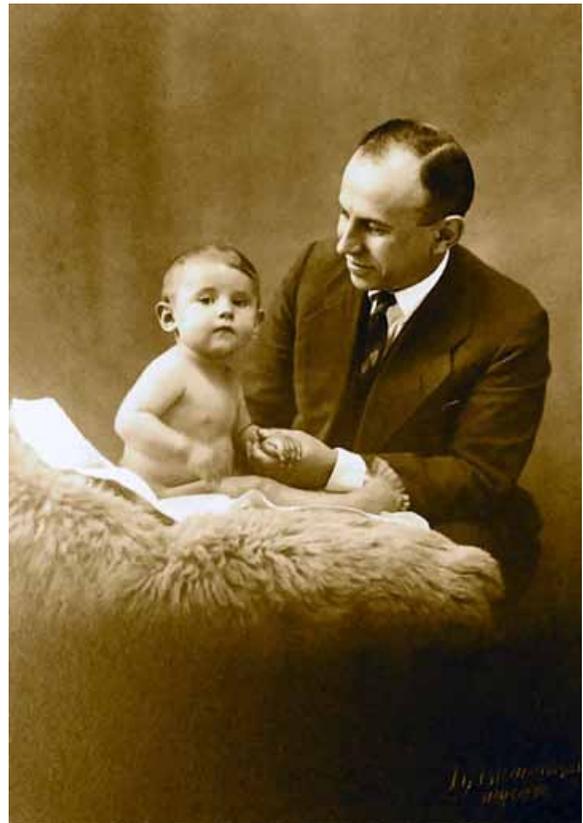
When you start checking all the information that is included in a memoir, you might find that not everything totally checks out. See page 5.

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*Leslie Tenney's second cousin once removed
Anna (Agnes' mother) and her father Teodor
(see page 9)*

ZichronNote
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Jewish Genealogical Society

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President's Message
A New Home in San Francisco

Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

As you probably know, our San Francisco meeting location has been Rhoda Goldman Plaza, a senior citizens residence, located on Post Street near Divisadero Street.

On paper it seemed to check most, if not all, of the boxes. Street parking is free (no meters on Sunday), and there is even a parking garage under the building. The meeting room is outfitted with audiovisual equipment, and a staff member was always on hand to walk us through which buttons to press. There is even a cafe on the second floor, where one could buy coffee and munchies (though we have also provided tea and coffee for free). I don't think the quality of our speakers was lacking. They were always well received, even if only a faithful few were in attendance.

And that is where the problem lay: the faithful "few." It really became embarrassing every time when asked by a speaker, as he was setting up, how many people to expect. Wringing my hands I would half-jokingly say, "Well, if we get a minyan I'll be very happy." The look I got said it all. I could envision the speech bubble above their heads—"I've schlepped all this way for just a handful of people?"

The board members were also wringing their hands. "What to do?" "What can we improve?" "What can we change?" A survey didn't really point to a smoking gun. We were facing going into 2020 with this problem hanging over our collective heads.

A month ago, board member Jeff Lewy, wearing his "Transcriptions Committee" hat, went to the San Francisco Public Library to donate the Congregation Beth Israel burial register. While there he happened to mention the problem we were having. It turns out that the Main Library has several meeting rooms of various sizes. As a cosponsored organization, we could hold our meetings in one of their meeting rooms—gratis!

This was also good news for Janice Sellers, our Program Director, whose sigh of relief could be heard all the way from Portland, Oregon (where she now lives).

So as we head into 2020 we shall be holding our San Francisco meetings at the library. As I wrote in the 2019 membership renewal letter, "all we have to do is show up to reap the benefits of the presentation. Do make it a new year's 'resolution' to attend, and also get to know your fellow members . . ."

I'll be there and look forward to seeing you there also.



Society News

In order to continue to receive *ZichronNote* and the SFBAJGS e-blast, please send changes in your e-mail address to newsletter@sfbajgs.org.

Member Benefit

The researcher who photographs the *matzevot* in Jewish cemeteries in Poland for the Kirkuty project, a project which SFBAJGS supports with donations made possible by our generous members, can accept requests from SFBAJGS members in good standing for photography in cemeteries in specific towns. The towns must be in Poland. Send your request to membership@sfbajgs.org.

In 2018, Kirkuty visited and documented twelve cemeteries, which includes compiling a list of preserved *matzevot*. The newly documented cemeteries:

Kamienna Góra (German: Landeshut), http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/kamienna_gora.htm

Kcynia (German: Exin), <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/kcynia.htm>

Nowogród, <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/nowogrod.htm>

Sandomierz, <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/sandomierz.htm>

Ścinawa (German: Steinau an der Oder), <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/scinawa.htm>

Zalewo (German: Saalfeld i. Ostpreussen), <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/zalewo.htm>

Zamość, <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/zamosc.htm>

Zwierzyniec, <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/zwierzyniec.htm>

Żychlin, <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/zychlin.htm>

Holobudy (Belarus), <http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/holobudy.htm>

Tehran (Iran), http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/tehran_jewish_cemetery.htm

Monte Cassino (Italy), http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/monte_cassino.htm

Research Scope of SFBAJGS

The San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society does not limit its scope to the San Francisco Bay area. While our meetings take place in various locations in the Bay Area, our research and pursuits include the entire world, as that's where our ancestors came from. Our members have extensive experience with genealogical research in every corner of the globe and with all types of historical records.

SFBAJGS Board Meetings

Did you know that SFBAJGS board meetings are open to members to attend? Well, they are! The next board meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, 16 February at a Peninsula location. If you are interested in attending and learning more about how your board reaches decisions for the society, contact the editor at newsletter@sfbajgs.org.

Your Story Belongs in *ZichronNote*

Have you had a breakthrough in your family history, solved a family mystery through painstaking research, discovered a better way to use resource materials, or walked where your ancestors walked? Have you had success or made progress at the Genealogy Clinic with the Mavens? Do you have a brick wall you want to discuss? Did you meet a cousin at the annual conference, or make contact with a "tenuously, absurdly distant" cousin or a "relative of the heel?"

Tell us your story, share your discovery! We want to read about it in *ZichronNote*. Please submit materials to newsletter@sfbajgs.org.

Meeting Times and Locations

Unless otherwise indicated, the SFBAJGS meeting schedule is as follows.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| San Francisco: | Sunday. Doors open 1:00 p.m. Program begins at 1:30 p.m.
NEW LOCATION: San Francisco Public Library, Main Branch, Latino/Hispanic Room, 100 Larkin Street (across the street from Civic Center BART station) |
| Oakland: | Sunday. Doors open 1:00 p.m. Program begins at 1:30 p.m.
Oakland FamilySearch Library, 4766 Lincoln Avenue |
| Palo Alto: | Monday. Doors open 7:00 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.
Congregation Etz Chayim, 4161 Alma Street |

See Back Cover for Calendar of Upcoming SFBAJGS Meetings

Genealogy Calendar of Events

Local and Regional

Tuesday, 7 January 2020. Gail Burk, "Writing about Relatives." Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz Public Library, Downtown Branch, 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz. <http://scgensoc.org/>

Friday, 17 January 2020. James Koenig, "Using Diminutive Names to Solve Genealogical Puzzles." Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society. Rossmore Creekside Clubhouse, 1010 Stanley Dollar Drive, Walnut Creek. <https://mdgs.webs.com/>

Saturday, 18 January 2020. Sue Severson, "Getting Started with DNA and Using It for Brick Walls." California Genealogical Society. Oakland FamilySearch Library, 4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland. <https://www.californiaancestors.org/>

Tuesday, 21 January 2020. Karen Zukor, "Document Repair and Restoration." San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society. Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road, Alamo. <http://www.srvgensoc.org/>

Saturday, 25 January 2020. Jeanne MacVicar, "The Orphan Train Movement." San Mateo County Genealogical Society. Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo. <http://www.smcgs.org/>

Thursday, 27 February 2020. Tamar Zaken, "Names and Identity: Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews in Israel." Jewish Community Library, 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco. <http://www.jewishlearningworks.org/library-events>

State and National

Wednesday–Saturday, 26–29 February 2020. RootsTech. Salt Lake City, Utah. <http://www.rotstech.org/>

Wednesday–Saturday, 20–23 May 2020. NGS Family History Conference, "Echoes of Our Ancestors." Salt Lake City, Utah. <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Sunday–Friday, 9–14 August 2020. IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. San Diego, California. <http://www.iajgs2020.org/>

Wednesday–Saturday, 2–5 September 2020. FGS Annual Conference. Kansas City, Missouri. <https://fgs.org/conferences/>

Thursday–Saturday, 10–12 September 2020. New York State Family History Conference. Albany, New York. <http://www.nysfhc.org/>

International

Tuesday–Thursday, 23–25 June 2020. The History, Culture and Heritage of Jews in Belarus across the Ages. Minsk, Belarus. Call for proposals deadline **1 February 2020**.

