

Will the Real Benjamin Pincus Stand Up?

The Story of the Pincus Family from Mlynov



v.11

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From the desk of Mlynov descendant

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A note about the researcher/author:
Howard I. Schwartz, PhD, is descended from
the Demb and Gruber families in Mlynov.

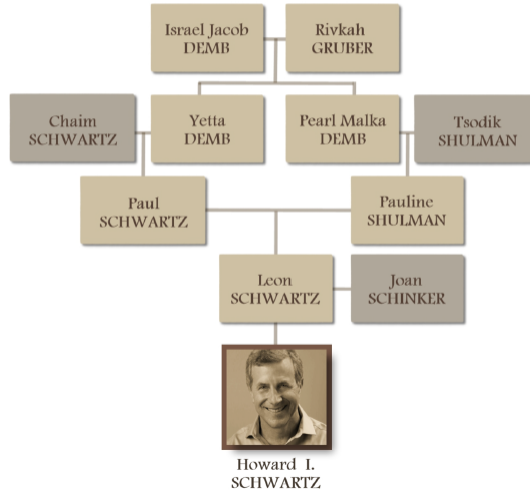
HOWARD SCHWARTZ'S PATERNAL ANCESTRY

Howard's great-great grandparents were Israel Jacob Demb and Rivkah Gruber.

Two of their daughters were Yetta and Pearl Malka Demb. Sister Yetta married Chaim Schwartz and Sister Pearl Malka married Tsodik Shulman.

The son of Yetta and Chaim, Paul Schwartz, married his first cousin, the daughter of Pearl Malka and Tsodik Shulman, Pauline Shulman.

Paul and Pauline, both born in Mlynov, were Howard's paternal grandparents. They were the parents of Leon Schwartz, Howard's father.



After Howard's parents, Joan and Leon Schwartz, passed away, Howard began researching his family roots, an effort which almost naturally expanded into an interest in the story of his ancestors' hometown Mlynov. As was the case in his own family, he discovered that interfamilial marriages were common among many of the families in the small town of Mlynov.

Howard has been publishing the results of his research on a website about Mlynov. This website tells the story of what became of Mlynov and the families that once lived there.

<https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/>

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Background

I first bumped into the Pincus name associated with the towns of Mlynov and Mervits when I was tracking the migration of my great-uncle's brother to America. His name in the US became Frank Settleman, and he came to the US via Buenos Aires in December 1923. Frank was one of several young men from Mlynov and Mervits who went to Buenos Aires in order to get into the US when immigration quotas had tightened.¹

Frank Settelman actually came to the US using his brother Pesach Settleman's name because Pesach had himself arrived under a different assumed name.² Frank's manifest indicates he was born in "Moravitza" (an anglicized spelling of the town Muravica also called Mervits in Hebrew). Mervits, which was just a mile up the road from Mlynov at the time, doesn't exist as an independent entity on maps today and was subsumed into the town of Mlynov. The economies and the families of the two towns were so intimately interwoven that there is a single memorial book for both towns.

Frank indicated on his manifest that he was headed to an "uncle B. Pincus" in Philadelphia. When I asked Frank's son (Irv Settleman) who "B. Pincus" was, he indicated vaguely that he was some sort of relative but didn't know the exact the relationship. At the time I couldn't find anything else relevant about the Pincus family and didn't think much more about it.

The name Pincus popped up again only recently as I was digitizing some documents that I had received from the archive of one of my father's first cousins whose parents were born in Mlynov and who settled in Baltimore. One of the documents was a list of people in the US who made donations to a Mlynov and Mervits commemorative plaque in Israel in 1955. People in the US who were born in Mlynov and Mervits contributed to the memory of their town. In the list of donors was the name "Ely Pincus" who gave \$20.00 and a woman named, Sadie Wolinsky, who donated \$25.00. Sadie Wolinsky turned out to be the sister of Ely Pincus. Frank Settleman was also listed and gave \$20.00. These amounts were fairly standard level donations among the contributors.³

"There is the Pincus name again," I thought to myself when I saw the record. "And who is Sadie Wolinsky and what was her relationship to Mlynov and Mervits?" It took me a bit of time to uncover the answer to these questions. But it turned out that the Pincus family, at least part of it, was from Mlynov and were relatives of the Settleman family that was also from there.

¹ See the discussion of the [Mlynov boys in Buenos Aires](#) on the Mlynov website.

² Frank's brother, Pesach (or Paysie) Settleman, was married to one of my grandmother's sisters, Sarah Shulman. Pesach entered the US with the Shulman family surname and used the first name of one of their sons. He retained the Shulman name when he Sarah Shulman and was known as Paysie or Paul Shulman. Because Pesach entered the US using one of the Shulman sons' names, his brother Frank was able to use Pesach's name. According to Frank's son, Frank had tried to get into the US using his own name earlier and been denied so he couldn't use his own name for this purpose. For a discussion see Howard I. Schwartz, *The Demb Family Story from Mlynov to Baltimore*.

³ A copy of this [record can be downloaded](#) from the Mlynov website.

The Pincus Family from Mlynov / Mervits

Ely (or Eli) Pincus turned out to be the Americanized name of Chaim Yitzhak Pincus also known as Israel H. Pincus who lived in Philadelphia. His original surname was **Pinchosowicz** (among other spelling variations in English). According to records, Eli was born on September 8, 1907, in Mlynov, Russia (now Mlyniv, Ukraine). Sadie Wolinky, who was listed as a donor as well, turned out to be his older sister. She was born in 1898, probably also in Mlynov or Mervits, though the documentary record is fragmentary, as we shall see.

Eli (Chaim) and Sadie arrived in the US on February 13, 1912, along with their mother, Yenta (spelled “Jante” in the record) and four other siblings. On their manifest, Yenta is listed as 36 years old, Eli (called Chaim) is listed as four years old and the youngest. Sadie (called Zelde in the record) is listed as age 11. The other siblings listed were Leib (Louis) age 16, Gele (Jennie) age 15, Joseph age 9 and Czarne (Celia) age 8. They left Rotterdam on the SS Volturno on January 25, 1912, and arrived in New York on February 13, 1912.

The last residence of the family is listed as “Mlynov,” and their closest relative still back there was Yenta’s father, Manus Zutelman. On the first page of the manifest in the right-hand columns, their destination is listed as Philadelphia, PA. On the second page of the manifest (lines 10-14), their destination is Yenta’s husband (and the children’s father) “B. Pinchosowicz” who was living in Philadelphia at 336 Manton Street. The address is nearly illegible but is consistent with other records, as we shall see. To the far-right columns of page 2, the birthplace of both Yenta and the children is listed as Mlynov. We shall see some inconsistency in the identification of their birthplace in other records, but there is good reason to think Yenta and some, if not all of the children, were born in Mlynov or the nearby town of Mervits (Muravica).

