



# זכרונות ZichronNote

## The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume XLIII, Number 4

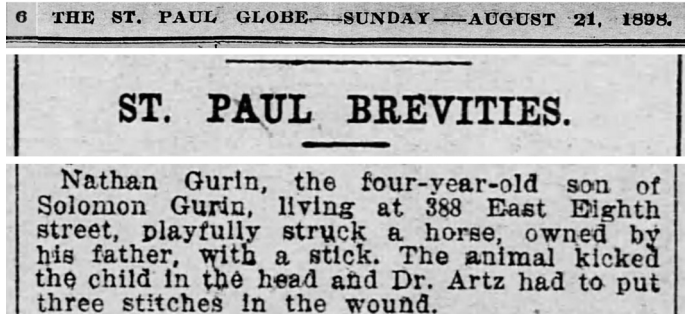
December 2023

### Wandering Evidence

*In this issue we feature part two of Nathan Gurin's storied story.  
In part one, Nathan was "shot and killed over France" until he wasn't.  
Here we discover, along with great, great niece Sharon Fingold,  
just why he was called the "black sheep."  
In his story, Jeremy Frankel recounts an entirely different sort of wooly trajectory.*

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Nathan's troubles started at a young age.  
"St. Paul Brevities," *The Saint Paul Daily Globe*, Saint Paul, MN, 21 Aug 1898, page 6, column 5, [Newspapers.com](http://Newspapers.com)

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## ZichronNote

Journal of the

## President's Message

### IAJGS 2024

Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS President

San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society

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As some of you may recall, back in 2021 that year's International Conference on Jewish Genealogy was intended to be a live, in-person event in Philadelphia.

Alas the overtones of the pandemic continued to cast its shadow and the in-person event was cancelled, giving way to a virtual conference. 2022 came and went, and there was no conference at all. 2023 saw an attempt to host an in-person conference in London, but the logistics became challenging to say the least.

Now, for 2024 there will be a return to Philadelphia, and the event is scheduled to be an in-person conference.

There are always people who are new to genealogy; people who have never attended a conference before. If you're one of them, all I can say is "go!" It's a magical experience. Yes, it can be overwhelming because of the number and variety of lecture topics (the app will guide you in your choices). But the number one reason is that you will be able to spend several days schmoozing with fellow genealogists; people who "get it." No rolling eyes as you explain some arcane issue, or brick-wall problem (that's how I met my wife-to-be, though I didn't realize it at the time).

You can eat, drink, sleep and breath genealogy 24/7 without any feeling of guilt. You might connect with someone who lives in a city where you have a genealogical interest. People who might be able to zoom right in and solve an issue for you right there and then. People who might be able to show you around if you ever plan to visit the home of your ancestors.

Just think, you will be able to meet face-to-face with some of the best experts in the world of Jewish genealogy.

Got a something that needs translating, make a scan and bring it on your phone or iPad (never bring the original). Do come prepared. Download the app and figure out how it works. You're going to bring your laptop, so make sure you back-up everything before you leave home.

You never know, you might bump into an unknown cousin. At the very least you will be surrounded by *mishpocheh*.

See you there!

## Editor's Column



Oh my, InDesign is a continuing challenge! I upgraded my version and finally found all the steps to making the links visible in all versions of Acrobat (I hope!); I solved more issues in linking images to text, and failed miserably in enabling right-to-left Yiddish text, though I did change to a bilingual version. Sigh. And the roses continue to reveal new branches of the family. Off with their heads! My resolution is resolve.

I also learned in this interval between issues about the the power of *ZichronNote*. I sent copies of my little article on the Waldman family to the two grandchildren of my Aunt Betsy and Uncle George, one of whom sent it on the the family in France. Before long I received several replies from the French family, elucidating the mysteries, showing among them an eager family historian, and bringing new revelations. The shoe I photographed in 1960 did its job once again!

What do genealogists look like? They look eager to please their audience. We are all, in fact, audiences to one another. We are story tellers, and story actors, and sometimes just part of the chorus. We may busy ourselves preserving and passing along the tales, and records, and recipes, and photos, and fuzzy clues. We remember, we follow, we dispute, and we celebrate. There are many, many roles to play in this enterprise.

What does a future SFBAJGS Board member look like? Curious. Our Zoom Board meetings are open to interested members. Our next meeting is Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 10:00 am. For more information email Jeremy at [president@sfbajgs.org](mailto:president@sfbajgs.org).

### **If I may once again quote a Jewish philosopher, this time Bob Dylan:**

The country I come from  
Is called the Midwest  
I's taught and brought up there  
The laws to abide  
And that the land that I live in  
Has God on its side

Barbara Toby Stack  
December, 2023  
Berkeley, CA

## Black Sheep, Black Sheep: What did you do?

Sharon Fingold



Sharon Fingold first became interested in her family tree while attending Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts and her grandmother introduced her to relatives in New Jersey. They in turn introduced her to relatives in New York and England. Since then, she has been meeting relatives and researching her family history in fits and starts. Sharon has been a member of the SFBAJGS for almost 35 years and was the co-coordinator of the JewishGen Belarus SIG for several years. Now retired, she has more time to devote to research and is slowly writing up the stories for her extended family.

### Nathan Gurin, Black Sheep

Why was Nathan Gurin shot multiple times near a lake in Minnesota? Why did cousins consider the Gurin brothers black sheep? Before the advent of the easy to access internet resources we take for granted today, the search took time. With patience and using a variety of records in multiple repositories, I began to uncover some of the mystery. Then, as online databases—especially newspapers—came online, the case cracked wide open and answers emerged.

As a family historian, it is always exciting to find the documents that back up or clarify family stories and fill in gaps in knowledge. Solving mysteries and learning about the context around events provides greater understanding of the triumphs and challenges of our family. Tracking down information about the Gurin brothers had all this and more.

I discovered the brothers (Sam, Nathan, Charles, and William/Bill) in unexpected locations: Montana, Washington, Michigan, Colorado, and Kansas. And, I learned that two were criminals, two died violently, one died in Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. These facts alone could qualify a them for black sheep status. Depending on the family's expectations at the time, some of the social facts I learned may have also contributed to the brothers' black sheep status: Those that married, wed non-Jews. Two were divorced. One had a child that no one in our family knew or talked about. One married multiple times (or had one official marriage and two common-law marriages)—and one of those wives ended her days in a Minnesota state hospital for “the insane.”

In the process of piecing together clues and evidence, I also learned about police corruption in St. Paul from 1900 to the 1930s and some of the “underworld” characters the brothers knew, got a peek into small town life in Montana, and learned some fun slang from the 1920s that provided

much amusement to family and friends (jang-jang, dingle-dangle bus, purple whoopee...).

Following are discovery highlights (or lowlights depending on your perspective).

### Charles Gurin (1890-1914)



**Family lore:** Charles Gurin was shot and killed outside a theater by the St. Paul police because they mistook him for Dillinger.

**Research results:** Charles Gurin's death certificate wasn't listed in the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) database so I had to go back to the microfilm at the Family History Library to find Charles' death certificate. He died in St. Paul in 1914, long before Dillinger appeared on the St. Paul crime scene. Cause of death: “Homicide: Shock hemorrhage; contributory: gun shot wound of heart.” Died in the ambulance.<sup>1</sup> The death certificate said he worked at a jewelry store. Was he in the middle of a jewelry heist gone bad? Was he a robber? The newspaper had an answer. Charles Gurin was shot and killed over a woman!



