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President's Spiel by Kim Sheintal

Making a Family Tree was the emphasis of a Zoom lecture presented in February for the first of a six-part genealogy series coordinated by Temple Sinai of Sarasota with help by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida members Doug Cohen and me. Most attendees were genealogy newbies. Doug and I hoped to get this group eager to begin their personal family tree. To me, getting enthused is the first step to begin your family tree.

Since that lecture, I know that at least Judy, Amy, and Jeri have gotten the genealogy bug.

Judy emailed me to let me know she was tracing one of the same surnames as me. She eagerly emailed me about this surname with hopes of discovering our family connection.

Amy emailed me with two questions: Do you list the original place or what it is called now on your tree? How do I list a surname change on my tree? Here were my responses to Amy's two questions.

- 1) If possible, enter the name of a place as it existed when the event happened.
- 2) Record the earliest usage of a surname first, followed by all later usages known. For example, write Michael Andrew HAIR/HIERS/HARES

Sources:

https://www.thoughtco.com/properly-record-names-ingenealogy-4083357

https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/article/how-do-i-enter-dates-and-places-into-family-tree

Jeri decided to begin writing her personal research stories. I asked Jeri to write her story for this newsletter. Her story appears in this newsletter.

Updated Surname/Places Coming in June to JGS of SW FL Website

http://www.jgsswf.org/

A big thank you, Leah Cook, for updating the JGS of SW FL "surname/place" spreadsheet. The updates will be posted by June 2022.

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Zoom Program: Sunday, May 15, 2022 (12:45 p.m. Socializing) (1:00 p.m. Program) Help Part 2! I Got My Autosomal DNA Results: What are the Next Steps? By Gil Bardige

For more information or to access the Zoom link: Kim Sheintal: 941-302-1433, klapshein@aol.com

Second Part of Genealogy Series by Gil Bardige

Part 2 on May 15, 2022 will be Help! I Got My Autosomal DNA Results - What are the Next Steps?

This session begins at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. Socializing begins at 12:45 p.m. For more information or to get the Zoom link, contact Kim Sheintal at klapshein@aol.com or 941-302-1433.

At the instruction of his mother, Gil began his genealogy adventure in 1979. For the last 13+ years Gil has expanded his knowledge base to Genetic Genealogy, testing at each of the four major DNA companies and currently manages three Y-DNA projects at Family Tree DNA as a Volunteer Administrator. He loves to help people manage their expectations and begin to remove confusion from the DNA results whether it's, Y-DNA, mtDNA, or Autosomal DNA.

Formerly Known As

Arolsen Archives (formerly International Tracing Service - ITS) is an internationally governed center for documentation, information and research on Nazi persecution, forced labor, and the Holocaust in Nazi Germany and its occupied regions.

JewishGen KehilaLinks (formerly JewishGen ShtetLinks) is a project facilitating web pages commemorating the places where Jews have lived.

JewishGen Research Divisions (formerly JewishGen Special Interest Groups) focus on expanding their collection of records, adding informational content to their new JewishGen Knowledge Base, and encouraging the creation of more KehilaLinks entries for towns which once had a Jewish community.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida 2022 Membership Dues

Single Membership: \$25/year ~ Family Membership: \$30/year Sustaining Membership: \$50/year for Single or Family

Mail check (payable to JGS of SW FL) with your name, e-mail, phone, address and surnames/places you are researching to: Liz Klaber ~ 5389 Manchini Street ~ Sarasota, Florida 34238

Welcome New Members

Dr. Richard and Betty Greenspan, Robert Miles, Tami Salz, Eric Wolfgang

Jewish Genealogy Conference

42nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy takes place virtually August 21 thru August 25, 2022. https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2022/index.cfm

Stein-Finegold Family Story

by Jeri Lippv

I'm researching several families, but my mother's parents both leave puzzles. Her parents were Sam and Anna Stein. They had a Mom-and-Pop grocery store in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. How Sam's family adopted the surname Stein is unknown. All that I have been told by family follows.

Our Stein line begins with Bensyan (Bensy) Nosacz, who was born in the town of Sekilya (may also be Sekola or Sokny) Wolhynien in the Ukraine in about 1869. His parents were Moshe Nosacz and Bunie. Ben made a living buying and selling junk. Family lore has it that their grandparents had a nice orchard, but Ben was so poor, he didn't even have a horse.



Ben and Sarah Stein

He met and married Sosche/Sarah Reitenberg who was born in Sokola, Russia in 1872. These towns are not far from one another but the similarity of their names is unusual. Together, they had 7 children, 5 of which were girls - Channah, Anna, Beila (Bella), Eva, Shmuel (Sam), Abram (Abe) and Yenta (Yetta).

They were so poor they couldn't afford \$500 dowries for each daughter. Sam helped his father in the business but it was tough. His ears were frostbitten from being out in the cold weather. After hearing stories from landslite who moved to the US, they decided to emigrate.