Form 200-12
Manifest of Alien Passengers
Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

S.S. *Volturno* sailing from *Rotterdam* 25-1-1912, 190

Figure 1 Yenta Pinchosowicz and children departed Rotterdam on the SS Volturno on Jan. 25, 1912

10	<i>Pinchosowicz</i>	<i>Jante</i>	36	✓	<i>Polish</i>	<i>7/1/1907</i>				
11	—	<i>Leib</i>	16	✓	<i>Polish</i>	<i>2-28-1895</i>				
12	—	<i>Gele</i>	15	✓	<i>Polish</i>	<i>9-5-1896</i>				
13	—	<i>Zelde</i>	11	✓	<i>Polish</i>	<i>1-1-1901</i>				
14	—	<i>Joseph</i>	9	✓	<i>Polish</i>					
15	—	<i>Czarne</i>	8	✓	<i>Polish</i>					
16	—	<i>Chaim</i>	4	✓	<i>Polish</i>					

Mlynov *Father, Manus Zutelman*
Mlynov, Russia

Figure 2 “Jante” Pinchosowicz and six children on manifest, last residence was Mlynov

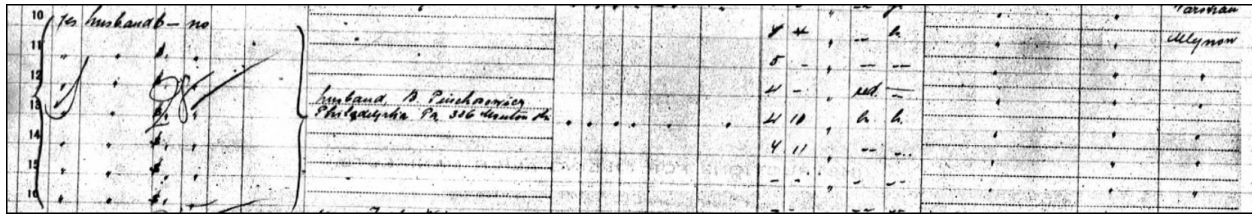


Figure 3 Page 2 of the manifest headed to husband B Pinchosowicz at 336 Manton Street in Philadelphia. Birthplace in far right is Mlynov.

Yenta Zutelman From Mlynov

Not much is known about Yenta Pincus before she arrived in America with her children. She was born Yenta Zutelman in 1872 in Mlynov or Mervits, daughter of a man named Manus Zuterman, as her tombstone and manifest make evident. Yenta had at least one brother we know about. His name was Abraham Yosef Zutelman.⁴ He was the father of Yenta's two nephews mentioned earlier (Frank Zutelman and Paul Shulman [née Pesach Zutelman] who were born in Mervits before coming to the US in the 1920s. More about this family is documented on the Mlynov-Mervits website.⁵

Yenta married her husband Berel or Berka Pinchosowitch sometime before 1896 when their oldest son, Louis (Leib) was born. She was about 22 years old at the time. Berel's later naturalization records indicate he was born in Dubna (Dubno) Poland which was not far from Mlynov and Mervits. Dubno was in Poland in 1923 when Benjamin filled out his Petition. However, when he was born in 1870, it was still part of the Russian Pale of Settlement in the district of Wolhynia (or Volyn).

Dubno was about 23 km (about 13 miles) by road south and slightly west of Mlynov and Mervits, and was the nearest large town in close vicinity of those towns. From other histories of Mlynov families, we know that in the early 1900s women from Mlynov would travel to Dubno to buy nice things like marzipan for the Jewish festivals.⁶ It is no surprise, then, that a man from Dubno would marry a woman from Mlynov (or Mervits), perhaps one he met through a matchmaker or during the market days twice a week in Mlynov.

According to Berel's naturalization petition, Louis was followed in the birth order by Jennie (Gele) (April 3, 1898), Sadie (April 12, 1900), Joseph (Dec. 26, 1902), Celia (Dec. 7, 1904), and Israel (Chaim Yitzhak) (Sept. 8, 1907).⁷ The Petition says only that the children were born in Russia and provides no further help in determining if they were born in Dubno or in Mlynov/Mervits. From US records, it seems more probable that the family settled in Mlynov at least for a while.

⁴ "Abraham Yosef" appears as the father's name on Pesach's tombstone.

⁵ Additional information about the Zutelman/Settleman family from Mervits is available in several essays and in the martyr list in The Mlynov-Muravica Memorial book. See also <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/index.html>.

⁶ See the memoir of Clara Fram, *This is My Story*, who was born in Mlynov.

⁷ Some online trees in Ancestry include another child named Hannah or Annie (married name Kassen), but she is not listed as one of his children on Benjamin's Petition nor in the later obituaries of any of his children and there is no documentary evidence that she was a child of Benjamin and Yenta, a point discussed below.

First, there is the manifest of Yenta and the children (discussed above) which lists Mlynov as their last residence and place of birth. Second, Jennie (whose married name became Jennie Levin in 1916 when she married) listed Mlynov as her birthplace in her Declaration of Intention and Naturalization Petition which she filled out in 1931 (see records below).⁸ Third, the brother Joseph Pincus wrote “Melinoff” (Mlynov) as his birthplace in his WWII draft registration. Fourth, “Mylinow,” Poland was also listed as the birthplace of Israel H. Pincus (i.e., Chaim Yitzhak) on an application for WWII compensation as an honorably discharged veteran. Finally, we have the indirect evidence of Berel and Yenta’s children, Eli Pincus (Israel H. Pincus) and Sadie (married name Wolinsky) both donating to the Mlynov-Mervits memorial plaque in 1955. These records all suggest that the Pinchosowitch children were born in Mlynov, though their father Berel was from Dubno. As discussed below, there are a few records that are not consistent with the identification of Mlynov as the children’s birthplace, though there might be reasons for these inconsistencies.

Benjamin’s Petition states that all the children were still living with him in 1923 when he filled out the record. We shall see that he was oversimplifying the family situation a bit since three of his children had married by this time and at least two were out of the house. As discussed below, it is possible he may have been covering up a painful family situation as well. One of the signatures on his Petition belongs to his son-in-law, Morris Wolinky (Sadie’s husband) who was a suitcase maker originally from Kiev.

⁸ Jennie had to secure her own citizenship (unlike some of her younger siblings) because she was no longer a minor when her father became a citizen in 1923 and she could not be grandfathered into his naturalization status when he became a citizen.