The Minneapolis Morning Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1914

### St. Paul Man Is Shot to Death; Quarrel Over Girl

Charles Gurin Instantly Killed and Dean La Roche Is Under Arrest.

Words Passed in Front of Cafe Are Said to Have Preceded Shooting.

*Star Tribune, Minneapolis, 1 Dec 1914, page 1*

Due to the corruption in St. Paul, the jury declared the killer innocent. Nathan and Sam or friends may have tried to administer their own form of justice but failed.

The Minneapolis Sunday Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 1915

### Assassins Seek to Mend "Not Guilty" Verdict

Two Men Attempt to Kill Dean La Roche, Acquitted of Murder.

Attack Comes Three Hours After Close of Trial in St. Paul.

Single Shot Fired—Assailants Flee, Thinking Bullet Effective.

Police Search for Friends of Charles Gurin, Slain by La Roche.

Judge Orr, Dismissing the Jurors, Disagrees With Their Verdict.

*Star Tribune, Minneapolis, 17 January 1915, page 1*

### Nathan Gurin (1895-1925) & Samuel Gurin (1888-1935)



*Left: Family Photo of Nathan Gurin from WWI. Right: Samuel Gurin, Gas Sergeant, Field Artillery, 1918 from the Honor Roll of Ramsey County MN Ramsey County's Contribution to the Winning of the Great War*

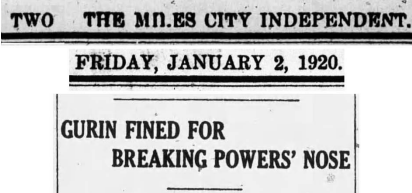
**Nathan's troubles started at a young age.** On August 21, 1898, *The Saint Paul Daily Globe* reported that "Nathan Gurin, the four-year-old son of Solomon Gurin, ... playfully struck a horse, owned by his father, with a stick. The animal kicked the child in the head and Dr. Artz had to put three stitches in the wound."<sup>2</sup>

Sadly, Sarah Gurin, their mother, died on September 20, 1906 at the age of 42—a few weeks before Nathan's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. In 1907, Nathan got into trouble and went before the court for incorrigibility. Per court testimony, Nathan's eldest sister, Ada Gurin Alperstein (my great-grandmother), encouraged their father to send Nathan to the Red Wing Training School, a state reformatory for youth. Nathan went to Red Wing twice and spent about a year there each time. He seems to have moved around a bit doing different jobs before marrying and volunteering for WWI service.

Sam also volunteered for service during WWI. He was assigned to a gas field artillery unit where he was promoted to Sergeant prior to sailing for France. Nathan and Samuel returned to the USA in 1919 with honorable discharges. That's when their dishonorable activities took off.

At some point in 1919, Nathan was arrested in Superior, Wisconsin.<sup>3</sup> Then, in December, both brothers got into trouble. Samuel Gurin was arrested in St. Paul on suspicion of grand larceny. Sam was accused of stealing "certain liberty bonds, gold pieces and alcoholic liquors of the aggregate value of twenty-seven hundred (\$2,700.00) dollars; said personal property and all thereof being then and there the personal property of one Ed Reddy." Sam pleaded not guilty and was freed on a \$5,000 bond that was approved in District Court.<sup>4</sup> (The case file doesn't provide the resolution of the case.)

Nathan made the news due to a fight in mid-December, 1919 in Montana.



*The Miles City Independent, Miles City, Montana, January 2 1920, page 2*

Nathan returned to St. Paul in January 1920 where he got into more legal trouble. In February, he borrowed Sam's car and was part of a group of four men who tried to steal some alcohol. Nathan pleaded guilty to "Burglary in the Third Degree." After a detailed interview with the judge where Nathan provided his life story up to this point, the judge suspended his sentence and put Nathan on one-year of probation. The transcript of this interview was part of the criminal case file I obtained from the MNHS and provided many details about Nathan's youth.



*Star Tribune, Minneapolis, MN, June 15, 1920, page 2*

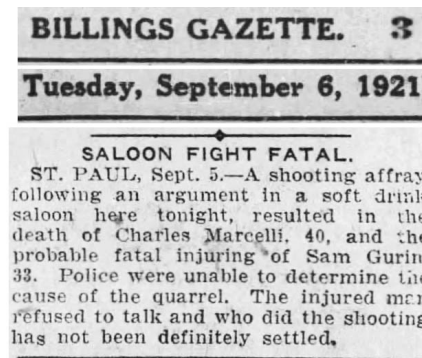
In June, 1920, both Sam and Nathan were arrested. Nathan Gurin was "wanted on several charges, including a forfeiture of bond in St. Paul municipal court."<sup>5</sup> Nathan and Sam "were indicted on a charge of first degree assault on Frank J. Illi, May 31."<sup>6</sup>

All charges were dropped but Nathan's prior burglary sentence was reinstated because he violated the terms of his probation agreement. He was sent to the St. Cloud State Reformatory for Men from June 30, 1920 to November 28, 1921.<sup>7</sup> The State Reformatory "was designed to rehabilitate first time 'offenders' between the ages of 16-30, through industrial work-programming activity.... The most unique information for the facility is its iconic granite wall. Completed in 1922, the wall is considered the second largest continuous wall made by incarcerated individuals. The first is the Great Wall of China."<sup>8</sup> Nathan may have seen the building of the "iconic granite wall" of St. Cloud. But, it didn't rehabilitate him...

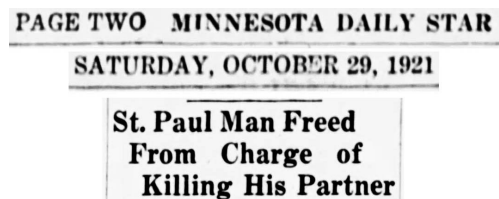
While Nathan was in prison, Sam continued his affairs: getting into trouble. On April 29, 1921, Sam was indicted by the Grand Jury along with Jack Ferrick of "Criminally

receiving stolen property" and the warrant for Sam's arrest was filed on the same day. The two men were charged with receiving "two (2) suits of Adlers Collegian mens clothes of the aggregate value of One Hundred Three (\$103.00) Dollars; said personal property...of one Brindley and Kanable Co.....on the 12th day of April A.D. 1921, at the Town of Viola, County of Richland and State of Wisconsin... stolen and carried away by the said John Doe." Sam pleaded guilty and was sentenced to "be imprisoned in the work-house in St. Paul, Minnesota, for a period of 6 months and pay a fine of \$100." The judge substituted one year of probation for the sentence. Sam paid the fine and then got into trouble again.<sup>9</sup> (I don't know what happened to Ferrick in this case, but I know Sam and Jack Ferrick ran in similar circles through 1925 when Sam believed Ferrick killed Nathan Gurin and Sam tried to kill Ferrick in revenge. See below.)

On September 6, 1921, Sam made the news again due to a saloon shootout where Sam killed a man and was severely wounded. Sam was charged with murder but the grand jury decided he shot in self-defense and he was released.



*The Billings Gazette, Billings, MT, September 6, 1921, page 3*



*The Minneapolis Star, Minneapolis, MN, October 29, 1921, page 2*

The brothers continued their life of crime. On June 26, 1923, Sam "jumped \$5,000 bail on a narcotic sale charge and \$1,000 bond for alleged liquor sales."<sup>10</sup> This triggered a nationwide search that lasted two years.

In August 1924, Nathan was one of two men arrested in Fargo, North Dakota for "swindling several Fargo business establishments out of varying amounts of cash through a short change ruse."