Bensyan was 5'4" tall with black eyes and he was bald. His immigration papers say he was 40 years old and a merchant when he came to the US. He sailed from Bremen Germany to Baltimore Maryland aboard the S.S. Hanover and arrived June 24, 1909. He changed his last name to Stein after arriving in the US. Then, he went to Pittsburgh where people from his village had previously settled.

Sarah followed him in 1912. She was then 40 years old and 5'2" with black hair and brown eyes. She also sailed from Bremen Germany to Baltimore on the S.S.Neckar, arriving on May 31, 1912. She arrived with Bella (16), Sam (14), Abe (8), and Yetta (4). They went to live at 14 Davenport Street. Their eldest daughter, Channah, remained behind and came to the US later. She married Baruch Steinman.

Sarah died in 1933 from diabetes, which was before insulin was used to treat it. Ben died in 1943. They are both buried in Beth Abraham Cemetery in Pittsburgh.

While in Pittsburgh, Ben was in the wholesale meat business.



Sam Stein

Teenaged Sam (Schmelik?) moved to Napoleon Ohio, where he worked with relatives in the junk business. He apparently was doing well when his family wrote and begged him to return to Pittsburgh.



Stein Sisters

Sam's family arranged for him to meet Anna Finegold, who was living with her Aunt Cima. They worked at a stogie (cigar) factory. One of their coworkers happened to be Eva Stein (Sam's sister) and she introduced them to one another. Anna was beautiful, had no family in need of support, and would "appreciate a good match." So Sam married Anna upon the advice of his family. WWI was coming and they were afraid Sam would be inducted into the army.



Anna and Sam Stein

Sam and Anna had a grocery store. Abe (Sam's brother) joined the business and it was successful. Then they opened a grocery store together on Forbes Avenue in Squirrel Hill. Eventually they had 3 big stores and they employed 2 drivers and trucks to make all of the deliveries.

Unfortunately, bad luck struck. Sam ran over a neighborhood child accidentally and decapitated it. They had to hastily close the store and move because they feared reprisals (anti-semitic?) An A&P took over that location. Then the Depression hit and they were bankrupt. Abe left to work for a chain supermarket, and Sam opened a new, very small store in Carrick (Pittsburgh neighborhood) in January 1934.



Sam Stein in his store

Abe eventually found another job. Then he met Sarah Mendelson, from Bellaire, Ohio, while they both attended a social function in Pittsburgh. They married and moved to Ohio, where he worked at the enamel works before going into produce. Finally, he ran Berman's Shoes, which he inherited.

Sam and Anna's family grew when Lillian was born in 1921 and Mervin (Motel) followed in 1925. Until 1934, Anna had been able to care for her children full time. But the store did poorly and she was required to help out in the store. They had to stay open 7 days a week to make a living. Eventually, they returned to Bryant Street in East Liberty, across the street from their previous store. It was a brick building with 2 stories, so they lived above the store. They stayed at that location until the 1960s. Sam had ulcers and then he had a serious heart attack and died in 1965. After his death Anna tried to run the store herself but she eventually sold it and moved to Silver Spring, Maryland, where her children were living. She died in 1983 from diabetes. Sam went to the Russian/Polish synagogue in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. Both Sam and Anna are buried in Beth Abraham Cemetery.

The Second Puzzle

The second puzzle has to do with Anna's family. Anna was born in Russia in 1898 or 1899 during Purim in Nikolayev (a town near Odessa). Unfortunately, in those days many women died in childbirth and that happened to Anne's mother, Leah. She was just a child herself when she died. We have a Russian passport photo of Leah and Israel, her husband, so it had to be taken before 1898 when Anne was born.



Israel Finegold and Leah

I can't imagine the trauma for Israel who would have been only 21. After a while, Israel did what many widowers did - he remarried. His second wife was Sarah Slutsky from Nicolai. Israel was from Tuchin. We have no records yet of his first wife's maiden name, nor of Israel's true last name.

We don't know what motivated Israel to leave his country and travel to the US. The situation in Russia was tense – there were pogroms and there was a cholera epidemic in Odessa. This was all before the Russian revolution. Family lore always said that they came to America to find gold. Other members of the family came to America also – Israel's brothers and sisters – Julius, another brother, Cima and Bella. There's another relative Hunsey we are researching – he was Israel's first cousin. Between immigrants who knew little English and census takers, spelling was often done by sound. So the family head is reported in the 1910 census in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to have arrived in the US in 1901, and "Israel Faingold" was 33 and Anna was 3 and their daughter was 1. We believe they arrived via Baltimore port and went to Wheeling West Virginia to live. Israel and Sarah had 7 children, of which 6 survived (per the 1910 census). Also according to that census record, Anna could read and write English and her father was a store keeper of a delicatessen. Her half siblings listed were Esther (10), Jack (7), Morris/Maurice (4), Wilis (2) and Mamie (1). The 1930 census shows two more children – Henry/Harry and William. Immigrants often change their names to fit in or distinguish themselves from relatives. So I've indicated when names varied.