[illegible]

Figure 5 Witness Signatures on Benjamin Pincus's Petition including M. Wolinsky

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921) 11105

SERIAL NUMBER 888 1. NAME (Print) JOSEPH PINCUS ORDER NUMBER T 11,105

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 2411 So. MARSHALL PHILA Penna (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)

[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS SAME (Mailing address (if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same))

4. TELEPHONE EVL 8382 5. AGE IN YEARS 39 6. PLACE OF BIRTH MELINOFF (Town or county) (State or country)

DATE OF BIRTH DEC 14 1902 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.) RUSSIA

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS MRS. LILLIAN G. PINCUS

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS OWN BUSINESS - 1218 SHACKAMAXON ST. PHILA PENNA (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42) ☆ GPO 16-21630-1 Joseph Pincus (Registrant's signature)

Figure 6 Joseph Pincus WWII Draft Registration Card showing “Melinoff, Russia” as birthplace

Set / 12 Color Comp. Print. Reg. 4-1-35

TRIPLICATE (It is given to the person making the Declaration)

Form 2000-E U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR NATURALIZATION SERVICE No. 2770 122614

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

State of Pennsylvania, ss: In the District Court of the United States

Eastern District of Pennsylvania, ss: Maiden name

I, JENNIE LEVIN (GELLA PINCUS), aged 32 years, occupation housewife, do declare on oath that my personal description is: Color white, complexion light, height 5 feet 3 inches, weight 140 pounds, color of hair red, color of eyes blue, other visible distinctive marks none

I was born in Mlynov Russia on the 20th day of March, anno Domini 1897 I now reside at 526 South 17th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. (Give number and street.)

I emigrated to the United States of America from Rotterdam Holland

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU OF NATURALIZATION No. 3 56588

CERTIFICATE OF ARRIVAL

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the immigration records show that the alien named below arrived at the port, on the date, and in the manner shown, and was lawfully admitted to the United States of America for permanent residence.

Port of entry: New York, NY
Name: Pinchosovics, Gella
Date: February 12, 1912
Manner of arrival: SS Volturno

I FURTHER CERTIFY that this certificate of arrival is issued under authority of, and in conformity with, the provisions of the Act of June 29, 1906, as amended, solely for the use of the alien herein named and only for naturalization purposes.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, this Certificate of Arrival is issued

May 5, 1933

By DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF LABOR.

Raymond F. Crist Commissioner of Naturalization.

Clerk of the District Court of the United States.
By M. H. Fitch, Deputy Clerk.

Form 1600 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR NATURALIZATION SERVICE 16-5072

Figure 7 Jennie Levine's Declaration showing her birthplace as Mlynov, Russia

The Arrival of Benjamin Pincus in Philadelphia

As was often the case in immigrant families, Berel Pinkosowitz left for America before the rest of the family with the goal of settling in and then sending for his family when he could afford to do so and life was stable. According to his Petition, he left Rotterdam on November 1, 1907, on the SS Potsdam.

A manifest of the SS Postdam leaving Rotterdam on November 2 indeed lists a Berel Pinkosowitz, age 40, a barber, whose last residence was Dubna. He arrived in New York on November 12th. He is described as 5' 2 1/2" with brown hair and brown eyes. His closest relative back home was "Yenta Pinkosowitz" who was in Dubna, Wolh [the district of Wolhynia / Volyn]. It appears that Berel left shortly after Yenta gave birth to their youngest son, Chaim Yitzhak since he was born in September 1907 according to Benjamin's later petition.

The fact that Yenta was listed in Dubna rather than Mlynov on Berel's manifest in 1907 suggests that the family may have moved there before Berel left, even though several of the children were born in Mlynov according to their records.

According to Berel's manifest, his destination was Philadelphia and as evident on the second page of the manifest, he was headed to a brother M. [Max] Pinchasowicz at 336 Manton Street.



Form 500-B
Department of Commerce and Labor
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

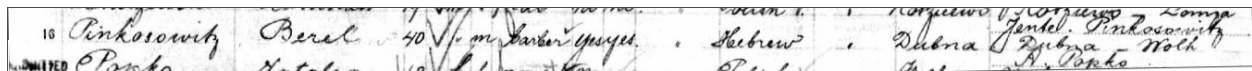
SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered

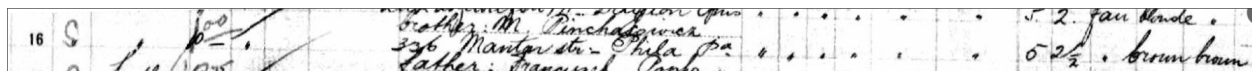
S. S. *Potsdam* sailing from *Rotterdam* *November 2nd, 1907*

Figure 8 Manifest masthead of SS Potsdam sailing from Rotterdam



16	<i>Pinkosowitz, Berel</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>Barber</i>	<i>Hebrew</i>	<i>Dubna</i>	<i>Yenta Pinkosowitz</i>	<i>Dubna</i>
	<i>Yenta Pinkosowitz</i>						

Figure 9 Manifest listing for Berel Pinkosowitz age 40 barber from Dubna, closest relative Yenta Pinkosowitz in Dubna



16	<i>brother M. Pinchasowicz</i>	<i>336 Manton str. Phila Pa</i>	<i>5' 2 1/2</i>	<i>brun hair</i>
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Figure 10 Page two of manifest showing his destination "brother M Pinchasowicz 336 Manton str"

Berel's destination address of 336 Manton Street is significant. It confirms this is our Berel Pinchosowitch, the husband of Yenta Zutelman. When she and the children arrived five years later, their manifest indicates they were headed to Yenta's husband (and the children's father) at that very address. The upshot appears to be that Berel Pinchosowitch was living at 336 Manton from the time he arrived in 1907 to at least 1912 when his wife and children arrived, and perhaps longer.

Brother Max Pinchasowitch

Berel's brother, Max (also called Motel) Pinchasowitch, was already living at 336 Manton Street with his family when Berel followed him there. Max was Berel's younger brother, born in Dubna in 1875 according to his Petition from 1911, which shows him still living at 336 Manton Street. Max's Petition indicates he arrived in Philadelphia on June 8, 1902, on the SS Noordland. The manifest of the SS Noordland shows that he departed Liverpool on May 28, 1902.