**PAGE EIGHT THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1924**

**TWO ALLEGED  
SWINDLERS IN  
FARGO HELD**

**Pair Declares to Have Swindled Several Mercantile**

*The Bismarck Tribune, Bismarck, ND, August 5, 1924, page 8*

On the evening of July 26, 1925, Nathan and two other men were arrested on a narcotics charge and released on bail to appear before the federal court.<sup>11</sup> On July 28, in St. Paul, Jack Ferrick was arrested on related charges.<sup>12</sup> Jack became a prime suspect in Nathan's killing in September. He may have suspected Nathan of squealing on him to the authorities.

Nathan and his associates were found with a stolen car, lots of cash, opium, and opium paraphenalia. They "were charged with unlawfully receiving, transporting and concealing certain narcotics, namely opium, knowing the same to be imported contrary to law."<sup>13</sup>

**THE WINONA REPUBLICAN-HERALD**

**FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 31, 1925**

**Alleged Members  
of Dope Ring Held  
to Federal Court**

**Three St. Paul Men Arrested at Brainerd Hotel—Were Making Opium Pills, Charge.**

*Republican Herald, Winona, MN, July 31, 1925, page 1*

**The Seattle Connection**

In the news article about Nathan's arrest, there's an interesting tidbit: "Gurin claims to have come from Seattle, Wash." This becomes important because just a few weeks later, guess who is arrested in Seattle? Sam Gurin. After two years, the Feds finally found him in Seattle, using the alias "Sam Tadder." (Tadder was the maiden name of his wife Marie.)

The sensational news story broke on August 15, 1925. Sam Guerin [sic] is identified as a "Notorious Alleged Dope Peddler" and part of a large dope ring centered in Chicago.

**THE BRAINERD DAILY DISPATCH**

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1925

**Chicago Dope Ring May Extend On to Brainerd**

**MINNEAPOLIS AND  
BRAINERD ARE  
UNDER SCRUTINY**

CAPTURE OF NINE SUSPECTS IN  
THE TOWN CITIES  
KIDNAP  
SAM GUERIN, NOTORIOUS AL-  
LEGED DOPE PEDDLER,  
IS TAKEN  
(St. Paul Pioneer Press)

*The Brainerd Daily Dispatch, Brainerd, MN, August 15, 1925, page 1*

After their arrests, both brothers are released on bond. Nathan may have been safer in jail, because in September he was murdered.

**MINNEAPOLIS DAILY STAR**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1925 PAGE NINE**

**ST. PAUL 'GANG'  
WAR BLAMED IN  
MYSTERY DEATH**

**Nate Guerin, Police Character, Found Shot to Death Near Duluth**

*The Minneapolis Star, Minneapolis, MN, September 30, 1925, page 9*

**The Winona Republican-Herald**

**WINONA, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 30, 1925.**

**Murder Victim at  
Duluth Identified  
Today by Brother**

*The Winona Daily News, Winona, MN, September 30, 1925, page 1*

**IRONWOOD DAILY GLOBE**

**SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 3, 1925.**

**AUTHORITIES SEEK MAN,  
SLAYER OF NATHAN GURIN**

*Daily Globe, Ironwood, Michigan, October 3, 1925, page 1*

The police had a variety of suspects but no one was brought to justice. So, Sam decided to execute his own form of justice. He suspected Jack Ferrick of being the killer and shot Jack with intent to kill. The shooting took place in a "chop suey parlor, then operated by Jack Peiffer."<sup>14</sup> (Jack Peiffer was a "small-time bootlegger" who was "elevated by Prohibition profits" into being a

St. Paul power broker. Jack Peiffer was a “racketeer” and “underworld fixer.” Jack Peiffer owned/ran several businesses from the 1920s-1930s, including gambling operations, a hotel, and a “cigar store/speakeasy on St. Peter Street.”<sup>15)</sup>

**THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1925 PAGE THREE

**TWO WOUNDED  
MYSTERIOUSLY  
IN SHOOTING**

One Recently Released at Min-  
not — Neither Would Ex-  
plain Their Injuries

*The Bismarck Tribune, Bismarck, ND, December 2, 1925, page 4*

Jack Ferrick was seriously wounded but recovered. On January 22, 1926, the grand jury found “no bill against Sam Guerin accused of the crime of Assault, 1<sup>st</sup>.”<sup>16</sup> Charges against Sam were dropped. However, Sam still had to face federal charges. Sam was found guilty of selling narcotics (one document mentions morphine) and sentenced to serve two four-year sentences concurrently. The sentence began on November 6, 1926.<sup>17</sup> He was sent to the US Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas and admitted there on November 28, 1926. (Jack Ferrick continued his life of crime and became the leader of a kidnapping ring in the early 1930s.)

Samuel was released when his sentence expired on December 4, 1929.<sup>18</sup>



*Samuel Gurin Mug Shot from the US Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas case file*

The Leavenworth case file states that Samuel chewed tobacco, smoked and drank, but did not use opium or morphine. Apparently, he was a narcotics dealer but not a user. His appearance is described as height 5'10 1/4", 177

pounds, black hair, blue gray eyes, medium complexion, pronounced chin, two teeth “go up left,” medium build, and medium ears. He had two noticeable moles on his face: one below the left cheek bone and one below and to the rear of the left mouth edge. He had one scar. A medical report dated November 29, 1926 gave Sam’s height as 5'10" and weight as 169 pounds. Teeth were in poor condition, pulse was regular and good. Sam had a history of gonorrhea and syphilis.<sup>19</sup>

UNITED STATES PENITENTIARY LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS			
Name	Sam Guerin ✓	Reg. No.	26601 ✓ Color White ✓
Alias			
Crime	Drug Act ✓		
Received	Nov. 28, 1926 ✓	From	D. Minnesota - St. Paul. ✓
Sentence	(2-4 yr. sent. concur.) ✓ 4 years ✓	Fine, costs, etc.	-----
Date of Sentence	Nov. 6, 1926 ✓	Sentence begins	Nov. 6, 1926 ✓
Maximum term expires	Nov. 5, 1930 ✓	Minimum term expires	Dec. 4, 1929 ✓
Good time allowed	336 ✓	days. Eligible for parole	March 5, 1928 ✓
Civil or Military	Civil ✓	Occupation	Bartender. Age 38
Where arrested	St. Paul, Minn.	When	Aug 24, 1925
How long in jail before trial on bond.		Nativity	Minn.
How long in U. S.		Citizen of U. S.	Yes
Father living?	Yes	Mother living?	No
Name of Father	Soleman Guerin	Name of Mother	
Present address of parents	Jewish Home, St Paul, Minn.		
Nativity of father	Russia.	Nativity of mother	Russia
Married	Yes	Wife living	Yes
Children	No	Boys	
		Girls	
Wife's name and present address	Marie Guerin 579 1/2 Wabasha, St. Paul, Minn.		
Your residence	St Paul, Minn.		
In case of sickness or death, notify	life, see above address.		
Education: Read	Yes	Write	Yes
		Common school	
		High school	
		College	
Religion	Jewish	Preference	
Chew tobacco	Yes	Smoke	Yes
		Drink	Yes
		Use Opium or Morphine	
		(over)	

*Samuel Gurin's intake form page 1, US Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kansas, 1926*

