

Descendants of Linka-Lea and Ruben-Chaim Grünstein
Courtesy of Erica Goldenberg, USA



Ruben-Chaim Grünstein



Linka-Lea Braun

Memories:

Memories by Rose-Tzipora Rooz

My Father Jozsef-Itchak-Jehoshua Grünstein was born in Szöllös in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Szöllös belonged to the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918. In 1919 it became part of Czechoslovakia, and remained so until 1938, when the Germans invaded and gave it to Hungary. Since 1945, it belonged to the Soviet Union and since 1991, to the Ukraine.

My mother Regina-Rivka Grózinger was born in Méhtelek, which was also a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1918 and has been a part of Hungary since.

In 1918 my parents got married and lived in Méhtelek. In 1930 we moved to Zsarolyán (Hungary) where my parents owned a pub. In 1939, my parents moved to Szöllös.

In April 1944 we were placed in a Ghetto in Szöllös and in June 1944 we were transported to Auschwitz. Only my brother and I survived the Second World War.

In 1946, I got married in Satu-Mare in Rumania to Emil-Naftaly-Tzvi Rooz (who was born on 31.10.1922). My children Joe and Debbie-Rivka were born on 17 May 1948 and on 10 October 1966.

In 1960 we came to live in Sydney. My son Joe, married Deanne Greenberg (born on 9.6.1958) in Sydney and they had 2 children (my grandchildren) Jordana (24.5.1985) and Jeremy (6.12.1987).



Picture:

This photo was taken in 1943.

Pictured from left to right:

My sister, Ilana-Hava (1920-1944);

My mother, Regina-Rivka Grózinger (1898-1944);

My sister, Elizabeth-Ester (1928-1945);

Me, Rose-Tzipora (1926-).



Picture:

This photo was taken in 1943.

Pictured from left to right:

My sister, Ilana-Hava (1920-1944);

My mother, Regina-Rivka Grózinger (1898-1944);

My father, Jozsef-Itschak-Jehoshua Grünstein
(1892-1944).



Picture:

This photo was taken in 1946.

Pictured from left to right:

Me, Rose-Tzipora (1926-);

My brother, Jenö-John (1924-).



Picture:

This photo was taken in 1946.

Pictured from left to right:

Me, Rose-Tzipora (1926-);

My husband, Emil-Naftaly-Tzvi Roosz (1922-).

Memories by Jenő-John-Jonah-Benjamin Grünstein

I was born on 15.8.1924 in Méhtelek, Hungary. A few months after I was born, my older brother Sandor-Srul died from meningitis. In 1930 we moved to Zsarolyán (Hungary). During the years 1930 and 1936, I had my primary education. I went to a Jewish school in a place called Fehérgyarmat, which was 8 kilometers away from Zsarolyán



Picture from 1941: John



Picture from 1941:

My eldest sister Ilana-Hava
(1920-1944).

She went to Auschwitz with her
husband, Lipot Lichtbraun, and
her baby daughter, Judith, and
never returned.

In April 1944 when we were in the Ghetto, I was taken to a labor camp in Zircz. We were treated well in the labor camp. We built an eight kilometer long railway line which lead to a mine. On 15.8.1944 the railway line was damaged by heavy rain and storm and in September 1944, we were moved to Budapest. I escaped from this labor camp and lived with a false identity as a non-Jew in Budapest (by the name Lajos Lévy). For a period of time, I was also hidden in the Swiss embassy (Swiss House). On 16.1.1945 we were liberated by the Russians.

My friend Icu Grünstein (not a relative) and I, decided to go to Palestine. In April 1945 we went to Satu-Mare in Rumania to take the train to Bucharest. Firstly, we needed to get injections against typhoid, however the serum was not available, and we had to wait two weeks for new serum. While we waited, the first Jewish marriage since the war took place in Satu-Mare. While attending this wedding, I met my mother's second cousin, Jozsef Kain, who advised me not to leave the country and to find out what happened to my family. I followed his advice and returned to my parent's town Méhteleg in Hungary.

Shortly after my return to Méhteleg, I met my future wife. We met through her brother, Imré Klein, who was my third cousin. He showed me her photo and I fell in love instantly. I asked him to let me know when she would be returning from Sweden (where she was recovering from her ordeal at the camps). She returned in May 1946, and I waited for her in her brother's place in Tarpa. On 12.1.1947 I married Barbara-Bracha Klein (born on 2.10.1925) in Méhteleg, Hungary.