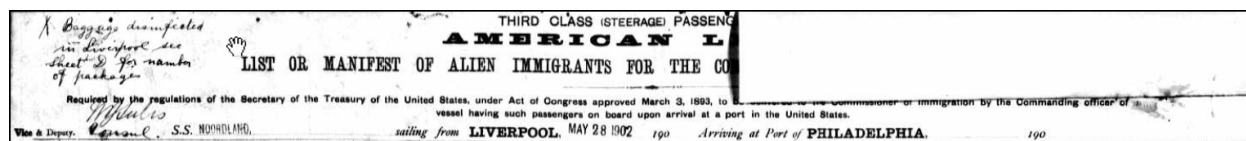


Figure 11 Manifest masthead of the SS Noordland leaving Liverpool on May 28, 1902

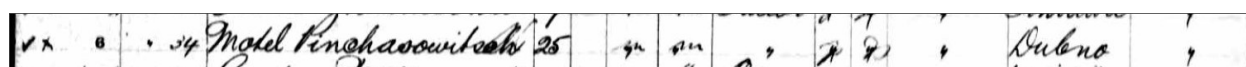


Figure 12 Motel (Max) Pinchasowitch, age 25, from Dubno

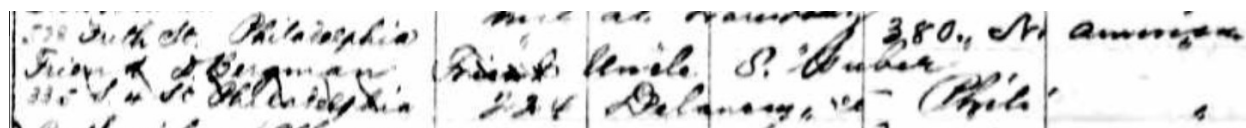


Figure 13 right-hand columns showing destination of Max Pinchasowitch

The right-hand columns of Max's manifest are a bit difficult to read. However, it appears that Max's destination at first was the address of a friend S? or D? Bergman at 335 S. 4th St. This address was scratched out and replaced to the right by the address of an uncle. The text appears to read "Uncle S. (G?)uber at 224 Delancey St. Philadelphia."

Max first appears in the Philadelphia City directory living at 336 Manton in 1908 and 1909. He is listed as a huckster and, as evident in the 1910 Federal census, he was a huckster in fruit. In 1908, he was still listed with the surname Pinkovitch and in 1909, as his Americanization was proceeding, he appears under the surname Pinkus in the directory.

1908 City Directory listed as
Max Pinkovitch

Pennsylvania > Philadelphia > 1908 > Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, City Directory,

Pinkovitch Max, huckster, h 336 Manton

1909 City Directory listed as
Max Pinkus

" Jos paperhngr 152 Brown
" **Max huckster h 336 Manton**
" Max salesman h 2322 N Lambert

By the 1910 census, Max is using the surname Pincus spelled with a "c". According to that record, Max's wife, Sadie, and their daughters, Rosa and Beckie, who are also listed, arrived in the US by 1905, though their manifest has not yet been located. Two sons were subsequently born in Philadelphia: Jacob Pincus in 1905 and Louis Pincus in 1910. (It is easy to confuse the records of this Louis Pincus with his older cousin Louis Pincus, son of Berel and Yenta). In the 1910 Federal Census,

Max is listed as age 36, his wife Sadie was 30, their daughter Rosa 12, daughter Beckie 8, son Jacob 5 and Louis was just a few months old.

Street	House No.	Visit No.	Family No.	Name	Relation	Sex	Race	Age	Marital S	Years Ma	Children	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Immigrat	Naturaliz	Speaks English	Occupation	Industry
336	75	133		Pincus Max	Head	M	W	36	M	12	4	Russia	Russ Yiddish	Russia	1903	11	English	None	Fruit
				Sadie	Wife	F	W	30	M	12	4	Russia	Russ Yiddish	Russia	1903	11	English	None	
				Rosa	Daughter	F	W	12	J			Russia	Russ Yiddish	Russia	1903	11	English	None	
				Beckie	Daughter	F	W	8	J			Russia	Russ Yiddish	Russia	1903	11	English	None	
				Jacob	Son	M	W	5	J			Pennsylvania	Russ Yiddish	Russia	1903	11	English	None	
				Louis	Son	M	W	3	J			Pennsylvania	Russ Yiddish	Russia	1903	11	English	None	
				Richard	Son	M	W	31	M	1	0	Russia	Russ Yiddish	Russia	1903	11	English	None	Car Mfg

Figure 14 1910 Federal Census for Max Pincus and family at 336 Manton Street

Where was Berel Pincus in 1910?

It is surprising that Yenta's husband, Benjamin ("Berel") Pincus, is not listed in the 1910 census living with his brother Max at 336 Manton. After all, in 1907 when Benjamin arrived he was heading to his brother at 336 Manton Street. And then in 1912 when Benjamin's wife and children arrive, they were heading to Benjamin at 336 Manton, suggesting he was still living there and had been there all along.

Is it possible Benjamin Pincus was living elsewhere in 1910? The details between 1910 and 1912 are a bit of a mystery. A 1910 census listing a Benjamin and Yetta Pincus at 914 South 4th Street appears at first blush to be the Benjamin and Yenta Pincus we are tracking. But this record doesn't belong to them.⁹ Yenta had not yet arrived in 1910. In addition, this Benjamin Pincus was a tobacco stripper and we shall see him alongside our Benjamin, the huckster, in subsequent records.

We are therefore left with the presumption that in 1910 our Benjamin Pincus was probably living with his brother Max at 336 Manton Street but for unknown reasons did not appear in the census, perhaps because he was not home at the time of the census or because he was trying to hide his presence in the country.

91	19	Pincus Benjamin	Head	M	W	41	M	35				(Russ) Russian	(Russ) Russian	(Russ) Russian	1903	11	English	Stripper	Tobacco
92		Yetta	Wife	F	W	37	M	35	8	3		(Russ) Russian	(Russ) Russian	(Russ) Russian	1903	11	English	None	
93		Anna	Daughter	F	W	14	J					(Russ) Russian	(Russ) Russian	(Russ) Russian	1903	11	English	Teacher	Knitting
94		Clara	Granddaughter	F	W	2	J					(Russ) Russian	(Russ) Russian	(Russ) Russian	1903	11	English		

Figure 15 A 1910 census record that looks like our Benjamin and Yetta Pincus but does not belong to them.

There were in fact several men named Benjamin Pincus in Philadelphia and to identify and disambiguate "our" Benjamin Pincus, the husband of Yenta Zutelman, it is important to examine closely the address and professions of the various men named Benjamin Pincus in the available records.

⁹ This 1910 census belongs to a different Benjamin and Yetta Pincus. This couple were from the Kiev area and the parents of three children, Mayer Pincus, Hinda Kessen, and Anna (Pincus) Levy. The record shows Benjamin and Yetta with their daughter, Anna, and a granddaughter, Clara, daughter of their son Mayer who was widowed and could not care for his daughter. I would like to thank Sandy Kessen for her help in understanding this 1910 census record.

In this way, it becomes obvious that our Benjamin Pincus is not the one named Benjamin F. (Franklin) Pincus, with whom many researchers on Ancestry confuse him. Benjamin F Pincus owned a novelty store, was married to a woman called Rae or Rachel, and was present in the city directory at least by 1905. This “Benjamin F,” Pincus sometimes abbreviated in the directories as BF Pincus, appears alongside our Benjamin Pincus in the 1916-1918 city directories.