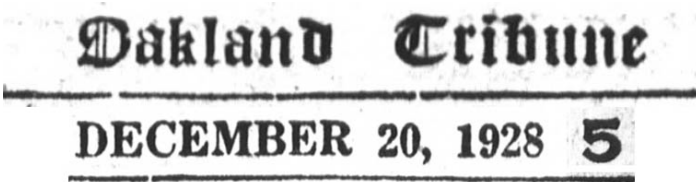
In prison, Samuel Gurin was allowed three correspondents. His official correspondents were Marie Guerin, his wife (with addresses at various times of St Paul, Chicago, and San Francisco); Mrs. Grace Brown aka Mrs. Grace Strapp (176 W. 9th, St. Paul, MN), friend; and Lillian Levant (1619 N. 5, Superior, WI), cousin. I haven't been able to confirm the blood relationship with Lillian but there definitely seems to have been an attitude about the law that they shared. I discovered that Lillian's husband Matt or Mathew Levant was a bookie involved in gambling operations for many years in Milwaukee.<sup>20</sup> I also learned that Lillian entered Ontario, Canada in Oct 1925 claiming she was single and that her mother was Mrs. M. Levant who just happened to be living at Matt Levant's



mother's address. Lillian was crossing the border as an immigrant, supposedly to work as a hairdresser in Fort Point, Ontario.<sup>21</sup> In 1926-1927, she's living in Superior, Wisconsin.<sup>22</sup> What did she do in Canada? Why did she go to Canada so soon after Nathan's death? Was the trip associated in some way either with Nathan or Sam?

In addition to his three official correspondents, Sam managed to correspond with Miss Janice Miller (1362 La Salle Ave, Minneapolis, Minnesota) until the Mail Clerk at the US Penitentiary noticed that the name and the prison ID number of the addressee did not match.

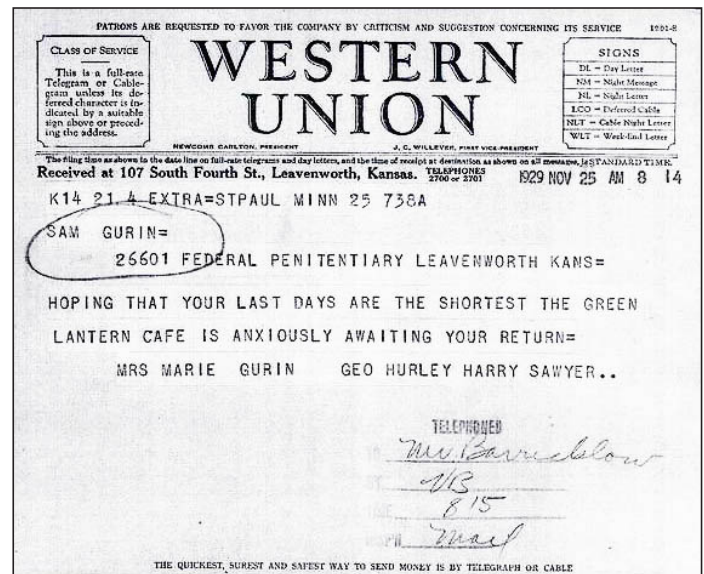
The correspondence log was helpful in finding out more about Sam's wife Marie. I have a feeling she was involved in some sort of shady activity. The only incident I discovered was an arrest in December 1928 in San Francisco for making "whoopee."



Oakland Tribune, Oakland, CA, December 20, 1928, page 5

In July 1929, the warden of the US Penitentiary Leavenworth and James A. Finch, Pardon Attorney, Department of Justice corresponded about Samuel Gurin. In his July 18, 1929 letter to James Finch, the warden, T. B. White states "please be advised that this man has maintained good conduct since his arrival at this institution, however, he has been denied parole, and it is my opinion that he would not make a law abiding citizen if released."<sup>23</sup> The warden was correct!

On December 4, 1929, Sam left Leavenworth, Kansas on the Chicago Great Western Railroad. He departed at 5:49 P.M. and was expected to arrive in St Paul, Minnesota on December 5, 1929 at 7:55 A.M. Per a telegram received before he departed, Sam was "anxiously" awaited at the "Green Lantern Cafe." The telegram was signed by his wife Marie, George Hurley and Harry Sawyer.<sup>24</sup>



Harry Sawyer was the owner of the Green Lantern Cafe and was the contact for underworld people checking into St. Paul under the O'Connor system. Harry Sawyer was also a "bootlegger, fence, gangland banker... and St. Paul contact for Dillinger and Barker-Karpis gangs."<sup>25</sup> Harry's original surname was Sandlovich and he was Jewish.<sup>26</sup> George Hurley had been a driver for the Gleeman brothers bootlegging operation then got involved in Sawyer's bootlegging operation and managed the Green Lantern Cafe. Hurley was "by most accounts a meanspirited drunk with a violent temper" and was implicated in at least two murders.<sup>27</sup> These were not pleasant people Sam was hanging out with!

"The Green Lantern was a front for bootlegging and whatever else, laundering and receiving stolen property. Behind a false wall was the Blue Room, a speakeasy where the underworld enjoyed liquor, piano music, slot machines, and nude dancers. Customers entered the Green Lantern by the back entrance, opening into a deserted alley. The front door was locked and seldom used."<sup>28</sup>

"The Green Lantern which closed in 1934, was the center of the city's underworld and a magnet for criminals like Kid Cann, John Dillinger and Doc Barker." "The Green Lantern was the linchpin of the city's infamous 'O'Connor System,' named for then-Police Chief John J. O'Connor, who invited

criminals from across the country to lie low in St. Paul as long as they behaved while they were in town.

“America’s most wanted would check in at the Green Lantern when they arrived, and the bar’s proprietor [Dan Hogan from the 1913-December, 1928, Harry Sawyer starting in 1928 after Hogan’s death] would pass along their information to the city’s corrupt police force.” (Interesting Jewish note: The Sons of Jacob Synagogue was “around the corner from the Green Lantern.”)<sup>29</sup>

I wonder if the telegram welcoming Sam back to St Paul was sent in friendship, a message from a boss looking forward to one of his workers returning, or a reminder that Sam should check in at the Green Lantern because of the “layover policy”?

The following text gives an idea of the gangster life in St Paul:

“In an autobiography written long after his days in St. Paul (and after a long stint at Alcatraz), Alvin Karpis nicely captured the importance of the city to the criminal element in the early 1930s. ‘Of all the Midwest cities,’ he wrote, ‘the one I knew best was St. Paul, and it was a crooks’ haven. Every criminal of any importance in the 1930s made his home at one time or another in St. Paul. If you were looking for a guy you hadn’t seen for a few months, you usually thought of two places—prison or St. Paul.’

“A surreal climate enveloped Minnesota’s capital as these thugs and thieves mingled with the good citizens of St. Paul.... speakeasies and criminal hangouts dotting the landscape....Downtown, the Green Lantern was a notorious hangout, operated by local gangster Harry Sawyer, whose work as an intermediary between the underworld and the St. Paul police made him the city’s unofficial greeter for criminal types new to the city.

“When they weren’t carousing, these itinerant crooks settled into brief interludes of domesticity and criminal planning, often in area bungalows or in the new, red-brick apartment buildings that had sprung up along and near Grand Avenue. The street thrummed with commerce. Grocery and drug stores dotted every block. Numerous auto dealerships offered gangsters their choice of getaway car. Hudsons, Reos, Studebakers, and Buicks—all could be purchased within four blocks of each other on the street.”<sup>30</sup>

It seems that Sam’s life post-Leavenworth fit the pattern of criminal planning mixed with domesticity. In the 1930 census, Sam was listed as a patient at a Veterans Hospital on April 1.<sup>31</sup> Perhaps he was being treated for “Hemiplegia” which started on March 25, 1930 per Sam’s death certificate. On April 19, he was living with his wife Marie at 461 West Summit Ave., St. Paul.<sup>32</sup>

In 1931, his wife’s name was Catherine. Sam was working as a manager of the Elite Hotel and living at 221 W. 7<sup>th</sup> with Catherine.<sup>33</sup> [Can’t find any marriage records for them.]