<https://britishjewishstudies.org/2019/11/19/cfp-conference-on-the-history-culture-and-heritage-of-jews-in-belarus-across-the-ages-23-25-june-2020-minsk/>

Sunday–Saturday, 19 October–16 November 2020 (Cheshvan 5781). International Jewish Genealogy Month. <http://www.iajgs.org/blog/ijgm/>

For more events, visit <http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/genealogy/calendar/> and <http://www.conferencekeeper.com/>.

Free Webinars

FamilySearch. <https://sites.lib.byu.edu/familyhistory/classes-and-webinars/online-webinars/>

Florida State Genealogical Society. <http://www.flsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=253>

Georgia Genealogical Society. <http://gagensociety.org/events/webinars>

Illinois State Genealogical Society. <http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=234>

Legacy Family Tree (MyHeritage). <http://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

Minnesota Genealogical Society. <http://mngs.org/eventListings.php?nm=38>

Southern California Genealogical Society. <http://www.scsgenealogy.com/>

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. <https://www.uscis.gov/HGWebinars>

Utah Genealogical Association. <https://ugagenealogy.org/cpage.php?pt=11>

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society. <http://wsgs.org/cpage.php?pt=127>

YIVO YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/user/yivoinstitute>



Brainstorming with the Mavens

The San Francisco Jewish Community Library hosts a free genealogy clinic every month (except July and August) from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. Bring copies of family charts, documents, and other information and let experienced SFBAJGS Jewish genealogists help point you in the right direction in your research. 1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco. There is free, secure parking in the building. Call (415) 567-3327 x704 or write library@jewishlearningworks.org for more information.

Upcoming dates:

5 January 2020

2 February 2020

A Memoir: Fact and Fiction

Ann L. Fuller, Ph.D.

Ann L. Fuller is an Affiliate Scholar at Oberlin College and a Geni.com volunteer curator. She grew up in Chicago, Illinois, earned an M.A. in history and a Ph.D. in plasma physics, and served for 28 years as executive director of a social services agency serving low-income persons in Oberlin, Ohio. She started doing genealogy as a retirement activity in 2007 by joining Geni.com, the then-new genealogy-social networking site, and has since expanded her research interests into multiple geographical areas and DNA. She has been a member of SFBAJGS since 2010.

I knew my uncle Ira Bach (1906–1985) as a quiet, modest, handsome man married to my father’s younger sister, Ruth. Educated as an architect at MIT, he worked for many years as an urban planner for the city of Chicago. Ruth died of cancer in 1961 at the age of 51, leaving two teenage children, James and Carlie.¹ In 1962 Ira married Muriel, a gracious woman who as an actress wrote and performed one-woman shows.

While retiring within the family, Ira was prominent in a more public arena. When he died in 1985, his obituary described him as “an author and urban planner whose name ranks with Daniel Burnham in the history of Chicago planning, [who] was appointed to various city posts by five mayors . . . the question [was] how was he able to survive under such different mayors as Kennelly, Daley, Bilandic, Byrne and Washington? He could because he was a unique person with an ability to steer clear of petty political fights by keeping his eye on his goal. He did not lose the main thrust of his plan and did not let any mayor get out of hand.”²

In 2015, on a visit to Ira’s son, I received a brief memoir of Ira’s mother’s family, written in 1973 for Ira’s maternal first cousin, June. Although Ira is listed as the author, it is more likely that Muriel did the writing from information he provided and that he edited it.³ The memoir provided crucial background material when I researched Ira’s paternity (*ZichronNote* Volume XXXVIII, Number 3/4, August/November 2018). At the time I had no reason to question the memoir’s accuracy. As I attempted to verify its details, however, I found discrepancies that revealed several long-hidden family secrets.

Synopsis of the Memoir

Ira Bach was born in Chicago in 1906. His maternal grandparents, Israel and Jennie Rose, came to the U.S. from Minsk after the 1871 Chicago fire with their 8-year-old daughter, Sarah. Israel worked as a cattle broker for Chicago meat purveyors, which required trips to Texas. Jennie gave birth to at least three more children in Chicago: Louis (Louie), Samuel (Sam), and Rachel (Ray). In 1888 Israel died, leaving the family to support itself. Jennie got a

pushcart to sell dry goods, Louie and Sam sold newspapers and shined shoes, and Sarah went to work for a theatrical booking agent. Sarah’s daughter, Berdonna (Birdie), and her younger sister, Ray, became a vaudeville singing and dancing act named the “Gilbert Sisters”, which began performing about 1893 at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago and then went on tour. Their success enabled Louie to study law and Sam to study business.

In 1905, Ray left the vaudeville act and married Jacob Bach. Eleven months later, their son Ira was born. Jacob died in 1913, and two of Ray’s siblings, Sarah and Louie, died soon afterward. Ray returned to the only work she had known, vaudeville, which meant travel. Rather than leave Ira in the care of her mother, Jennie, and unable to find placement through a Jewish agency, she sent him to a Catholic boarding school, where he spent the next six years.

After Jennie died in 1918, Ray decided to move to Southern California with her brother Sam and son, Ira. Sam had health problems and Ira was recovering from Spanish influenza, so she thought the milder climate would be beneficial for them. Sam found a job as the companion of an affluent elderly man, and Ray put Ira into a boarding school while she ran a small hotel. In 1920, she married Theodore Goldstein, who did not turn out to be supportive to Ira. Sam stepped in and provided a home for Ira in the Los Angeles area during his high-school years. Ira returned to Chicago for college at the University of Illinois, working on and off to pay for his education. In 1929 Sam married, and a daughter, June, was born in 1930. The memoir ends with Sam’s death in 1931.

Verifying Facts about the Rose Family

Although I had known Ira from my childhood into adulthood, I was unaware of the many hardships he and his family had experienced. My Aunt Ruth and her Viennese family were a dominating presence, and Ira did not talk about himself.

To verify the facts in the memoir, I looked for documentation of the lives of Jennie, Israel, Sarah, Louie, Ray, and Sam Rose. Even though the family was supposed to have come to Chicago by 1872, I could not find them in

the 1880 census, city directories before 1887, or immigration documents. Nor could I find birth records for any of the children. Family members appear in the census, starting in 1900, and in several city directories. What I discovered about them both amplifies and, in some cases, contradicts the memoir's account.

Ira's Grandparents, Jennie and Israel Rose

The memoir describes the arrival of the Rose family to Chicago.

[W]ithin a few months [of the Great Fire of 1871], there was a call for volunteers from all the trades and crafts to come to Chicago and participate in the rebuilding of this prairie metropolis on the shores of Lake Michigan. . . . Even the residents of Minsk in Western Russia heard of the devastation of the great city in America. . . . So when this call for emigrants came, many responded. Among them was 26-year old Israel, his 24-year old wife, Jennie, and 8-year old Sarah Rose.

Jennie Rose (~8 July 1849–15 August 1918)

The memoir covers the main events in the life of Jennie: her arrival, the births of three more children, and widowhood at 39. It paints a poignant picture of her after the deaths of Sarah and Louie:

[Jennie was] old, scarred by life's tragedies, superstitious, Orthodox. Indeed, ever since the death of her children, Sarah and Louie, Jennie had taken to visiting their graves at Waldheim with increasing regularity. It meant taking one street car to the end of the line, transferring to another and then still another. Her preparations became ritual. First, she would secret her monies in a small handkerchief which she placed in her stocking, knotted at the knee. The money was necessary not only for transportation but for the professional mourner at the cemetery. He, apparently, had a more direct line to God, than little Jennie. In addition to her own layers of sweaters, skirts, shawls, she traveled with pail, scrub brush, scouring powder and whatever else she needed to clean the head stones and tend the graves.⁴ . . . It was on one of those trips that she died . . . on the streetcar, surrounded by her pails and brushes.