The 1918 city directory is a good record to illustrate the difference among the various Benjamin Pincuses. Our Benjamin Pincus is the huckster living at 619 Mifflin. Benjamin Pincus the tobacco stripper, at 514 Fairmount, was the one in the 1910 census also married to a woman named Yenta. Ben F, the owner of the novelties store, was living on 25th Street. We thus have three different Benjamin Pincuses, two of whom were married to women named Yetta.

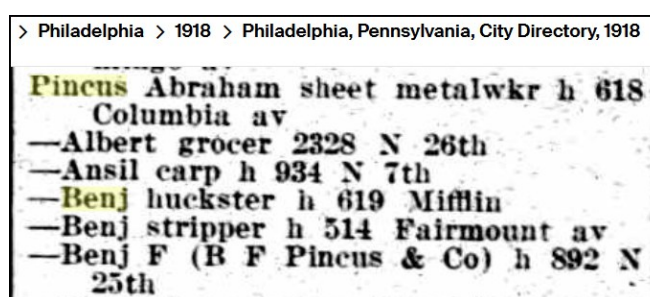


Figure 16 A 1918 City Directory showing our Benjamin Pincus the huckster at 619 Mifflin

Benjamin Pincus, the Huckster on Mifflin Street

After his passenger manifest, our Benjamin Pincus wasn't located in the records until 1916 when he appears in the city directory at 619 Mifflin and is described as a huckster. This is the same address he listed when he signed his Petition in 1923.

This same address appears on the birth certificate of Benjamin and Yenta's new granddaughter, Tillie Levin, who was born on May 9, 1917. Tillie's mother, Jennie, married Meyer Levine on March 26, 1916, according to her later naturalization petition. Tillie's birth certificate shows all they were living with Jennie's parents, Benjamin and Yenta, at 619 Mifflin.

Form V. S. No. 11-1906-8-27-14
PLACE OF BIRTH

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Bureau of Vital Statistics
CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH 89890

County of Philadelphia
Township of Center City
City of Philadelphia
Registration District No. 1
File No. 16481

No. 619 Mifflin St. Primary Registration District No. West
Registered No. 16481

FULL NAME OF CHILD Sillie Levine

Sex of Child Y Twin, Triplet, or other? 4 Number and in order of birth 4 Legitimate? Y Date of Birth 5 9 1917

FULL NAME FATHER Meyer Levine FULL MAIDEN NAME MOTHER Jean Pincus
RESIDENCE 619 Mifflin RESIDENCE 619 Mifflin St
COLOR W AGE LAST BIRTHDAY 27 COLOR W AGE LAST BIRTHDAY 20
BIRTHPLACE Russia BIRTHPLACE Russia
OCCUPATION Cutter OCCUPATION Housework

Number of child of this mother, including present birth 4 Number of children of this mother, now living, including present birth 1

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was Sillie Levine on the date above stated. (Born alive or stillborn) 5:30 P.M.
(Signature) S. Cohen M.D.
(Physician or Midwife)
Given name added from a supplemental report 19
Address 1233 S 4th St
Filing Date 31 1917 Registrar J. J. J. J.

WRITE PLAINLY, WITHOUT FADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD
N. B.—In case of more than one child at a birth, a SEPARATE RETURN must be made for each, and the number of each, in order of birth stated

In 1917 and 1918, Berel's brother Max Pincus was still at his earlier address at 336 Manton, but in 1919 he too is listed as living at 619 Mifflin Street. The stay of Max's family there must have been temporary because by 1920 he and his family appear in the census on 4121 **Westminster** Avenue across town.

The Pincus Family 1920 and Beyond

Benjamin and Yenta were still living at 619 Mifflin Street in the 1920 census. In the record, Benjamin is no longer described as a huckster but as a dealer in produce, suggesting he had become a kind of grocery middleman or had learned that huckster had a pejorative connotation.

The next page of the census shows four of their children were still living in the household with them: Joseph, age 17, Celia age 15, Isadore (Chaim Yitzhak) age 12, and Sadie, age 21 with her husband Morris Wolinsky and their daughter Florence, who was 2 months old. Two of Benjamin and Yenta's elder children, Louis (Leib) and Jennie, are no longer living in the household with them. Both had since married and are living elsewhere as we shall see.

48	619 214 279	Pincus Benjamin	Head	0	M	47	50	M	1906	all	8'		Russia
49		Yenta	Wife		F	45	M	1906	all				Russia
50													

Figure 17 1920 Census Benjamin and Yenta on previous page at 619 Mifflin

51	619 214 279	Pincus Joseph	son		M	17	2	1906	all				Russia
52		Celia	daughter		F	15	2	1906	all				Russia
53		Isadore	son		M	12	2	1906	all				Russia
54		Wolinsky Morris	son-in-law		M	24	4	1906	all				Russia
55		Sadie	daughter		F	21	4	1906	married				Russia
56		Florence	Infant daughter		F	2	12	2	1920				Russia
57		Leib	son		M	19	4	1906	all				Russia

Figure 18 The Pincus children listed on the next page of the 1920 census at the same address

By the 1930 census, Yenta (“Yedda”) was still at 619 Mifflin with her two youngest children, Isadore/Israel (Chaim Yitzhak) and Sylvia (=Celia), still in the household. Both of them were characterized as teachers in public school. Yedda is listed as “wd” widowed in the record, though a photo of Benjamin’s tombstone gives his date of passing as September 10, 1931. Perhaps he was ill and no longer living at home at the time. Yenta lived another twenty years.

In 1940, the household composition was the same except “Israel H.” (Chaim Yitzhak), age 32, is now listed as head of the household. His sister Celia was 34 and their mother “Yetta” was 65. Israel is listed as a teacher in a senior high school and Celia as a teacher in a junior high school. Yenta passed away on Dec. 6, 1951, according to her tombstone, which lists her father’s name as **Manis**.

81	619	303	359	Pincus Yedda	Head H	0	4500	no	F	W	55	21	no	no	Russian
82				Isadore	son			V	M	W	22	5	no	yes	Russian
83				Sylvia	daughter			V	F	W	25	5	no	yes	Russian

Figure 19 1930 census for Yetta and her two children, Isadore (Israel H.) and Celia at 619 Mifflin

52	2472	66	0	6000	Pincus Israel H @	Head	M	W	32	5	No	04			Penna
53					- Celia	Sister	F	W	34	5	No	04			Penna
54					- Yetta	Mother	F	W	65	wd	No	8			Poland

Figure 20 1940 for Yetta and her two children, Israel H. and Celia at 2472 76 Avenue

Figure 21 Tombstone of Yenta Pincus

Tombstone reads:
 Our honored mother,
 Yenta daughter of Mr. Manus [Zutelman]
 passed away 7th of Kislev 5712
 May her soul be bound up in the bond of everlasting life [I Samuel
 25:29]

Yetta Pincus
 Died Dec. 6, 1951
 Age 78 Years



Family of Jennie and Meyer Levin

As mentioned earlier, Benjamin and Yenta's daughter, Jennie Pincus, married Meyer Levin in 1916 and a daughter, Tillie (later called Lilly and Natalie), was born on May 9, 1917. In 1920, the family was living in at 630 Durfor Street located less than half a mile from Jennie's parents on **Mifflin** Street. The 1920 record shows that Meyer was 32 years old, ten years older than Jennie, who was 22. Their daughter, Tillie, is listed as almost three years old.