On August 25, 1933, Sam was again arrested for selling narcotics.



*The Minneapolis Star, Minneapolis, MN, August 26, 1933, page 9*

On September 23, 1933, Sam was convicted and sentenced to “2 1/2 years on each of two counts to run concurrently--Leavenworth, Kansas.”<sup>34</sup>

Sam was admitted to the US Penitentiary Annex, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas as inmate number 5127.<sup>35</sup> Sam died at the US Penitentiary Annex on June 15, 1935.<sup>36</sup> Sam’s arrival and death are mentioned in the “Daily Count” books for the US Penitentiary Annex, but no other records of this stay are available at the National Archives, Central Region Branch.<sup>37</sup>

Sam’s cause of death was “Embolism of lung; contrib: Hemiplegia left starting on 25 Mar 1930.” Sam was buried in a military cemetery in St. Paul and his wife Catherine Lang Gurin was listed as next of kin.<sup>38</sup>

### **The Wives**

Sadly, Marie Tadder Gurin aka Poole was admitted to the St. Peter State Hospital for Insane in 1945 and died there in 1963.<sup>39</sup> Nathan’s wife Lillian died in 1958 in St. Paul never having remarried.<sup>40</sup>

### William Gurin (1886-1938)



William Gurin photo taken in the early 1900s about age 20

William Gurin, the eldest of the brothers, seems to have steered clear of crime or was never caught. He was a cigar maker. He moved to Montana by 1910 where he met Pearl Swinton. They married in 1913 and had one son, William George, on August 1, 1914.<sup>41</sup> In 1919, Pearl filed for divorce. Pearl charged William “with neglect and failure to provide.” They divorced on May 22, 1919 and Pearl remarried on July 30, 1919.<sup>42</sup> William George took his step-father’s surname of Grebil and disappeared from our family history until I “found” him.

William continued to work as a cigar maker. In the 1920s, he lived in Denver, Colorado. Around 1928 he moved to Los Angeles, California, leaving behind a debt of \$25 owed to the Cigar Maker’s Union Local 129.<sup>43</sup>

William Gurin died on January 10, 1938. He was rooming at 1821 S. Main, Los Angeles<sup>44</sup> which was in the downtown area about halfway between Skid Row and South Central Los Angeles.

### The Next Gen

William’s son William George “Bill” Grebil, grew up in Idaho with his mother, stepfather and half-siblings. He married in 1937, had a child (a daughter), and divorced in September 1940.<sup>45</sup> In October 1940, he joined the Army Air Force. In September 1941, he was deployed to the Philippines. In 1942, he was at Corregidor when it was taken by the Japanese. He was among those captured. He

survived the Bataan Death March and was released from a POW camp in September 1945. He married again but had no other children.<sup>46</sup>

### What Now?

Every new discovery leads to more questions and more sources to check. Many of the Minnesota prison records are available at the Minnesota Historical Society. Remote record requests for prison records and Marie’s hospital records will be available in 2024.

With discovery came excitement: Wow! Criminals!? Leavenworth!? Shot and killed!? A brother had a child we didn’t know about!? Discovering the secrets was very exciting. So was the diving in phase—digging for information. Finding newspaper articles and filling in gaps. Piecing together facts to provide more context. While discovery continues, I’m now in the digesting phase. The investigative excitement remains—what else can I learn? But the excitement is tinged with sadness for the way the Gurin brothers’ lives turned out and gratitude that the criminals are a few generations removed. It might have been a bit frightening to have close relatives so involved with violent crime. It is fun to discover black sheep, but it is also sobering to consider the choices they made and the lives they led.

### Research Tips

It’s important to try different name spellings: Gurin and Guerin. And also search on associates. For example, my newspaper search of Marie Gurin brought up only one article. But, when I searched on other names listed in that one article, I found 2 more articles. Marie’s name showed up in the other articles but for some reason the search engines didn’t find her.

### A Brief List of Sources

Vital records: Especially death certificates  
Census records  
City directories  
Criminal court case records: [the Minnesota Historical Society](#)  
Newspapers: [newspapers.com](#), [genealogybank.com](#), [California Historical Newspaper Collection](#), Minnesota Historical Society  
United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, [Kansas case files from the National Archives](#)  
Paul Maccabee, [John Dillinger Slept Here. A Crook’s Tour of Crime and Corruption in St. Paul, 1920-1936](#), Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, MN, 1995



## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> “Charles Gurin, death certificate no. 2644 (1914), State of Minnesota Division of Vital Statistics, St. Paul.”
- <sup>2</sup> “St. Paul Brevities,” *The Saint Paul Daily Globe*, Saint Paul, MN, 21 Aug 1898, page 6, column 5, <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-saint-paul-globe-gurinnathan-1898-ki/135237176/>.
- <sup>3</sup> “Liquor, Dope Murder Clews,” *The Milwaukee Sentinel* (Latest Edition), Milwaukee, WI, 2 Oct 1925, page 6, digital image, MyHeritage.com.
- <sup>4</sup> Criminal Case file 8366 State of Minnesota vs. Sam Gurin, charged with Grand Larceny that occurred on 30 Nov 1919, Ramsey County District Court, Criminal Case Files of the Minnesota State Archives in the Minnesota Historical Society 119.H.13.8F.
- <sup>5</sup> “Six ‘Bandit Farm’ Suspects Arrested,” *Star Tribune*, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 15 Jun 1920 (Tuesday), page 2, newspapers.com, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/181899514/?terms=gurin>.
- <sup>6</sup> “Ramsey Grand Jury Indicts Seven; Three for Assault,” *Star Tribune*, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 19 Jun 1920 (Saturday), page 23, newspapers.com, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/181901228/?terms=gurin>.
- <sup>7</sup> Kerri Teske, MNHS Gale Family Library, “Research Request” email response to Sharon Fingold on 7 November 2023.
- <sup>8</sup> Minnesota Department of Corrections, “Minnesota Correctional Facility - St. Cloud,” <https://mn.gov/doc/facilities/st-cloud/>, viewed on 29 Oct 2023.
- <sup>9</sup> Criminal Case file 8926 State of Minnesota vs. Sam Guerin and Jack Ferrick, indicted and found guilty of receiving stolen property on 14 Apr 1921, Ramsey County District Court, Criminal Case Files of the Minnesota State Archives in the Minnesota Historical Society 119.H.14.4F.
- <sup>10</sup> “Chicago Dope Ring May Extend on to Brainerd,” *The Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, Brainerd, Minnesota, 15 Aug 1925, page 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-brainerd-daily-dispatch-gurinsam-192/136181851/>
- <sup>11</sup> “Alleged Opium Ring Unearthed by Police Here,” *The Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, Brainerd, Minnesota, 28 Jul 1925 (Tuesday), page 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/85793984/?terms=gurin>.
- <sup>12</sup> “Local Police May Be Witnesses,” *The Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, Brainerd, Minnesota, 3 Dec 1925, page 7, column 1 (top), <https://newspaperarchive.com/brainerd-daily-dispatch-dec-03-1925-p-14/>
- <sup>13</sup> “Alleged Opium Users in Court,” *The Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, Brainerd, Minnesota, 29 Jul 1925, page 7, column 1, <https://newspaperarchive.com/brainerd-daily-dispatch-jul-29-1925-p-13/>
- <sup>14</sup> “Kidnap Victim Thrown From Truck Near Home After Being Tortured by Captors,” *The Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, Brainerd, Minnesota, 8 Oct 1931, page 1, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/85781201/?terms=gurin>
- <sup>15</sup> Paul Maccabee, *John Dillinger Slept Here, A Crook’s Tour of Crime and Corruption in St. Paul, 1920-1936*, Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, MN, 1995, pages 24, 67, 124, 134.
- <sup>16</sup> “Report of Grand Jury in the case of the State of Minnesota vs. Sam Guerin,” Ramsey County District Court Criminal Case Files #11565, 22 Jan 1926, of the Minnesota State Archives in the Minnesota Historical Society 113.B.12.16F.
- <sup>17</sup> “Samuel Gurin, United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kansas case file 26601,” 1926-1929 and 1933-1935, copies of materials received from the National Archives, Great Plains branch in May, 2006.
- <sup>18</sup> “Samuel Gurin, United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kansas case file 26601.”
- <sup>19</sup> “Samuel Gurin, United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kansas case file 26601,”
- <sup>20</sup> I found newspaper reports about Matt Levant being fined and/or arrested for gambling activities in 1932, 1935, 1943, 1947, 1948, 1953, 1954.
- <sup>21</sup> Lillian Levant, *Border Crossing*, Canadian Immigration Service Report of Admissions, Library and Archives Canada; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; 1908-1935 Border Entries; Roll: T-15348; Ancestry.com. Canada, *Border Crossings from U.S. to Canada, 1908-1935* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008.
- <sup>22</sup> “Samuel Gurin, United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kansas case file 26601.”
- <sup>23</sup> “Samuel Gurin, United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kansas case file 26601.”
- <sup>24</sup> Telegram sent on 25 Nov 1929 to Samuel Gurin from Mrs. Marie Gurin, Geo Hurley, and Harry Sawyer, “Samuel Gurin, United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kansas case file 26601,” 1926-1929 and 1933-1935, copies of materials received from the National Archives, Great Plains branch in May, 2006.
- <sup>25</sup> Paul Maccabee, *John Dillinger Slept Here, A Crook’s Tour of Crime and Corruption in St. Paul, 1920-1936*, Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, MN, 1995, page 308.
- <sup>26</sup> Paul Maccabee, page 62.
- <sup>27</sup> Paul Maccabee, pages 67-68.

