

**Shimon Schwarzschild**

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### **Abstract**

Shimon Schwarzschild (Zeigburt Schwarzschild), born on December 19, 1925 in Wertheim, Germany, discusses his parents, Rosalie Birk (from Laudenbach, Germany) and Adolph Schwarzschild; his brother Walter, who was two years older (he died 10 years ago). Shimon changed his name to Burt and then back to Shimon. His father was a cattle dealer and his mother a housewife. He often went with his father on the handlebars of his bicycle to other towns to see him buying and selling cattle. Shimon would steal the walls of the ruined castle nearby known as the Small Heidelberg which has been reconstructed into a glass museum. The family was Orthodox. Shimon played with the non-Jewish children in his neighborhood. He saw an anti-Semitic cartoon in the German newspaper. He was jealous of his friends in the Nazi Youth movement. One day the Brown shirts came to obtain their leftover food and insulted his father who pushed them and was jailed for two weeks. This gave the family the impetus to leave. When he was ten, they obtained visas with the help of an aunt in the US and took a ship to NY. Shimon and his brother were immediately put into 4<sup>th</sup> grade in New Jersey. His aunt succeeded in getting out most of their relatives. His mother went to work and his father was unemployed during their early years in the US. Then his father went into partnership painting houses with his brother in NY. The family was considered "Enemy Aliens" until Shimon joined the US Navy at 18 and was sent to the Pacific and his brother joined the Army and was sent to Europe. Shimon became an engineer. The Germans from Dresden fled the Russians and settled in Wertheim. They were in the glass industry and paid for Jews to return to Wertheim so Shimon visited several times. About 12 Jewish families came to the first reunion. Shimon's brother was also invited but it was too emotional for him to attend as he could not forgive the Germans. Shimon's classmates had shunned him and now they sobbed when they heard his experiences which was therapy for Shimon. His birth records were bombed but a friend found them in a Catholic Church. Shimon is writing a biography and reads some of his poems about the Holocaust during the interview. He still feels German and is no longer orthodox. His first wife, Effie, was Polish/Jewish and Naomi is his second wife.