At the time, Meyer and Jennie's naturalization status was still "al" [alien] which explains why Jennie later had to fill out her own Declaration and Naturalization Petition, both of which listed her birthplace as Mlynov as we saw earlier. Since Jennie reached maturity before her father became a citizen, she was subject to the 1922 Cable Act, which required women to proceed through a naturalization process independent of their husbands and fill out their own paperwork.

Jennie and Meyer's second daughter, Gertrude, was born on March 25, 1921. In the 1930 census, the family was living at 526 South 17th Street, the same address that appears on Jennie's Declaration and Petition from 1932. At the top of her Petition, Jennie ("Gele") is described as being 5' 2", 150 lbs., with red hair and brown eyes. One of the witnesses on Jennie's Petition was Lillian Pincus, the wife of Jennie's brother, Joseph Pincus, (discussed further below).

94	turt	630	140	141	Levin	Meyer	Head	1	0	M	M	W	32	M	1905	al	700	710	710	Russian
95					—	Jennie	Wife			F	W	22	M	1909	al	700	710	710	Russian	
96					—	Tillie	Daughter			J	W	3 1/2	S							Prussian

Figure 22 1920 Census of Jennie and Meyer Levin at 630 Durfor Street

30	No. 11 172	526	326	326	Levin Meyer	Head	R	80	R	10	M	W	41	M	27	160	460	Russian	Russian	
31					Jennie	Wife H				V	F	W	53	M	19	160	460	Russian	Mallon	
32					Tillie	Daughter					V	F	W	13	S		460	460	Russian	Mallon
33					Gertrude	Daughter					V	F	W	9	S		460		Russian	Mallon

Figure 23 1930 Census of Jennie and Meyer Levin and children Tillie and Gertrude at 526 South 17th Street

ORIGINAL

Set *1/4/21* Color *white* Comp. *1/4/21* Eyes *brn* Hair *brn* Hgt *5'2"* Wt *150*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PETITION FOR CITIZENSHIP No. **108597**

To the Honorable the District Court of United States at Phila. Penna.

The petition of **GELE LEVIN** hereby filed, respectfully shows:

(1) My place of residence is **526 S. 17th St., Phila. Penna.** (2) My occupation is **Housewife**

(3) I was born in **Mlynov, Russia, now Poland** on **March 20, 1897** My race is **Hebrew**

(4) I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on **March 25, 1922** in the District Court of **United States** at **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

(5) I am **married**. The name of my wife or husband is **Meyer** we were married on **March 20, 1916** at **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**; he was born at **Prussia, Russia** on **February 5, 1890**; entered the United States at **NY** on **6/10/1905** for permanent residence therein, and now resides at **with me**. I have **2** children, and the name, date, and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children are as follows: **Tillie 5/9/17; Gertrude 3/25/21; both children born Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; both children reside with me in Philadelphia, Penna.**

(6) My last foreign residence was **Mlynov, Russia, now Poland** I emigrated to the United States of America from **Rotterdam, Holland** My lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at **NY** under the name of **Gele Finchosowicz** on **February 12, 1912** on the vessel **Volturno** as shown by the certificate of my arrival attached hereto.

(7) I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposed to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States. It is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, sovereign, state, or government, and to participate in no such activity.

Figure 24 1932 Petition of Gele Levin (Jennie Levin) showing birthplace Mlynov, Russia, now Poland

and the cause of such denial has since been cured or removed.
 Attached hereto and made a part of this, my petition for citizenship, are my declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States, certificate from the Department of Labor of my said arrival, and the affidavits of the two verifying witnesses required by law.
 Wherefore, I, your petitioner, pray that I may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America, and that my name be changed to

I, your aforesaid petitioner being duly sworn, depose and say that I have heard read this petition and know the contents thereof that the same is true of my own knowledge except as to matters herein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and that as to those matters I believe it to be true; and that this petition is signed by me with my full, true name.

AFFIDAVITS OF WITNESSES

Harry "ishuov" _____, occupation Salesman
 residing at 5817 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania _____, and
Tillian Pincus _____, occupation Housewife
 residing at 2111 S. Marshall Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania _____
 and that to his personal knowledge the petitioner has resided in the United States continuously preceding the date of filing this petition, of which this affidavit is a part, to wit, since the date last mentioned, and at _____, in the County of _____, this State, in which the above-entitled petition is made, continuously since 5/1/1926, and that he has personal knowledge that the petitioner is and during all such period has been a person of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States, and that in his opinion the petitioner is in every way qualified to be admitted a citizen of the United States.

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the above-named petitioner and witnesses in the office of the Clerk of said Court at Philadelphia this 2nd day of June, Anno Domini 1932. I hereby certify that certificate of arrival No. 5-56328 from the Department of Labor, showing the lawful entry for permanent residence of this petitioner above named, together with declaration of intention No. 122514 of such petitioner, has been by me filed with, and that I have made a part of this petition on this date.

GEORGE BRODBECK
 Clerk.
 By Harry O. Carter Deputy Clerk.

Form 2204, 1-4
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE
14-2618

No. 196507

Figure 25 Signature section of Jennie Levin's Petition for Naturalization from March 1932

In the 1940 census, Jennie and family appear at 7604 Ogantz Avenue. Tillie's name has now become Natalie. Interestingly, Jennie appears as head of household even though Meyer is still there. This is fairly unusual and may suggest that Meyer was ill. The family is still at that same address in the 1950 census, and Meyer has reassumed his status as head of household. Both daughters are still single. Natalie is 33 and Gertrude is 27.

69	7604 5th R 8500	Levin, Jennie @	Head	1	F	W	43	M	No		Russia	1st	Same house
70		Meyer	Husband	2	M	W	52	M	No		Russia	2nd	Same house
71		Natalie	Daughter	3	F	W	22	S	No	C4	Prussia		Same house
72		Gertrude	Daughter	4	F	W	19	S	Yes	C4	Prussia		Same house

Figure 26 1940 Census of Jennie (Gele) and Meyer Levin and children Natalie (=Tillie) and Gertrude at 7604 Ogantz Avenue

A *Philadelphia Inquirer* article covered a robbery at Meyer's delicatessen during the 1940s. Apparently Meyer, Jennie and Jennie's sister, Sadie, were sitting in the back of the store when two bandits came in at 11 pm at night. Luckily no one was harmed.