<sup>28</sup> Paul Maccabee, page 65.

<sup>29</sup> “Photos recently discovered appear to show notorious St. Paul gangster hangout Green Lantern,” TwinCities Pioneer Press, 13 April 2019 and updated 15 April 2019, <https://www.twincities.com/2019/04/13/green-lantern-photos/>

<sup>30</sup> Tim Brady, “Crime Capital,” 9 Mar 2007, <https://www.minnesotamonthly.com/archive/crime-capital/>

<sup>31</sup> “1930 US Federal Census US Veterans Hospital, Sam Gurin,” 4 Apr 1930, Richfield, Hennepin, Minnesota, ED 27-303, Sheet 3A, Line 48, Year: 1930; Census Place: Richfield, Hennepin, Minnesota; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 0303; FHL microfilm: 2340836. Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002.

<sup>32</sup> “1930 US Federal Census Sam Gurin Household,” 19 Apr 1930, St Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota, ED 62-117, Sheet 21A, lines 20-21, Year: 1930; Census Place: St Paul, Ramsey, Minnesota; Page: 21A; Enumeration District: 0117; FHL microfilm: 2340854. Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002.

<sup>33</sup> “Polk’s St Paul (Minnesota) City Directory 1931,” R.L. Polk & Co., Vol LXVII, page 513, digital image 257, Ancestry.com. U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

<sup>34</sup> “Samuel Gurin, United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kansas case file 26601.”

<sup>35</sup> “Samuel Gurin, United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kansas case file 26601.”

<sup>36</sup> State of Minnesota Adjutant General’s Office, “Graves Registration Section for Gurin, Samuel, Serial Number 2027318,” Photocopy of form from Minnesota Historical Society.

<sup>37</sup> Stephen Spence (Archives Technician, National Archives-Central Plains Region), “Sam Gurin,” email message from <stephen.spence@nara.gov> to Sharon Fingold 23 May 2006.

<sup>38</sup> State of Minnesota Adjutant General’s Office, “Graves Registration Section for Gurin, Samuel, Serial Number 2027318,” Photocopy of form from Minnesota Historical Society.

<sup>39</sup> Marie Estella Gurin, death certificate no. 12562 or 015027 (1963), Minnesota Department of Health Section of Vital Statistics, copy of certificate provided by the Minnesota Historical Society in November, 2007 to Sharon Fingold.

<sup>40</sup> Lillian Gurin, death certificate no. 37540 or 022592 (stamped), 2819 (written) (1958), Minnesota Department of Health Section of Vital Statistics, copy of certificate provided by the Minnesota Historical Society in November, 2007 to Sharon Fingold.

<sup>41</sup> “Personal and in General,” Livingston Enterprise, Livingston, Montana, 1 Aug 1914, Page 5, column 2, digital image, <https://www.newspapers.com/article/livingston-enterprise-gurinwilliam-1914/134119090/>. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services; Helena, Montana; Montana, Birth Records, 1871-1919; Box Number: 53 #106, Registration No 122; Ancestry.com. Montana, Birth Records, 1897-1919 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2017. Original data: Montana, Birth Records, 1860-1986. Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Helena, Montana.

<sup>42</sup> “Cruelty Charged,” The Spokesman-Review, Spokane, WA, 13 Sep 1940, page 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/91085273/grebilwilliam-1940-divorce-final/>; “Butte in Brief,” The Butte Miner, Butte, Montana, 23 May 1919 (Friday), page 10, newspapers.com, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/348788997/?terms=gurin>. “City, County Records,” The Butte Miner, Butte, Montana, 23 May 1919 (Friday), page 7, newspapers.com, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/348788989/?terms=gurin>. “Unhappy Couples are Given Divorce Decrees,” The Anaconda Standard, Anaconda, Montana, 13 July 1919 (Sunday), page 3, newspapers.com, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/350721624/?terms=gurin>. “Anaconda News in Brief,” The Anaconda Standard, Anaconda, Montana, 31 July 1919 (Thursday), page 13, newspapers.com, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/350729136/?terms=gurin>.

<sup>43</sup> “Private Loans,” Cigar Makers’ Official Journal, Vol 52, No. 6, June 1928, page 7, [https://www.google.com/books/edition/Cigar\\_Makers\\_Official\\_Journal/sAc2AQAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&bsq=guri](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Cigar_Makers_Official_Journal/sAc2AQAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&bsq=guri)

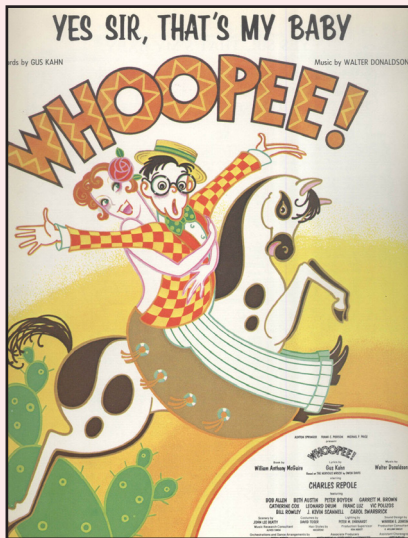
<sup>44</sup> “William Gurin Certificate of Death,” 12 Jan 1938, Los Angeles County, California, District Number 1901, Local Registered Number 487, informational copy obtained by Sharon Fingold and received on 30 Dec 2021.