Jennie first appears in the 1887 Chicago City Directory as Israel's widow.⁵ She is also in the 1900 and 1910 censuses, additional city directories, and the Illinois death index.

Ray and Jacob Bach's 1905 marriage license reveals that her maiden name was Levy. With that information, a detail in the memoir, and a close DNA match to Ira's son, I was able to identify a sister, Minnie Levy Bransky, and likely brother, Abe Levey, both living in Detroit by the time of the 1880 census and later moving to Chicago.⁶

The memoir says that the Rose family came from Minsk. While they may have lived in Minsk, I didn't find any evidence that Jennie or Israel was born there: The 1900 and 1910 censuses list Germany as Jennie's birthplace; the 1920 census for Sam identifies his as East Prussia.⁷ Jennie and her siblings are buried in three different small cemeteries, now all part of Waldheim. The cemetery in which Jennie is buried is associated with Suwalki (now in Poland), her sister's with Kalvaria (now in Lithuania), and her brother's with Łomża, Poland.⁸ Kalvaria and Suwalki are 27 miles apart, whereas Lomza is further away.

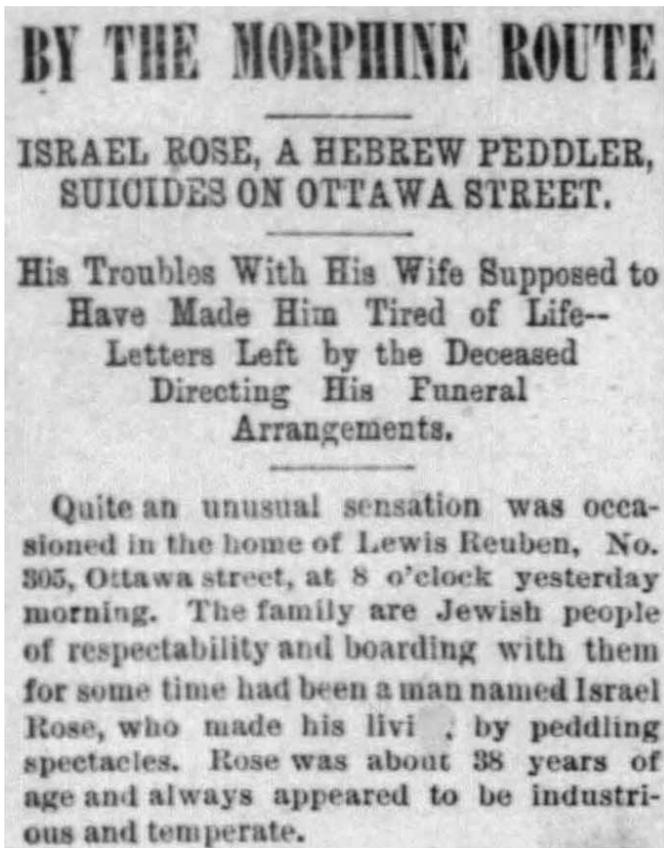
The census information about Jennie's arrival year is inconsistent: It is 1850 in one census and 1870 in another. If the three younger Rose children were born in the U.S., as indicated in the census, the family had to have arrived by the time of Louie's birth.

Israel Rose (~1843–29 April 1888)

Israel Rose, who plays only a small role in the memoir, is introduced as follows:

Since Chicago had become the rail center of the growing nation as well as the cattle and hog market of the continent, it was easy for young Israel Rose, upon arrival in Chicago, to join with a group of young cattle buyers and brokers. They would travel to Texas and make advance purchases of cattle. Acting as brokers for the giant meat purveyors such as Swift, Armour and Wilson companies, they took great risks. Often their entire resources were locked in with the success or failure of the cattle men to reach Chicago with their cattle intact—pestilence and hijackers being the order of the day. In any event, Israel Rose made a fair living and settled with his four-foot ten-inch wife [Jennie] and child [Sarah] on Chicago's near west side. . . . In quick succession lest her fertility decrease, Jennie presented Israel with Louis, Samuel and Rachel. . . . In about 1888, sixteen years after their arrival in Chicago, word reached little Jennie Rose that Israel had disappeared on a cattle ranch somewhere in Texas.

One of the memoir's major discrepancies concerns the circumstances of Israel's death. While doing research for my August 2018 *Zichron*Note article, I had found



Leavenworth Standard Press, 30 April 1888

that Israel was buried in the Sons of Truth cemetery⁹ in Leavenworth, Kansas.¹⁰ Somewhat later, I discovered several 1888 newspaper articles that reported about his death in amazing detail. At the time, he was a peddler of spectacles, not a cattle broker.¹¹ Rather than disappearing on a Texas cattle ranch, he had committed suicide in a Leavenworth rooming house.

The *American Israelite*, 11 May 1888, reprinted information from the *Leavenworth Standard Press*, 30 April 1888:

Quite an unusual sensation was occasioned in the home of Lewis Reuben¹², No. 305, Ottawa Street, at 8 o'clock yesterday morning. The family are Jewish people of respectability and boarding with them for some time had been a man named Israel Rose, who made his living by peddling spectacles. Rose was about 38 years of age and always appeared to be industrious and temperate.

At the hour yesterday when Orry Reuben, a member of the family, got up he spoke to Rose and called him to get up. The latter did not respond, and on investigation, it was found that Rose was dead. On the floor near his bed was a bottle labeled morphine, bearing the name of a druggist at Oskaloosa, Kan.

An account of the coroner's inquest follows¹³:

The coroner was summoned and he, after viewing the body, caused a jury to be summoned. The evidence was then taken of Orry Reuben, who stated that he and Rose slept in the same room Saturday night and during the night he heard Rose sobbing and groaning and he told him to stop and go to sleep; he then ceased for a while and commenced again; then was found quiet again. When he got up, he found the man dead and saw the bottle on the floor.

The Rev. Israel Goldsohm testified that he had known the deceased in Portland.¹⁴ He was a married man and had a wife and four children living in Chicago. He saw him last on Saturday on the street. He had been to the synagogue attending church and was going home. He asked the deceased why he did not go to his wife and he replied that he could not live with her, and when he died, he would leave all he had to his children, but nothing to his wife. He said nothing about self-destruction.

Augusta Reuben testified that Rose came to their house last week to board as usual when he came to the city. He was a quiet and sober man. He went into the house between 7 and 8 o'clock and went to his room. Saturday afternoon he wrote a long time. . . .

The jury brought in a verdict in accordance with the above.

Israel left a farewell letter of several pages asking for forgiveness, requesting a Jewish burial, and leaving instructions for disposition of his assets and payment of his debts. A translation of his letter, addressed to "My friends and Hebrews" and written "in the German language in Hebrew characters", was published in the *Leavenworth Standard Press* on 1 May 1888.¹⁵ Quoting from the translation of Israel's own words:

I trust you will excuse me for my rash act, what I have done here, and the trouble I have made you. I had to do so for my own good. I am tired of life. It is a burden to me. I don't know why, but I would like to get through this narrow world. Therefore, I beg of you that you should not blame me; you should not be mad at me or think it wrong of me. . . .