Philadelphia Inquirer,
 Dec. 14, 1947 p. 22

DELICATESSEN HELD UP

In another holdup, three young bandits, two carrying guns and the other posted as lookout, last night robbed Meyer Levin's delicatessen at 7604 Ogantz ave., in West Oak Lane, of \$125.

Levin, his wife, Jennie, 50, and her sister, Mrs. Sadie Wolinsky, 46, of 7501 Parkview rd., Upper Darby, were sitting in a booth at the rear of the store when two of the bandits strode in at 11 P. M. They rifled the cash register, asked Levin "what have you got on you" but fled without searching him when the lookout at the window beckoned to them to run.

9	0	1006	266	no	no	Williams, Ethel	Head	WF	40	nev	England	Yes	Wk	70	Productive nurse
10	1	1006	266	no	no	Levin, Meyer	Head	WM	67	mar	Russia	No	Wk	70	Proprietor
11						Jennie	Wife	WF	51	mar	Russia	Yes	Wk	70	Proprietor
12						Natalie N.	Daughter	WF	33	nev	Russia	Wk	Wk	40	director
13						Gertrude D.	Daughter	WF	27	nev	Russia	Wk	Wk	40	Secretary

Figure 27 1950 Census of Jennie and Meyer Levin and two daughters, Natalie age 33 and Gertrude age 27

Jennie's husband, Meyer, passed away on January 29, 1963. Their daughter, Natalie, married for the first time late in life in 1974. She was 50 years old when she married Leonard Raum, who had been married two times previously as shown on their marriage certificate. Gertrude, for her part, apparently never married and predeceased her mother on March 2, 1972.

Jennie's obituary from May 27, 1981, indicates that her surviving siblings at the time were Celia Pincus and Sadie Wolinsky. No grandchildren are mentioned, and it appears that neither of her daughters had children.

Figure 28 Obituary of Gertrude Levin

LEVIN
March 7, 1972, GERTRUDE D., of th Penn Center House. Daughter of Jennie and the late Myer Levin. Sister of Natalie Levin. Relatives and friends are invited to services Wed. 12 noon, **JOSEPH LEVINE & SON MEMORIAL CHAPELS**, N. Broad st. above 71st ave. Int. Har Nebo Cem. Family will return to the late residence. In lieu of flowers contributions in her memory may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Figure 29 Obituary of Jennie (Pincus) Levin

LEVIN
May 27, 1981, JENNIE (nee Pincus), wife of the late Meyer Levin, of the Penn Center House, beloved mother of Natalie Raum and the late Gertrude Levin, sister of Celia Pincus and Sadie Wolinsky. Relatives and friends invited to services, Fri. 11 A.M., **JOSEPH LEVINE AND SON**, N. Broad St. above 71st Ave. Int. Har Nebo Cem. Family will return to the home of Natalie Raum, Penn Center House.

Where in the World is Louis (Leib) Pincus?

Jennie's older brother, Louis (Leib) Pincus, was also absent from his parents' household in the 1920 census. The records for Louis are confusing for reasons discussed below and what follows is an effort to speculate about that confusion, which may stem from an unverified tragedy in the family.

To explore Louis's history, it is best to work backward from his obituary and death certificate which clearly are his records. His obituary in the *Evening Star* in Washington, DC indicates he died on October 8, 1956 (p. 20). The obituary lists his surviving siblings, all of whom were still alive: Sadie

It appears that Louis's first wife, the mother of his daughter Fay, was a woman named Dvoira Suberoff when she arrived in the US on July 4, 1906, according to her Petition from 1942. Dvoira was born on Oct 1, 1893, in Bobruisk, Russia. In the US, her name was anglicized to Dora Silver. A 1910

census for Dora Silver shows she was living with a widowed mother, Ida (later Bessie) Silver, and a sister Eva, in a flat at 907 South Street. In that record, Dora was already 20, listed as single and a presser of children's clothes. Her younger sister Eva was 11.

71	✓	100	Silver Ida	Heath	7-10-19	100	Puss	Yiddish	Puss	Yiddish	Puss	Yiddish	1908	Yiddish
72			— Gora	Daughter	7-10-20	8	Puss	Yiddish	Puss	Yiddish	Puss	Yiddish	1910	English
73			— Eva	Daughter	7-10-11	8	Puss	Yiddish	Puss	Yiddish	Puss	Yiddish	1910	Yiddish

Figure 32 1910 Census of Dora and her mother "Ida" Silver and her sister, Eva.

Dora's Petition indicates she married her husband Louis on March 7, 1915, and that their daughter Fay was born on Nov. 7, 1916. A marriage record shows a marriage between Louis Pincus and Dora "Silver" from 1915.

Louis's marriage in 1915 would seem to explain his absence from the 1920 census of his parents' home. However, in 1920—this is where the mystery begins—Dora and her daughter “Florence” (Fay) appear living with Dora's mother, Bessie Silver, and her sister, Eva Silver at 318 Manton Street, a few doors away from where the **Pincus family lived at 336 Manton Street until 1916**. As discussed earlier, Berel's brother Max was still on Manton Street until 1918. It seems very possible that Louis originally met Dora on Manton Street.

Though Dora's status is married in the 1920 census, Louis does not appear in the census with her. Where was he? Dora also appear in the 1930 census with her daughter, Fay, and her mother. Her sister Eva, by this time, had gotten married and moved out. Though Dora is again listed as "m" (married) in this record, no husband is listed. In 1940, Dora is living with just her mother. Her daughter Fay is no longer in the household because she married Harry Steinberg in 1936. Dora is still listed as married, but no husband is listed.

14	31942	70	Silver Bessie	Held	R	4	20	5 1/2	22	140	10	Yes	Yes	Miss Sp	Reddish
15			Pineapple	Naughtie		4	20	35	37	140	22	Yes	Yes	Miss Sp	Reddish
16			Silver Lys	Naughtie		4	20	20	37	140	10	Yes	Yes	Miss Sp	Reddish
17			Pineapple	Naughtie		4	20	4 1/2	28					Pharmybra	

Figure 33 1920 Census of Dora and Fay Pincus with mother and sister at 318 Manton Street

28	1029	1862	Princess Dora	Maid	R #50	R No	F W 39 M	No Yes Pennsylvania
29			— Fay	Daughter		V	F W 12 S	No Yes Pennsylvania
30			Silver, Beate	Mother-H		V	F W 61 wd	No No Pennsylvania

Figure 34 1930 Census Dora with her mother Bessie Silver and daughter Fay

65						Repps. Chestnut	Head	1	W	47	M	4	Georgia	1	same place
66	421	61	R	18	No	Cincus. Pora	Head	1	F	47	M	4	Russia	1	same place
67						Silvers. Bessie	moths	2	F	72	W	0	Russia	1	same place
68		62	R	15	No	Abams. Kate	Head	1	W	35	M	8	Russia	1	same place

Figure 35 1940 Census Dora and her mother Bessie living at 421 Lombard Street in Philadelphia

Records for Louis Pincus in Philadelphia for these years have not been located. It is not certain, but it seems possible that Dora's husband, Louis Pincus, was the man by that name who was committed or incarcerated in a psychiatric hospital on Long Island known as Central Islip State Hospital. Ultimately this conclusion needs validation by descendants since the records are not public documents for obvious reasons.