Another record I found is Israel's draft card for World War I (1917-1918). He registered in Wheeling West Virginia. In the card, Israel is now listed as "Feingold", living at 1036 Chapline St. He stated he was born January 20, 1875. His occupation is listed as produce, self-employed.

Anna told us that she was treated like a step child. So she left home early to live with her Aunt Cima in Wheeling, where they both worked in the Marsh-Wheeling stogie (cigar) factory there. They were very poor and shared a single room, using a sheet as a room divider between Cima and Anne and Cima's sons. It was so close Anne was surprised the boys never tried to touch her. The room didn't even have a closet and they had few clothes. At some point, there was reportedly a custody battle over Anne. Her mother's brother (who owned a jewelry store) tried to gain custody but the judge ruled in favor of Israel maintaining custody. This wasn't the last time, Anne tried to find or live with her mother's family. As a teenager, Anne had another tragedy - a young love was killed in WWI. Her life continued to be difficult. Then Eva, a Stein relative who worked with Anne at stogie factory knew a young man, Samuel Stein, who was looking for a wife. In those days, it was actually the family that tried to make a "match." Sam's family called him back to Pittsburgh from Ohio where he had been working. They told him of this beautiful girl who would be grateful for a match and her family was not going to need to be supported by him. So they married on August 11, 1918 and she joined him in the grocery store business. Originally they lived with Mima (Aunt) Channah Stein but there were conflicts. Anne didn't keep kosher. She didn't get along with Sam's family very well, and his parents stopped speaking to Anne because she played the numbers, a form of betting that was illegal

Anne gave birth to my mother, Lillian Jean Stein on August 12, 1921, when Anna would have been 23. She finally felt free of her family and hoped to reconnect with Leah's family by posting an ad in the newspaper about the birth of Lillian. She hoped they would see it and contact her. But that didn't work, no one responded. It hurt her deeply. She gave birth to Mervin Stein in 1925.

My Mother told me that it was not an easy childhood. But she had her friends in school and had a lovely voice, so she was in school musicals and plays. She studied for her RN at Montefiore hospital. Lillian left around 1940 to join the Army Nursing Corps, where she was sent to London during the war. I remember her telling me she sailed on the Queen Mary. In the army, she met and married Dale Davis and moved to Dallas Texas after the war where they lived for many years. In 1956, they were divorced and she arrived in Pittsburgh with her 3 children, moving back with her parents while she tried to get back on her feet.

In the meantime, Israel Finegold died in 1936. His tombstone in Beth Abraham, the Stein family cemetery, doesn't list his wife or children. Mervin left to go to college and eventually moved to Washington DC where he worked at the US Patent Office.

Mervin was handsome and bright—having degrees in both engineering and law. Unfortunately he ended up a broken man. So we ended up moving to Silver Spring Maryland where Uncle Mervin lived with us. Eventually, Sam died in 1965 of a heart attack. It wasn't long before Anne moved in with Mom and Unk also.

"Anna" died in March 6, 1982. Her tombstone in Beth Abraham Cemetery in Pittsburgh shows her birthdate as March 15, 1900 rather than 1989 or 99. Grandma remains an enigma for me – she was cold but she was so vulnerable.

Lillian died in 1972 when she was 51 and Mervin in 2002 when he was 77. They are both buried in Beth Abraham with their parents, aunts and uncles, and great grandparents.

Some of the related Finegolds had interesting lives too. One became the physician for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Cima Finegold was married to a man named Chernoff and they had three children – Nathan, Morris and Tillie. Nathan died. Morris married and was an attorney in Pittsburgh and had a son Mark and a daughter. Tillie married a man named Nadler and they lived on Beacon Street in Pittsburgh. She had a daughter Annette Patricia Nadler. She later remarried in Florida. Apparently they all did well from the photos I've been left with. Nathan owned a jewelry store in Wheeling West Virginia.

Bella Finegold was wordly and had expensive taste. She married a man named Nathan Finegold, I believe. They had Jacob, Wendell, Morris and Meyer. She helped him with his business. She even owned an automobile! I don't know anything about Jacob. But Wendell had a scrap iron business in Canton Ohio for while (per the Ohio News Network – list universities). He moved to Los Angeles and started a business there in the 1930s. I don't know anything about Morris other than he married Bess and had a son.

Meyer Finegold married Evelyn Schugar. He had a jewelry store at 10th and D Streets, NW Washington, DC. He had worked for the FBI and then worked for George's TV and Repair. I don't know in what order he held these jobs. Their children include Joanne who moved to Huntington Beach California.

So I'm left with two major questions.

1) What was Sam's original surname?

2) What was Leah's original surname? And was Finegold the original surname for Israel?

Wonderful World of Websites

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