All I beg of you is that you should bury me according to Jewish rites . . . and give notice to I.O.O.F.¹⁶ that they shall attend the funeral and perform their rites after the church. I am in good standing in the order. . . . This lodge will pay the expenses, \$30. Also give notice to the Knights of

Honor¹⁷ that they may come also to the funeral. Also . . . report to my lodge, which is No. 1682, Zuling Lodge, Zuling¹⁸ Tex. from which my children will get \$2,000 insurance . . . one-fourth part I desire given to my daughter. Her name is Sarah Winberg, she lives in Chicago, and the rest (\$1,500) must be left in the court, who shall appoint an administrator who shall take care of it and give the interest to my other children till they will be of age . . . and nothing to be given the wife. . . . Write to my children . . . that they should not keep seven days mourning; also they shall not say the Hebrew prayer called "Kaddish," for I don't believe in that. They shall not make any trouble on my account

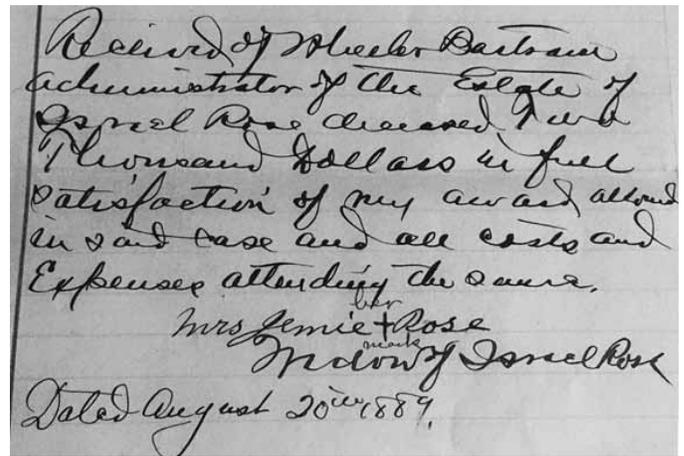
To Mr. Reuben Hershfield, I owe \$4.40 for spectacles; to Mr. Reuben, \$3.50 for one week's board. Sell my spectacles for cash and pay all bills, there will be enough. I do not want anyone to lose anything. Adieu and farewell to all my good friends and relations, also my acquaintances.

Yours Truly, Israel Rose

The article goes on to explain why Israel was buried in Leavenworth:

Mr. I. [Israel] Winberg, husband of the daughter of the suicide, arrived in the city last night and took charge of the body. The intention had been to ship it to Chicago for burial, but it was decomposed to an extent that rendered its removal any distance impossible. The remains were therefore interred in the Jewish cemetery this morning at 9 o'clock. There was no ceremony at the grave. Mr. Winberg is a very sociable and gentlemanly appearing young man of about 25 years of age. He regrets the sad end of his relative and would have carried the body to Chicago had it been possible.

Israel died without a will, so the estate was settled by the Cook County, Illinois Probate Court.¹⁹ Jennie, who was illiterate, likely received help to pursue the case, perhaps from her older children. The probate file includes multiple documents filed over more than a year.²⁰ On 16 July 1888, Jennie petitioned the court to appoint Wheeler Bartram, a police officer and local member of I.O.O.F. and Knights of Honor, as administrator. He submitted an administrator's bond worth twice the estimated value of the estate, which included the Knights of Honor \$2,000 insurance policy and a box of spectacles worth about \$50. An appraiser



Received of Wheeler Bartram
Administrator of the Estate of
Israel Rose deceased I and
Thousand Dollars in full
Satisfaction of my award allowed
in said case and all costs and
Expenses attending the same.
Mrs Jennie Rose
Widow of Israel Rose
Dated August 20th 1889.

Jennie's acknowledgment for receiving Israel's estate

submitted an estate inventory on 26 November 1888: The only asset was the \$2,000 insurance policy; the box of spectacles had been sold to help defray the cost of burial and pay other expenses along with funds from I.O.O.F. On 4 December 1888, the appraiser submitted an "Appraiser's Estimate of the Value of Property allowed to the Widow" form that determined how much Jennie could receive as a widow.²¹ Since the estate did not exceed that amount, the administrator petitioned the court to award \$1,990 to her. (There is no mention of any separate amount for Sarah.) Jennie acknowledged receipt of it with her "X" on 20 August 1889. Despite Israel's wish to disinherit his wife, the court had granted the full value of the estate, minus fees, to her.

The Family after Israel Rose's Death

According to one newspaper article, Israel had been separated from his family at his death for eight or ten years.²² Since his youngest child, Ray, was born about 1881, either their separation was shorter or he returned home periodically. He likely supported the family during that period.

Louie and Sam were teenagers when Israel died in 1888. The memoir says that Jennie got a pushcart, Louie and Sam sold newspapers and shined shoes, and Sarah went to work for a theatrical agent. According to the 1888 Chicago city directory, Louie was already contributing to the family income by working as a bookkeeper. The settlement of Israel's estate in August 1889 must have eased the family's financial burden²³, perhaps providing support for Sarah to train Ray and Birdie and launch them as the Gilbert Sisters vaudeville act.

Continued on page 14



Meeting My Cousin Agnes in Sweden

Leslie Tenney

Leslie Tenney is an Oakland artist and singer who has been researching her family roots for many years. She sings Yiddish songs with her husband and recently sang in the West Coast premier of *The Megilleh of Itzik Manger*. In the 1970's she traveled through the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and in 2012 she went to Israel to meet relatives in Jerusalem whom she and her cousin had recently made contact with.

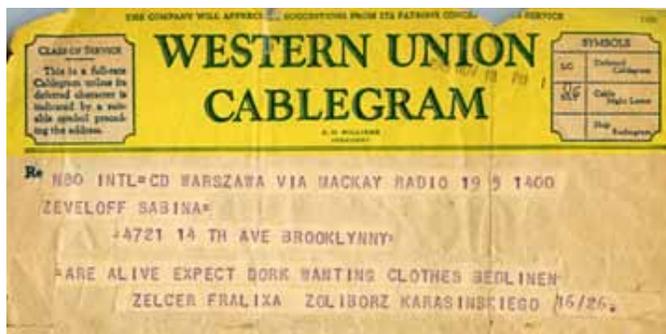
I am very fortunate to have relatives of my grandmother Sabina who survived World War II in Poland. My grandmother came to the United States in 1907 as a child of 12 with her whole family. For years, she kept up correspondence (in Polish) with family members who had stayed behind, but after she died, we lost track of them, since she was the only person in our family who had had contact with them. We had heard as children that some cousins had gone to Israel but didn't know much about them. In 2012, my cousin Judy located our cousin Mietek's family through a surname search on Facebook. His father and Sabina's father were brothers, and he had grown up in Poland, miraculously survived the Holocaust, and then immigrated to Israel. A few years ago, I wrote about our amazing trip to Jerusalem to meet him and his family (*ZichronNote* Volume XXXIV, Number 2, May 2014).

But we knew that another whole family of Grandma Sabina's cousins on her mother's side had remained in Warsaw when her family came to the United States and that they also had survived World War II. I heard a lot about them as a child; she had lost contact with them during the war, but in 1945 she received a telegram saying that they were alive and needed clothing and bed linens. I still have that telegram, which Grandma gave me in the 1970's along with other documents, photos, and letters from her cousins in Polish. It turned out that Sabina's aunt Ludwiga and two of her daughters, Fela and Janka, had somehow managed to stay out of the camps while living in Poland during the war. Ludwiga's third daughter, Romana, had been in Auschwitz with her daughter Anna, but they had also survived. Romana was the only one of the sisters who had married; her husband was a well known Polish lawyer and partisan who was killed by the Nazis in 1943.



Romana and Teodor

After receiving the telegram, my grandmother had resumed her correspondence with her cousins. She started sending them packages, including clothing, which had to be used, not new, because of Polish regulations. So she regularly collected my brother's and my hand-me-downs to send. My aunt Thea had shared with Judy and me some photos she had that Romana had sent to my grandmother after the war, many of which were of her daughter Anna and Anna's children. We knew from the handwritten captions that they were named Agnes and Peter. In addition, we learned that Agnes and Peter's grandfather Teodor had a son and daughter from a previous marriage. We had heard stories about Teodor when we were children but knew little more than that he had been married to Romana and that he was a partisan who had been killed by the Nazis. We found out that Teodor's son Jerzy Duracz was also a partisan who had participated in various actions





Bronislaw and Ludwiga with daughters Fela, Janka, and Romana; photo taken in Łódź

around and in the Warsaw ghetto (and has been named Righteous among the Nations at Yad Vashem). Judy did some more research and was able to find Agnes' address by communicating with Jerzy's grandson, Adam Duracz, whose name and contact info she found on a site about the Duracz family name.

Judy and I started e-mailing Agnes, and after awhile I asked Agnes if she was interested in Skyping. She was, and we arranged a time. We hit it off immediately; she has a great sense of humor, and we laughed and talked for an hour. She told me she had always wondered where those packages came from when she was a child in Warsaw. We figured out that she had probably received and worn a lot of my hand-me-downs, as she is several years younger than I.