<sup>45</sup> “Cruelty Charged,” The Spokesman-Review, Spokane, Washington, 13 Sep 1940, page 2, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/91085273/grebilwilliam-1940-divorce-final/>

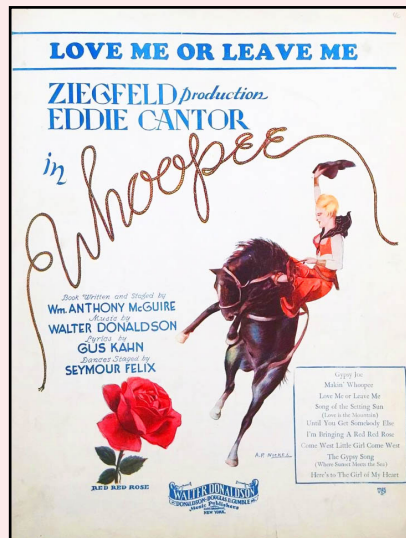
<sup>46</sup> “William ‘Bill’ Grebil,” The Spokesman-Review, Spokane, WA, 16 Aug 1960, page 46, [https://www.newspapers.com/image/573653624/?article=a3da1648-5d63-4000-ae5a-8c481c1aee75&focus=0.025659598,0.051274285,0.18740259,0.2435897&xid=2378&\\_ga=2.234045661.27854591.1593739244-345371663.1592020584](https://www.newspapers.com/image/573653624/?article=a3da1648-5d63-4000-ae5a-8c481c1aee75&focus=0.025659598,0.051274285,0.18740259,0.2435897&xid=2378&_ga=2.234045661.27854591.1593739244-345371663.1592020584).



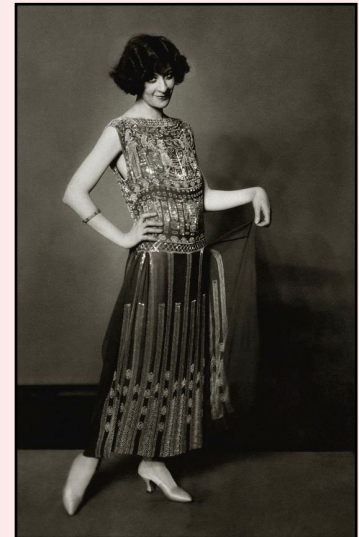
## Gangsters and Flappers in our Trees



1925 brought the show “[Yes Sir, That's My Baby](#)” to Broadway. Lyrics by [Gus Kahn](#).



In 1928 a musical comedy titled “[Whoopee!](#)” opened on Broadway. It starred Eddie Cantor (Isidore Itzkowitz), and a film version opened in 1930.



1925 Flapper [Fanny Brice](#) (Fania Borach) by Edward Steichen, [August 1925 Vanity Fair Magazine](#) (cropped).



[Edward G. Robinson](#) (Emanuel Goldenberg) made his film debut as a gangster in the 1929 pre-Code “[The Hole in the Wall](#).”



## Bad Guys

Editor's Note: As I worked on Sharon's article, I began to mutter:

פֶּאַסְקוּדְנִיאָק  
paskudnyak

a word I'd heard as a child (also usually muttered), Yiddish, and [as I just learned](#), of Polish and Ukrainian origin, like my family.

פֶּאַרְבֵּרֶעכְנֶער  
[farbrekher](#)

And there are so many other Yiddish words for bad guys. Professor Steven Bernard Zwickel has a collection of juicy Yiddish epithets, [Yiddish words for bad people](#)

## Newspaper Graphics

Editor's Note: I've been abridging newspaper articles and other documents for some time in a fashion I have termed, if only to myself, as "cupcakes." By this I have meant a roughly square-shaped image top-heavy with the most salient details, in the case of clippings, with the masthead, a source of fanciful typefaces for us font maniacs. Until I decide on subsidiary fonts for the Times-New-Roman-dominated *ZichronNote*, this is the best eye candy I can offer our readers.

The Minneapolis Morning Tribune

THE BRAINERD DAILY DISPATCH

The Winona Republican-Herald

Dakland Tribune

## ZN History

May, 1990

This issue we are calling *Zichron Note*, which in Hebrew means, memories, memorials, remembrances, records or mementos.



August, 1985

TEL AVIV GENEALOGY CENTER

In June the new computer based genealogy center opened in Tel Aviv. This is the project mentioned in Libby Rosenfield's report on the 1984 seminar in Israel. It is the brainchild of Dr Douglas Goldman, a San Franciscan whom some of us know from seminars. This project became [The Family Tree of the Jewish People](#).

Readers: it turns out that SFBAJGS member Jane Jacobson was the first Director of the Douglas Goldman Genealogy Center at the Beth Hatefutsot! ZN has requested an update from her.



Find pdfs of back issues of *ZichronNote*, [here](#). Issues are made available exclusively to SFBAJGS members for two years and are then posted.

**Copyright for individual articles remains with the authors.**

## Some Books about Jewish Gangsters

Arons, Ron. [The Jews of Sing Sing](#). Fort Lee, NJ: Barricade Books, 2016.

Cohen, Rich. [Tough Jews: Fathers, Sons, and Gangster Dreams](#). New York: Vintage Books, 1998.

Geik, Alan. [Uncle Charlie Killed Dutch Schultz: The Jewish Mob: A Family Affair](#). Sonador Publishing, 2022.

Kraus, Joe. [The Kosher Capones: A History of Chicago's Jewish Gangsters](#). DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press, 2019.

Maccabee, Paul. [John Dillinger Slept Here, A Crook's Tour of Crime and Corruption in St. Paul, 1920-1936](#). St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1995.

Rockaway, Robert A. [But He Was Good to His Mother: The Lives and Crimes of Jewish Gangsters](#). Jerusalem: Gefen Publishing House, 1993, 2000.

## Merging My Two Passions

Jeremy Frankel



Jeremy's foray into his family genealogy began during the 2nd night of Passover 1985 when his maternal grandfather asked him what he knew about the Levy family. After making some inroads, real life and work intervened and the project was placed on a back-burner until the arrival of the internet and online databases. Jeremy's work in England as a cartographer for 14 years brought together two interests, history and geography. This helped enormously when studying families and migration patterns. Thirty-five years later the tree is burgeoning with 7000+ people.

Jeremy has been a member of the SFBAJGS board since 2001, and Society President since 2002. Like a number of experienced genealogists, he has offered his services as a professional genealogist, along with his partner Victoria Fisch, president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento. Jeremy is a member of several genealogical societies and is a frequent contributor to many online discussion groups. He has written extensively, lectured and taught classes throughout the greater Bay Area.

As many of you know, genealogy has been a passion of mine for nearly forty years. What some of you may not know is my other passion: canals, the kind with boats and locks, bridges and tunnels. For nearly fourteen years before immigrating to America, I spent one weekend nearly every month, up to my neck in mud, helping to restore some of England's 1000 miles of abandoned canals. This fascination included going on many canal boating vacations in the UK, then in Europe. That's what led me to come to America in 1987 and spend six months exploring the historical canals of this country, and of course I ended up staying! My interest included buying books, collecting postcards and stamps with a waterway theme. Currently my postcard collection contains well over one thousand cards from all over the world.