John and Barbara (Bory) - 1979

On 17.3.1948, our first son Gary was born. We lived in Méhteleg, and in December 1948 we went to Austria to wait for the travel documents for Australia. These were arranged by Barbara's cousin who lived in Australia. We arrived in Austria in January 1949 and in Australia in August 1949.

We have 2 children. Gary (born in Hungary on 17.3.1948) and Ron (born in Australia on 15.3.1957).

In 1978 Gary married Mira, who was born on 13.6.1955. They have 2 children: Adam (25.2.1982) and Jonathan (4.6.1985). Ron married Rose in 1992. Rose was born on 16.7.62. They have 4 children: Tahli (22.11.1984), Liora (4.8.1986), Daniel (4.4.1993) and Joel (21.9.1995).

Memories by Eugen-Masha Grünstein

I was born on 10.6.1930 in Velky Sevlush in Czechoslovakia.

When the war started I happened to be in Budapest. Since 1942 I lived there with my aunt and uncle. On 10.10.1944, at the age of 14, I was taken from Budapest, to the concentration camp Mauthausen in Germany. On 15.5.1945, we were liberated by the Americans. I went back to Czechoslovakia.

In 1949 my sister Iren and I, came together to Australia.

I got married and had 3 children: Anthony (21.11.1969), Aaron (15.1.1973) and Andrew (8.8.1979).

Today, I work together with my children in our family business.



Eugen (10.6.1930) in the year 1950

Memories by Hershel-Zoltan-Tzvi (Jimmy) Grünstein

I was born on 9.7.1926 in Velky Sevlush, Czechoslovakia. My parents were Martin-Mordechai Grünstein (1894-1944) and Gitel-Lea Kreisman (1902-1944). They had 10 children before the war, 3 boys and 7 girls.



Gitel-Lea with 4 of her 10 children:

From left to right: Iren (1923), Eugen (1930), Miriam (1935) and Jimmy (1926)

I had a very happy childhood until April 1944. At that time, when I was 18, the Germans invaded my town and we were taken to the Ghetto. We were taken as a whole family except for Eugen, who happened to be in Budapest. My parents and their 9 children shared 2 rooms with other families in the Ghetto.

In May 1944 we were transported by train to Auschwitz (a death camp). In the selection by Dr. Mengale, my father, Iren and I were chosen to work (we were directed to the right). My mother and the other 7 children were selected to go to the left. Directly after the selection, I was separated from my whole family.

I spent 2 weeks in Auschwitz and was then transported to München (a transition camp). From München, 40,000 of us were transported by train to Lodge (Poland). At each stop, dead bodies were thrown out of the train.

From Lodge we walked to Warsaw Ghetto. We entered the Ghetto in May 1944. Until the end of 1943, Warsaw was used for housing Polish Jews. Then it was emptied until we arrived. We were given the task of cleaning up the Ghetto. It was full of dead bodies and huge rats (the size of a cat or a dog) that lived from eating the dead bodies. I remember a sad moment, when one morning we saw a father sleeping in bed with his 2 sons (who slept with him each night to keep him warm), and the rats were eating his feet. The sons did not realize that he had died during the night.

I stayed in the Ghetto for 10 months until February 1945. At this stage, 10% of the original 40,000 people were alive. From the Ghetto, we were taken back to a place called Alach (in Germany, near München). There, on 11.5.1945, we were liberated by the Americans.

I cannot remember anything about this day. I was almost dead and was thrown into a truck with dead bodies. It seems that someone heard noises and took me out of the truck. I was taken to a hospital. I weighed 29 kilos. We returned to Prague, Czechoslovakia. I met Eugen. He told me Iren was alive. I heard that she was in different female camps after Auschwitz, but had survived. She lived in a different city in Czechoslovakia.

In 1946 I decided to go to Palestine-Israel. I lived there from 1946 to 1950, in Kibbutz Tel-Amal and worked in fishery. Life was very strenuous physically and I was not in the best shape, so in 1950 when Eugen arranged the travel documents for Australia, I immigrated to Australia.



Iren (1923) and Eugen (10.6.1930) – my brother and sister – in the year 1950.

In 1954 I married Lea (Lily) Adler (born in 1926). We had a son, Martin (born on 24.3.1958). Lea died in 1991 after enduring a long illness.

In 1988 my son Martin married Suzy (born on 6.2.1963), and they have two children, my grandchildren: Rachel (born on 11.6.1994) and David (born on 25.1.1997).

In 1991 I married Eva Farkash (my current wife – birth date 8.7.1924).