After some months of e-mailing and Skyping, Agnes suggested we come visit her and her family in Sweden. She moved there in the 1970's after marrying a young Swedish man whom she had met when he was visiting Warsaw for a holiday and she was a student at the university there. (It turns out that her mother, Anna, became a professor of sociology at that university after the war and had remained in Warsaw until she died in 2012.)

So we decided to go to Sweden in May 2015 and meet our newest found long-lost cousin. This time my husband

and I also brought our adult son with us. We were thrilled when our newfound relatives met us at the airport and hosted us at their lovely home in the town of Trosa, south of Stockholm. As with our trip to Israel, we met many more relatives than just those we had been communicating with. Agnes and her husband Boa have two sons, and between their sons they have eight grandchildren. The day after we arrived they had a big party at their house, where we met the whole family.

After a couple of days of sightseeing and getting to know each other, we got down to comparing notes about our families. I had brought the letters that Agnes' aunts and mother had written to my grandmother in the 1940's and 1950's, and she translated them. Many were about her and her brother and their activities, vacations, etc., which she found fascinating. We also shared photos—Agnes had some of her grandparents Romana and Teodor and of Agnes' mother Anna as a child, including some with her mother's two half-siblings. In addition, a beautiful painted portrait of Teodor hung in her living room. He was so important in Poland as a lawyer and partisan that a law school was named after him. She showed us a book about experiences from the war that the Polish government had asked her mother to participate in and translated many passages for us. Her mother and grandmother were apprehended in



Romana and Anna after the war

the Warsaw ghetto for running an underground printing press and had been sent to Auschwitz. Her mother was in her twenties at that time. One reason they survived was that Agnes' great-grandmother Ludwiga and her grandmother Romana's two sisters, Fela and Janka, who had not been sent to the camps, somehow managed to send care packages to them at Auschwitz. I had never heard of anything like this happening, and we both wondered how it was possible. But it was described in one of her grandaunt's letters to my grandmother, so we had no doubt that it was true. She also told us a tale of her mother's half-brother Jerzy having been involved in an act of sabotage in Warsaw in which the partisans blew up a Nazi officers' club.

The most poignant story, however, was in the aforementioned book, where Anna described how she had become attached to a young Russian boy of about 3 or 4, who had ended up at Auschwitz with a group of orphans after one parent had been killed and the other imprisoned. Anna gave him bits of food and checked his hair for lice. Then one day he was gone. Of course, she feared the worst. But years later, that child, now grown, found her and began visiting her. He continued to visit her in Warsaw until shortly

before she died.

Agnes and Boa were amazing hosts and took us to many beautiful places. We went to a concert at the Swedish monarch's summer palace, saw the Skansen Museum in Stockholm, and went on a lovely hike along the Baltic Sea. There was always a spread of delicious food, and we had many a fascinating conversation. It was an inspiring and eye-opening visit, where we learned a lot about each other's families and put a lot of pieces of a big jigsaw puzzle together. The rest of our family in the United States has also taken an interest in our genealogical adventures, and just recently two other cousins visited with Agnes in Stockholm.

We would love to visit with them again and spend more time learning about our family. I am hoping that we will be able to do that in the future. In the meantime, we Skype regularly and feel that we have such a strong connection that our families will no longer be separated by history and continents.



Leslie's husband Gerry and son Noah with cousin Agnes and her husband Boa

My 36-Year Quest

Diane Lindauer-Levinson

Diane Levinson was both a teacher and a social worker. Genealogy has become her addictive hobby for the last 30 years. She has seven grandchildren to pass the past on to.

I was excited to attend the International Jewish Genealogy Conference in Cleveland with the hope of finding a specific relative, one I'd been searching for during the past 36 years: my great-great-grandmother's sister.

I first had an inkling of her existence in 1983, when I traveled by train to Colorado, making an overnight stop in Salt Lake City. My husband, Jon, and I decided to send the kids to the movies and we spent the afternoon at the LDS Family History Library. (Of course, these were pre-Internet days.) This was our introduction to microfiche and the subject of genealogy.

I knew that my paternal grandfather Lindauer was born in Colorado, so I started with the 1880 census. There I found my great-great-grandparents David and Rosa Frey living in Leadville, Colorado, with my great-grandmother Amelia (my grandfather's mother, always called Millie) and her younger brother, Julius. But even more important was a sister-in-law to the head of household, listed as single and named Bertha Rosenthal. Ah ha, Rosenthal was my great-great-grandmother's maiden name! Rosa Rosenthal, what a pretty name, too. (Rosa eventually wound up in San Francisco.)

I didn't find Bertha again, but I found a postcard sent by her from Cleveland. Plus, by using tweezers to remove photos gently from my father's antique family photo album, I noticed that many photos were taken by photographers in Cleveland.

Flash forward to preparation for the 2019 IAJGS Cleveland conference. I went on the JewishGen.org site and JOWBR (burial database) to look for a woman with the maiden name of Rosenthal. The one that made the most sense was Minna Rosenthal Machol. I took that info with me to Cleveland. Once in Cleveland, I have to admit that I spent most of my time in the Resource Room, where volunteer and high school senior Sophia Bravo was of great all-around assistance. I decided to start with the *Cleveland Jewish News*. I put in the name Minna Machol and came up with her obituary. The date of 1928 seemed reasonable (Rosa died in 1929 as my father was graduating from high school), and so I read on. At the very end I came to survivors and there was a sister, Roma (sic) Frey from San Francisco. Of course it was actually Rosa!! I nearly screamed out loud because of my success. Rosa was eight years younger than Minna; if she had died before Minna she would not have been listed as a survivor.

From the obituary I learned that Minna had been married to a prominent rabbi, Michaelis Machol. He served the largest synagogue in Cleveland for more than 30 years. Besides that

wealth of information, Minna's parents were mentioned, and her father was a Rabbi Bernhard Rosenthal in Germany. (This made sense because my grandfather's middle name was Bernhard.) Two rabbis in the family? My assimilated father would have been astonished!

Now the task was to work my way up to the present. The census material through 1940 was helpful. There were several children to follow in finding male Machol relatives. Around 2010 it became obvious that Frederick Bernard Machol was no longer Jewish, having a military gravestone with a cross upon it. He had had 12 children from two wives, the first deceased quite young. Fred's youngest child, a son, also deceased, had a son in 1990, but then I hit a brick wall.

The conference was almost over and I complained to Sophia that I didn't know how I would find that 29-year-old son. Her answer was simple and brilliant: "Social media!" Why didn't I think of that? I checked first on Facebook and, lo and behold, there was a Chris Machol in Texas. I knew that Fred had lived in Texas too. So I took a stab at sending Chris a message on Facebook. Nothing to lose.

Jon and I packed up and headed for the airport and back to San Francisco, feeling pretty satisfied that my 36-year-quest had been fulfilled. As we got to the airport, about to go through security, my cell phone buzzed with a message, and it was from Chris Machol! It asked, "How did you find me?"

Chris went on to write, "Wow that's crazy! My grandfather Frederick Bernard Machol was in counterintelligence during World War II and was fighting on Utah Beach Normandy during the war. My grandpa had nine girls and three boys my dad is the youngest of the 12. My grandfather passed away in October of 2010, he was 96 years old. Before he died, he took my entire family, 64 of us, to Europe and showed us where he fought and where he went during the war. He also liberated the Concentration Camp Dachau which was one of the biggest concentration camps in Germany at the time. That's crazy that you said Cleveland because that's where he was born and raised. He also went to Ohio State and made the starting blocks for Jesse Owens, who won the Olympic Sprints against Hitler and Germany."

I read his message and broke out in chills. This was the icing on the cake! I'm in touch with Chris and, as time goes on, will try to find more about his and my family. The 36-year quest was worth the effort!



Genealogy Newsletters Available to SFBAJGS Members

Several Jewish (and other) genealogical societies share their newsletters with other societies. This is the current list of newsletters/journals we have received as PDF files. A benefit of membership in SFBAJGS is that you can request to be on the distribution list for any or all of these. Send a message to Dana Kurtz, our Electronic Newsletter Coordinator, at newsletterexchange@sfbajgs.org and let her know which one(s) you would like to receive. Warning: We do not receive all these on a consistent basis.