When we're out and about, visiting somewhere, my wife Victoria always wants to check out the local antique stores. I'm more than content to seek out the obligatory shoebox of postcards and leaf through them; I rarely find a card that meets my criteria, but like most hobbies, the thrill lies in the chase.

Recently I was in an antique store and must have sifted through a couple of hundred cards. I came across one postcard; it didn't even show a canal, but the junction of the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers in downtown Easton, Pennsylvania. The view featured a dam across the river and the Lehigh Canal was technically just off the left-hand side of the card, out of view. Ahh, what the heck, it was only a buck fifty plus tax.

After we got home, I began entering the details of the card into my postcard index. (Yes, I do that too!) It was only then I began to look more closely at the card. It wasn't a blank postcard, but one that had been purchased and mailed.

For the philatelically-minded genealogists among you, the sender had used a 1¢ green Commemorative Series 1907, Captain John Smith stamp. The postmark read "Easton, Aug 15, 5:30 pm, 1907." This design had been first issued just three months and 22 days earlier.

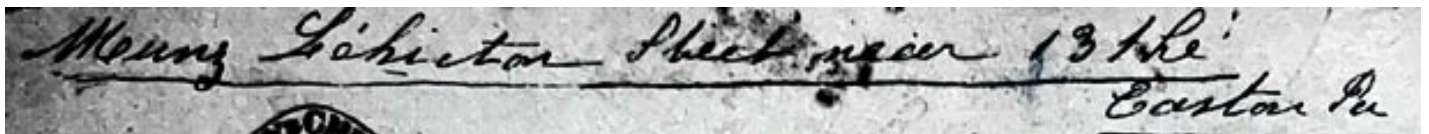
The sender's details read as follows: "Munz Lehicton Street near 13th." The recipient was a "Mademoiselle Davidsohn" at 2012 S. Fourth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Now of course, my genealogical curiosity kicked into high gear. Who were these people?

Because the postcard had been mailed in 1907, I turned to the 1910 US Census for clues. I first looked for Davidsohn in Philadelphia, but drew a blank. I then searched further and found a Davidson family living at 2021 S. Fourth Street. The parents were Leon (born 1857) and Tony [sic] (1858) Davidson, and their daughters: Mollie (1886), Annie (1887), Sophie (1897), and two sons: Myer (1883) and David (1890). As a bonus, Tony's mother, Eva Vacear [sic] was living with the family. Later research showed that Tony was really Tauba and her maiden name was Wackar. If you're wondering, yes the family was Jewish.

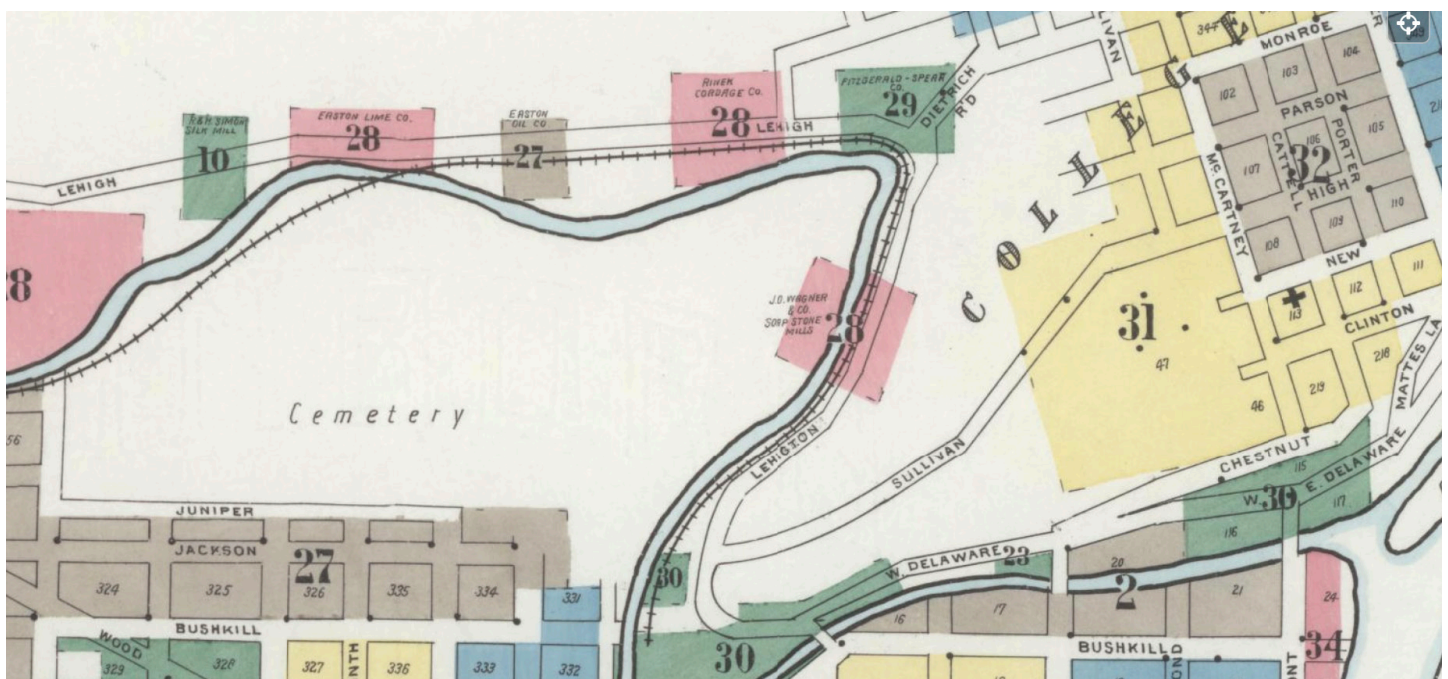
**Looking for the sender was a tad more challenging.**

The 1910 Census for Easton, revealed the parents to be Fred (1876) and Jeanne (1880) Munz, and their two sons: John (1907), Charles (1910). A later daughter, Harriet, was born in 1919. The Ancestry transcribers had read it as Muny, which was close.

Their street address proved challenging to find. Being a former cartographer, I usually like to locate the streets on a map. The enumerator for the 1910 Census had written Lehicton, and I couldn't be sure if Jeanne Munz had written Lehicton or Lihicton as the second letter kind of looked like an "e" though there was a dot over it (technically called a tittle).



It was only after the Easton Sanborn fire insurance maps had been found, courtesy of the Library of Congress, that it was possible to confirm both the spelling and the location. However, by at least 1919 it had been renamed Detrich Road, an extension of the already existing Detrich Road where both streets intersected with Lehigh Street. The name was originally Dietrich Road, but later changed to Detrich Road.



The street name Lehicton can be seen at the lower center of the map extract.

After carrying out some more research I reached out to a Davidson descendant. He wrote back, informing me that "great aunt Molly. My Grandfather's youngest sister. I knew her well."

In my email I had included a scan of both sides of the postcard, but asked if he would like the actual postcard. He told me to keep it as the scan was more than sufficient for his great aunt's ancestry.

Now I need to go search through all my other postcards to see if there is another story waiting to be told.





## Society News

The VOTES are in!  
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Janice Sellers has posted the first of the 2024 Zoom [Programs](#)

Write for *ZichronNote*  
Proofread for *ZichronNote*!  
Write a note to the Editor of *ZichronNote*!  
email Barbara at [ZichronNote@sfbajgs.org](mailto:ZichronNote@sfbajgs.org)

Attend an SFBAJGS Zoom Board Meeting  
next: Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 10:00 am  
for more information  
email Jeremy at [president@sfbajgs.org](mailto:president@sfbajgs.org)

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