

Notes to accompany Schwartz Family History
compiled by Steve Schwartz
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The "tree" I've compiled is not intended to be exhaustive or researched. It is the result of my own knowledge and a recent evening spent discussing the family background with my parents. I have also consulted the more elaborate Genealogy compiled by Gloria Goldstein in May of 1995. My purpose was simply to place the bits of the family I know, met, am aware of, etc. Now for a few historical notes:

On the Schwartz side:

This side has its origins in Russia, from a town, name unknown, near Minsk. The Trachtenbroit (literally Thinking Bread) clan settled on the East coast (all in NY?). Rose arrived circa 1915 by herself, lived in a rented room, and got a job in a millinery plant. She saved enough money to bring her sister Sonja (the next in line) over. And so on down the line. Her brother Mordicai (?) could not get in to the country because he was married with a child, and was a shoychet (meat slaughter) – not recognised as a profession. He ended up in Buenos Aires where his wife, son (Avruham) and daughter still live.

On the Gorden side:

Benjamin Ferdman and Louis Segel (with his daughters Mazie and Pearl) arrived in Warren, PA circa 1913 from the Russian town of Yeshomir (Gloria records the town as Zhitomir, though I understand it is fairly untraceable nowadays. It was somewhere in the vicinity of Kiev.) Abe Feldman arrived sometime later, perhaps after some time spent in NY.

In 1921, a second exodus from the same town included 3 sisters (Rachel, Pearl, and Zlateh Ferdman), Zlateh's husband Leven Goldman with children Avrum and Dvoira, Israel Barris and his wife Hanna Leah (Rachel's cousin). The journey was perilous, sleeping by day and travelling by night to avoid being caught. Hannah Leah paid protection money throughout their traversal of Poland from gold sewn into the hem of her skirt. A fourth sister, Rose Leutman, got as far as Poland and turned back. Also in the group was Eli (a "defector" from the army), who had been Rachel's suitor since childhood. The group travelled through Poland and eventually departed from France for New York. There, the Goldmans and Eli were refused entry as the immigration quota had been reached; they travelled on to Buenos Aires in Argentina. The rest travelled on to Warren to join the others already there. A year later Eli entered the US, while the Goldmans remained in Argentina. In 1923, Eli and Rachel were married.

Key to "Tree":

- I've kept the tree compact by not repeating inherited surnames, which are always in BOLD type.
- Siblings are connected from above; marriages connected from below with a few anniversaries noted.
- It is possible to lay out the 4 pages in a connected sequence, with the Trachtenbroit/Schwartz page to the left, the FERDMAN page to the right, Abe/Vera page bottom centre, and the 4th page with various cousin links top centre. Dashed arrows show the connections.

End of notes.