Organization	Title	Last Received (as of 12/2019)
Argentina JGS (defunct?)	<i>Toldot</i>	4/2007
Australia JGS (New South Wales)	<i>Kosher Koala</i>	7/2019
Australia JGS (Victoria)	<i>Jewish Genealogy Downunder</i>	11/2013
Australia JGS (Western Australia) (defunct)	<i>Perth Jewish Roots</i>	2/2012
Bergen County JGS (New Jersey) (defunct)	<i>The Gatherers</i>	11/2004
British Columbia JGS		5/2003
Broward County JGS (Florida) (defunct publication)	<i>Family Gatherings</i>	11/2008
Conejo Valley and Ventura County JGS (California)	<i>Venturing</i>	11/2019
Orange County JGS (California)		11/2019
Cleveland JGS	<i>Kol</i>	12/2017
Connecticut JGS	<i>Quest</i>	2/2019
California State Genealogical Alliance (defunct)		6/2013
Denmark JGS		2007
Federation of Genealogical Societies	<i>Forum</i>	2017
Great Britain JGS	<i>Shemot</i>	12/2014
Greater Miami JGS (Florida)	<i>Branches</i>	3/2019
Greater Philadelphia JGS	<i>Chronicles</i>	4/2008
Greater Washington DC JGS	<i>Mishpacha</i>	4/2012
Illiana JGS (defunct)		9/2017
Illinois JGS	<i>Morasha</i>	6/2012
Israel JGS		6/2011
Maryland JGS	<i>L'dor V'dor</i>	6/2019
Michigan JGS	<i>Generations</i>	8/2007
Montreal JGS	<i>Montreal Forum</i>	2009
Oregon JGS	<i>Shalshetet</i>	12/2015
Palm Beach County JGS (Florida)	<i>Scattered Seeds</i>	4/2019
Root Cellar Sacramento GS (California)	<i>GeniGram</i>	9/2019
San Diego JGS (California) (defunct publication)	<i>Discovery</i>	11/2008
South Africa JGS (defunct)	<i>Yichus</i>	8/2005
South Africa JewishGen SIG	<i>Journal of the SA-SIG</i>	9/2015
Southern Nevada JGS	<i>Generations</i>	9/2014
St. Louis Genealogical Society	<i>News 'n Notes</i>	12/2017
St. Louis JGS (defunct)	<i>Generations</i>	7/2005
Southwest Florida JGS	<i>Mishpachology</i>	4/2019
Sweden JGS		2/2015
Switzerland JGS	<i>Maajan Die Quelle</i>	4/2013
Toronto JGS (gap between 2008 and 2016)	<i>Shem Tov</i>	6/2019
Utah JGS (defunct publication)	<i>Atsmi Uvsari</i>	1/2011
Washington State JGS	<i>Evergreen Mishpacha</i>	1/2006
Wisconsin JGS	<i>Family Finding</i>	9/2005



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The Rose Children: Sarah, Louie, Ray, and Sam

Sarah Rose Winberg/Weinberg (~1866–21 March 1910)

The description of Sarah in the memoir is as follows:

[In 1888 when her father Israel died,] Sarah, born in Minsk, was already a widow with an eight-year old daughter. Sarah went to work for a theatrical booking agent in a downtown office. The idea of the World's Columbian Exposition, scheduled to open in 1892, intrigued Sarah. She decided with two years still to go, she could train her daughter, Berdonna [Birdie] and her little sister, Rachel [Ray], to sing and dance and book them as entertainment right in Chicago at the Exposition! . . .

The Exposition opened a year late. . . . [Ray] and Birdie made their debuts as the Gilbert Sisters (what inspired that name no one knows). Their success was immediate and after the Exposition closed on the Midway the girls had offers (inspired by Sarah, no doubt) to travel and perform all over the country. Sarah was now able to leave the confines of an office, and she reveled in her role of coach, stage-mother, agent as well as savior of the family. For under her watchful eye the Gilbert Sisters earned good money which was sent back home to Mama every week, enabling Louie to go to Law School and Sam to attend Business School. Jennie could now come in out of the cold and once again maintain a household. . . .

Sarah must have seen it coming. . . . Marriage would mean the rupture of the team and Ray was the first to do it. She married . . . Jacob Bach, a salesman of children's shoes. This was in 1905. Sarah and Birdie tried out partner after partner, but no one could replace Ray. . . . Yet Birdie had grown up, too. . . . Why not change the act and hire that good looking fellow, Ernie? . . . So Ernie Adams came into the act.²⁴ It wasn't long before Ernie himself made some changes. Birdie soon became Mrs. Ernie Adams.

I could not find Sarah in any census or city directory. Birdie's 1961 death certificate listed her parents as Sarah Rose and Israel Weinberg, which led me to their 8 July 1880 Detroit marriage record. Their ages were listed as 18 and 22, though Sarah may have been younger. An Israel Weinberg appears in the 1885, 1887, and 1888 Chicago city directories as a peddler and laborer. He is likely the correct person: Only one Israel Weinberg is listed in the Chicago

city directories of the period, and his home addresses are located within blocks of where Jennie lived, just north of Maxwell Street.

Israel Weinberg must have been in good standing with the family in April 1888 when he went to Leavenworth to claim his father-in-law's body. He and Sarah separated sometime later, however, perhaps when Sarah went to work in vaudeville. The memoir states that Sarah was widowed by 1890, but searching through contemporary newspapers, I found a January 1893 court notice that stated, "Israel Weinberg vs. Sarah Weinberg, bill for divorce."²⁵ Widowhood was more acceptable than being separated or divorced for women of that era.

Israel is listed in the 1895 Joliet city directory without any profession. I did not find him or Sarah in the 1900 census. By the time of the 1910 census, Israel was an inmate in the Kankakee State Hospital, an insane asylum, where he died on 31 October 1910 at age 51. His death certificate does not list any family or indicate how long he had been in the hospital. It states that his birthplace was Germany and that he had lived in the U.S. for 35 years, 25 of which were in Illinois. The cause of death was tuberculosis and "paralysis of the insane", late-stage syphilis. Israel is buried in the old Bikur Cholem section of Waldheim.

Sarah died seven months before Israel. The memoir gives her death year as circa 1914, but I found no plausible Sarah Weinberg in the Illinois death index who died around that time. I decided to investigate one who had died on 21 March 1910.²⁶ The death certificate did not list her parents, spouse, maiden name, or place of birth but stated that she had spent three years and three months in Elgin State Hospital; the cause of death was "paresis", late-stage syphilis. Burial was in the Anshe Kanesses Israel section of Waldheim. When I called the cemetery, they told me that this Sarah Weinberg had another surname (Rose) and that two other family members, Jennie Rose and Louis Rose, were also buried in the grave plot.

In 1910, the year both Sarah and Israel died, their daughter Birdie, still based in Chicago, was performing with Ernie Adams as part of the "Gilbert and Adams" vaudeville act. In 1918, when Ernie, then listed as her husband, registered for the draft, they were living in Chicago near Ray and family.²⁷ By 1920, they had moved to Los Angeles, where their daughter Shirley was born.

Although I found more documentation for Birdie than for her parents, her birth year is uncertain. The memoir indicates that she was 8 years old in about 1890, but most documents for her (a delayed birth certificate issued in 1942²⁸, her death certificate, various censuses, and daughter

Shirley's 1920 birth record) give 1890 as her birth year. One item, a 1951 Social Security claims entry, supports an 1882 date. For some reason, she appears to have applied for Social Security benefits twice using two different Social Security numbers²⁹, neither of which belonged to Ernie, and two different birth years, 1882 and 1890. The earlier birth date seems more likely: Birdie would hardly have been old enough to perform at the Columbian Exposition if she had been born in 1890. In addition, she would have been too young to qualify for Social Security in 1951 on her own account.

Louis Rose (~18 June 1871–15 March 1914)

Of all the Rose siblings, the least is known about Louie. The memoir says he graduated from law school with high honors and served as Assistant District Attorney for several years. After this he married and became a lawyer specializing in criminal cases.

I found no vital records for Louie so I couldn't confirm his birth date, whether he was married, or his cause of death.

His birth information is inconsistent: His tombstone says 18 June 1871, the 1900 census lists April 1875, and the 1910 census, circa 1872. If the tombstone date is correct, and he was born in Illinois as stated in the census, then the family must have arrived before the great Chicago fire of October 1871. He is listed as single as late as 1910, so if a marriage occurred, it would have happened later.

Louie first appears in the 1888 city directory working as a bookkeeper. His profession as a lawyer is confirmed in the 1900 and 1910 censuses, the 1900 and 1902 city directories, and the 1908 Sullivan directory of Illinois lawyers. His name is missing from the list of lawyers in the 1905 city directory and the 1909–1914 Sullivan directories. He was working as a clerk at the 22nd Street bridge according to the 1910 and 1911 city directories, so something seems to have occurred to derail his law career. A Cook County Probate Court record indicates that Louie died intestate on 15 March 1914 and that his brother, Sam, filed two weeks later to become administrator of his estate, valued at \$800.



Sarah, Jennie, and Louis Rose gravestones



Ray in her vaudeville days

Rachel Rose Bach Goldstein (~7 January 1881–28 June 1953)

Ray Rose was only about 7 years old when her father died. Her older sister, Sarah, provided the impetus to move the family out of poverty. Ray's life from age 10 to 25 was dominated by her career as a member of the Gilbert Sisters vaudeville act. The family was more secure economically by the time Ray married Jacob Bach, as shown by the notice of her June 1905 marriage, which was officiated by the prominent Reform rabbi Joseph Stolz.³⁰

The memoir highlights the cultural gap between Ray and her mother. Jennie retained her traditional ways, whereas Ray lived in a secular, American world. In my August 2018 *ZichronNote* article, I demonstrated how far Ray had strayed from her background: She had conceived Ira with another man while married to Jacob Bach. This more than 100-year-old secret would have remained buried except for a DNA test.³¹

After Jacob Bach died of syphilis in 1913³², eight years into their marriage, Ray returned to work in vaudeville, which meant travel and a difficult decision regarding Ira's care. She rejected the idea of leaving him with Jennie, but the alternative plan must have caused her anguish also.

Ray wanted her child to be part of the world she had come to know . . . to be able to look beyond the

limits her mother could provide. The Jewish Home Finding Agency was contacted, but to no avail. So little Ira was sent to St. Joseph's Boarding School in suburban La Grange. It was a terrible wrench . . . from the warmth of an indulgent Orthodox Jewish home where the Sabbath was observed in every detail, traditional prayers, foods, attitudes, to a rigid institution filled with boys and Catholic nuns.

By 1918, Ray had gone back to Chicago from California, where she had spent the previous year.

[T]he rigors of the road no longer held the attractions or the income it once had, so Ray returned to Chicago and became head of a household for Jennie, Sam and Ira. The apartment was on Drexel Avenue in Chicago's Hyde Park area near the University of Chicago. It was in a well-established area of fine homes and for a while it seemed that all family troubles were behind them. This was the year the deadly influenza epidemic swept the country. Thousands of people died from this virulent illness. Ira had had influenza while still at St. Joseph's, but a relapse was soon to make him seriously ill. Sam developed diabetes and undoubtedly other ailments which caused him to suffer severe back aches which kept him in his bed many weekends.

After Jennie died in August 1918, Ray decided to move the family to California in order to provide a more healthful climate for Ira and Sam. She enrolled Ira in Yale Military School and ran a small hotel in downtown Los Angeles. Sam found a job as a companion to an elderly man, whose son would become Ray's second husband. By 1920, with the promise of a more secure life for herself and Ira, Ray had married Theodore Goldstein.

In her travels Ray had encountered many suitors but none so appealing to her as Theodore Goldstein, a prosperous grocer from Chicago. . . . Theodore pursued Ray to California and in 1920, took her to San Francisco where they were married. He said he would live in California for a year, during which time Ira could visit on weekends from school, but after their return to Chicago, Ira, then thirteen (an imposing threat to him, no doubt!) would not be welcome.

Ray undoubtedly felt she could change all this once she was married to Theodore. After all he had wealth, which would certainly ease Ira's way as he went on to higher education. So, she set out to establish another home for Ira with Sam . . . good old Sam.

Samuel Edward Rose (~12 December 1873–25 October 1931)

Sam remained single until he was in his 50's. The memoir describes his profession.

Sam was graduated with high honors from Business School and chose to work in the retail men's wear field. He soon became Buyer and Head of the Men's Clothing Department of M. L. Rothchild and Company, a large department store on State Street in downtown Chicago. A bachelor, he lived at home with Jennie. . . .

Sam had just prior to moving [to California in 1918] accepted a new position with Ben Chon, his cousin Annie's husband.³³ Known as "Jackknife Ben" for all the pocket knives he sold³⁴, he had a prosperous jewelry store at the entrance to the Union Stockyards. Business was so good that Ben added a men's furnishing department and asked Sam to head it up. . . . But working for Ben Chon was a bitter experience. . . . Everyone was expected to work from 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. six days a week. In the winter, the Chicago winds made the poorly heated shop unbearable for frail Sam. . . . Sam eventually had to quit because of ill health.

The basic facts about Sam check out in the documents. I couldn't find any birth record for him. In the census, he is listed as born in Illinois (1900 and 1920) and Michigan (1910 and 1930). He was single and living with his family in the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses. In each successive decade, the family seems to have moved to more affluent neighborhoods further south. While it was impossible to find out anything about Sam's business school study, his professions in the documents agree with what is stated in the memoir, going from tailor in the 1892 city directory to dry goods clerk, assistant department store buyer, and clothing store salesman in the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses. His World War I draft registration lists him as a clothing buyer employed by B. W. Chon.

Sam was a father figure to Ira throughout his years growing up. When Ray returned to vaudeville after Jacob Bach's death, Sam visited Ira every other Sunday at St. Joseph's Boarding School. After Ray and Theodore moved back to Chicago from California in 1921, Sam provided a home for Ira for his four high-school³⁵ years. With no support forthcoming from Theodore, Ira worked as a bellboy at the Ambassador Hotel, rising to become a captain at the Cocanut Grove night club while Sam continued in retail.

In spite of ill health, Sam created a new enterprise for himself. He became an entrepreneur. He would contact the owners of department stores throughout Southern California and convince them that he could increase their sales by rearranging the merchandise and putting on a huge sales campaign.

Sam nurtured Ira and instilled a work ethic in him.

[Ira] needed the warmth and assistance of someone to help him with school work, health problems, new friends, and it was Sam who provided this. He would press Ira's suits, wash his hair, instruct him in shaving and in other personal habits young boys need to understand. Sam proved to be a warm, tender friend and uncle to Ira. They soon fell into a fine relationship with Sam stressing dedication to work and family, and Ira responding. Cleanliness of mind and body were emphasized in gentle talks on Sundays at a downtown cafeteria over a sumptuous meal of chicken fricassee, canned peas and banana cream pie. Sam was as good a psychologist as retailer. He knew after the week's spartan meals any point he made now would surely go home. And then, to round out the day's pleasures, Ira was allowed to select the nearby movie they would see after dinner. By his very conduct, Sam was able to establish in Ira a sense of self-respect—an importance of being and a dedication to work—something Ira identified with all his life.

In 1925, Ira returned to Chicago to go to college at the University of Illinois.³⁶ Lacking support from Theodore, he stayed out of school every other year to earn the money for the next year. During that time, Sam sent him letters with a five- or ten-dollar bill enclosed.

In September 1929, 56-year-old Sam married 25-year-old Opal Bender, a non-Jewish woman born in Nebraska; their daughter June was born six months later.³⁷ In the 1930 census, Sam is listed as living in Beverly Hills, California with his wife, daughter, and wife's family. He is a broker and his father-in-law a department store manager, which suggests that Sam may have met Opal through a business connection to her father. The marriage lasted just a little over two years: Sam, who had experienced ill health for many years, died in October 1931.³⁸

As great as the blow was for Opal³⁹, it was equally gouging for Ira. Sam had been the only father Ira could remember. Perhaps because their relationship was a chosen one, without the deep emotional ambivalence of a natural father-son relationship, it

was almost all sweet. Ira felt compelled to express the feelings that were enveloping him . . . gratitude, affection, love. What should he do? Whom could he turn to? How might he pay homage to Sam? Although far removed from Jewish Orthodoxy by this time, it had represented Sam's upbringing, so Ira instinctively returned to the tradition that his people have observed for centuries. He sought out a Synagogue and each morning for a year at the sunrise service, Ira stood with the others who were honoring their dear ones to recite the Kaddish for his father—Uncle Sam.

Conclusion

A memoir is a true representation of the facts only as far as they are known, remembered, and shared. Ira was not forthcoming about his past or even about his political opinions during the many years he worked for Chicago's mayors. His son believes that the memoir exists because Muriel coaxed Ira for the information in order to respond to his cousin June, who had sent him a vignette about her maternal grandmother's family.

In my effort to verify the facts, I found evidence of an even grimmer reality than the memoir portrayed, revealing many family secrets. Although a lot of the information checks out, the paucity of records makes it hard to reconcile some factual inconsistencies. There are many plausible explanations for the memoir's inaccuracies and omissions: lack of awareness of the facts, a faded memory (Ira was 67 when the memoir was written), a desire to cover up embarrassing information, and a tendency to block out traumatic events.

In my August 2018 *ZichronNote* article, I had considered whether Ira's mother had ever told Ira that Jacob Bach was not his biological father. I concluded that if Ira had known, it was unlikely that he or Muriel would have concealed the information. In addition, Ira was probably unaware of the full story of the other family tragedies, all of which had occurred before he was born or when he was very young: His grandfather Israel Rose died in 1888, 28 years before Ira's birth. Since his aunt Sarah died when Ira was 3 and Jacob Bach died when he was 7, Ira's mother and other family members probably shielded him from knowledge of the full reality of those events.

Ira Bach grew up with many traumatic events in his background and childhood. Yet, despite his many losses, he showed resilience and went on to a life of accomplishment.

Endnotes

1. I have changed the names of living people to protect their privacy.
2. *Chicago Tribune*, 8 March 1985; http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1985-03-08/news/8501130397_1_mayor-daley-byrne-and-washington-mayor-harold-washington.
3. Ira was the co-author of two books about Chicago. His son told me that while Ira selected the content and edited the books, his co-authors did most of the writing.
4. The Rose graves at Waldheim are still in very good condition.
5. Jennie was almost definitely separated from Israel by 1887.
6. The Rose family may have spent time in Detroit, where Jennie's siblings were living starting in the early 1870's. Louie and Ray were born in Illinois according to various censuses, but Sam's birthplace is listed in different documents as both Michigan and Illinois. In addition, Sarah and Israel Weinberg's 1880 marriage took place in Detroit, and the marriage record indicates Sarah was a resident of Detroit.
7. The 1920 census lists German Prussia as Minnie Bransky's birthplace. Abe Levey's 1931 Chicago death record lists Warsaw as his birthplace.
8. Jennie Rose is buried in Anshe Kanesses Israel, Minnie Bransky in Kalvaria Anshe Sholom, and Abe Levey in Lomzer.
9. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59382776/israel-rose>.
10. Leavenworth had the oldest Jewish synagogue in Kansas, B'nai Jeshurun. The congregation was formally organized with about 45 families living in Leavenworth in May 1859. <https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=103870>
11. It is possible that Israel was a cattle broker earlier. At the time of his death, he had established a peddling route probably based in Leavenworth, where he returned on the weekends to replenish supplies and observe the Sabbath.
12. Lewis Reuben, who was a printer, and his family are listed in the 1888 Leavenworth city directory. The family consisted of his father, his wife, Augusta, and three sons including Orry. Orry worked at the THB Nesbitt drugstore.
13. The coroner's inquest report itself has not survived.
14. Another newspaper article has Poland instead of Portland.
15. Mr. H. Friendlich of North Leavenworth, an assistant to the rabbi of B'nai Jeshurun, did the translation.
16. http://www.iooftx.org/odd_fellows.php.
17. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights_of_Honor.
18. Likely this is Luling, Texas (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luling,_Texas), which was a center for cattle drivers on the Chisholm trail and had a sizeable Jewish population.
19. Even though Israel's farewell letter could be interpreted as a holographic last will and testament, as it was likely handwritten, it apparently was not accepted in 1888 by the Cook County Probate Court, since he was declared intestate. Currently holographic wills are not valid in either Kansas or Illinois.
20. Estate of Israel Rose, Case No. 3-3961, Docket 15, page 122, Cook County, Illinois Probate Court.
21. For an explanation of this interesting document, see Jeff Lewy, "The Widow's Portion", *ZichronNote* Volume XXXII, Number 4, November 2012, pages 11–13.
22. Newspapers.com, *Leavenworth Weekly Times*, 3 May 1888.
23. Using a CPI inflation calculator, \$1,990 in 1888 would have the purchasing power of \$53,878 in 2019.

24. Ernie became a character actor later: <http://www.b-westerns.com/villain66.htm>.
25. Newspapers.com, *Chicago Tribune*, 25 January 1893.
26. Sarah must have died before the 1910 census enumeration. Jennie is listed as having had five children, three of them living.
27. I didn't find a divorce record for Ernie and his first wife, Mamie Silver, or a marriage record for him and Birdie.
28. A delayed Illinois birth certificate, issued in 1942, contains multiple inaccuracies: It states that Birdie was born in 1890 when her mother, who was born in Lueling, Texas, was 17 and her father, who was born in Detroit, was 19.
29. Birdie's original Social Security applications (SS-5) might help explain why she appears to have had two Social Security numbers.
30. Rabbi Joseph Stolz (1861-1941), <https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/stolz-joseph>.
31. In 2015 and 2016, Ira's two children did autosomal DNA testing at Family Tree DNA (FTDNA). The predicted relationship to maternal first cousins came out as expected but their ethnicity was different, showing almost a quarter European ancestry. In January 2018, FTDNA identified a large 1st-3rd cousin autosomal match between both of Ira's children and a previously unknown non-Jewish male. He didn't match anyone else in their mother's family, so he had to be related through Ira. The only point of overlap was a geographic one: His

grandfather, a successful sales rep for a stove company, had lived in Chicago, and his father had been born there in 1907, a year after Ira's birth. After more research and Y-DNA testing, we determined that the match's grandfather was Ira's biological father.

32. Jacob Bach died in Elgin State Hospital of "paralysis of the insane."
33. Annie Chon, a cousin mentioned in the memoir, was the daughter of Morris Bransky and Minnie Levy Bransky, Jennie's sister.
34. <http://www.knife-expert.com/benchon.txt>.
35. A photo of Ira appears in the 1925 Long Beach Polytechnic High School yearbook.
36. Ira appears in the 1928 University of Illinois yearbook, *Illio*, as a freshman member of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity but is not listed in any other *Illio* yearbook.
37. Documents available on Ancestry.com show that Sam married Opal on 26 September 1929 and that June was born 25 March 1930. Since June died childless in 2009, it is now impossible to determine by DNA testing whether she was Sam's biological daughter.
38. Sam's marriage, death, and burial records are available and are consistent with the memoir's account.
39. Even though Opal was widowed at the age of 27, I found no evidence that she remarried. She died in 1955 at age 52.



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Upcoming SFBAJGS Events

Sunday, 19 January, Oakland: *Digging Deeper on FamilySearch.org.* Kimberlee Miller of the Oakland FamilySearch Library will describe in-depth techniques for getting the most out of FamilySearch.

Sunday, 9 February, San Francisco: *Getting Ready for the 1950 Census: Searching with and without a Name Index.* SFBAJGS member Steve Morse will discuss One-Step tools for the 1950 census to use before the indices are created. (Steve will also give this presentation in Oakland on 22 March and in Palo Alto on 27 April.)

Monday, 24 February, Palo Alto: *Book 'em, Dano!: Publishing Your Family's History.* SFBAJGS treasurer Jeff Lewy will demonstrate how to put together a book about your family, which can help generate interest among other family members.

Sunday, 17 May, Oakland: *Holocaust Research and MyHeritage Unique Technologies to Research Your Family.* In this double-header, Daniel Horowitz, the Genealogy Expert at MyHeritage, will explore Holocaust records at Bad Arolsen and Yad Vashem and also cover features of MyHeritage that can help your research.

See page 3 for meeting locations and times and page 4 for other events of interest.
For more program information visit <http://www.sfbajgs.org/>.