The records that are available show a Louis Pincus in a long list of hospital patients in 1925 and 1930. The 1925 record shows this Louis Pincus was 29 years old, married, born in Russia and was a peddler. He was also listed as “a” [an alien], meaning he was not yet naturalized. The 1930 record shows an “inmate” by that name, 36 years old, born in Russia but listed as “single.” A 1920 record also shows a “*Louise* Pincus,” “*male*” listed among those incarcerated. The spelling “*Louise*” could be a mistaken spelling of Louis’s name. However, the birthplace of this man, “*Louise Pincus*,” is given as New York, so it either is mistaken information or a different person. However, the absence of Louis Pincus from the census with his wife Dora those same years that a person by the same name appears in the census for the hospital in those years is tantalizing.

95			P. Shkine, Abraham			M W 40 Y	V. 1860	Russia
96			Pineus, Louis			M W 36 Y	V. 1860	Bulgaria
97			Powell, Jasper			M W 45 M	V. 1860	Id.

Figure 36 1930 Federal Census listing inmates in Islip New York in the Central Islip State Hospital

4	29	Powell John L.	29	65	27	43	Utah		6	Orderly
4	29	Princus Louis	29	65	27	29	Russia	in	A	Bedden
4	41	Purdy Albert	41	28	27	35	U S A		C	Printer
4	41	Phillips Louis	41	28	27	36	Idaho		C	Labork
4	60	Potam John	60	65	27	45	Idaho	in	A	House Laborer

Figure 37 1925 Census for Centra Inslip State Hospital listing Louis Pincus, age 29, "peddler"

70				¹⁸ ₂₀ Cincus Louise	Sp mate		71	W	26	S			10	44	40	New York		Prussia
71				Unter Anton	Sp mate		71	W	46	71	413	26	10	44	40	Hungary	Hebrew	Hungary
72				Natisehek Joseph	Sp mate		71	W	50	S	un	all	10	44	40	Bohemia	Bohemian	Bohemia

Figure 38 1920 Census showing a Louise Pincus, age 26, m [male] at the Insip State Hospital, though born in New York

Central Islip State Hospital was a large state psychiatric hospital from 1889 until 1996 in Central Islip, New York, on Long Island. According to Wikipedia, 49 male and 40 female patients were admitted in 1889 for "O&O" (Occupation and Oxygen) and "R&R" (Rest and Relaxation) at a working farm.

In the 1925 census, the list of people in Islip includes 100 pages with fifty people listed per page, making the population about 5,000. In 1955, the institution housed 10,000 patients, making it the second largest psychiatric hospital in the United States. Patients cleared the land, constructed buildings, made furniture and mattresses, sewed their clothing, grew crops and raised dairy cattle, pigs and chickens. After New York State bought it, it was renamed the Manhattan State Hospital for the Insane. The initial buildings grew to be a nearly mile-long interconnected series of buildings called the "string of pearls." Until the Great Depression, patients would arrive by a special hospital train with bars on the windows on a siding off the Long Island Rail Road.

People were institutionalized in state hospitals like Central Islip for a variety of reasons which are treatable differently today. They include severe mental illness like schizophrenia, depression, bipolar disorder, neurodevelopmental conditions, like epilepsy, age-related dementia and senility, chronic alcoholism or “moral insanity” diagnoses, and the socially marginal, like immigrants with little support, unmarried mothers, the very poor, and those just judged “incurable.”

A marriage record from 1949 in Philadelphia indicates a Louis Pincus married a woman named Rose Caplan. This certainly seems to be “our” Louis Pincus, since Rose was the name of Louis’s wife

listed in his obituary. Rose was married previously to a man named Harry Caplan and they had four children. Her second marriage with Louis apparently went south very quickly. In the 1950 census, Louis and Rose are not listed together. Rose appears in the 1950 census with her four children and is listed as “sep”[separated].

Louis’s first wife, Dora Pincus, appears to have passed away on April 13, 1952. Her death certificate is signed by her son-in-law, Harry Steinberg, and his address is the same one that he used on the death certificate of Louis, which Harry signed, on October 8, 1956. On her death certificate Dora’s status is “divorced.”

Louis and Dora’s daughter, Faye, and her husband Harry Steinberg had four daughters: Marcia B. Steinberg (1938-) married Sheldon J. Kogod in 1957 in DC. Judith Steinberg (1942-2006) married Lawrence Appleman. Beverly Steinberg (1944-) married Felix Rice and possibly remarried Ron Palardy. Andrea Steinberg married Joe McGirr.

Faye passed away November 5, 1987. Harry passed away Dec. 26, 1985.

Sadie Pincus and Morris Wolinsky 1916 and Beyond

Sadie Pincus was the third eldest child in the Pincus family after Louis and Jennie. On the manifest from 1912 she is called “Zelde” and was listed as 11 years old at the time. In 1923, when her father Benjamin filled out his Petition, he listed her birth date as April 12, 1900. However, Sadie’s husband, Morris Wolinsky, listed Sadie’s birth date as May 8, 1898, in his Petition from 1921. Inconsistencies like these are not uncommon in the records of immigrants born in Russia.

Sadie married Morris Wolinsky in 1916 and depending on which birth date was right she was either around 16 or 18 when she married. “Moschka Werlinsky” (Morris Wolinsky) was born on Aug. 12, 1895, in Kiev according to his Naturalization Petition. He traveled to the US on the SS Hannover arriving on Aug. 10, 1910. He declared his intention to be a citizen on April 23, 1915. After Sadie and Morris married in 1916, they had a daughter Fannie on Dec. 6, 1919. As noted earlier, they were living with Sadie’s parents in the 1920 census on Mifflin Street. By 1921, when Morris filled out his Petition, they were living independently at 2435 South Marshall Street. Morris was described as a suitcase maker in the 1920 census and in his Petition.

107

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

No. 47357

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

To the Honorable the District Court of the United States for the District of Pennsylvania:

The petition of Morris Wolinsky male U.S.

First. My place of residence is Philadelphia, Pa.

Second. My occupation is maker of shoes

Third. I was born on the 17 day of April 1890 in Poland on or about the 10 day of August

Fourth. I emigrated to the United States from Poland Pa. on the 10 day of August

and arrived in the United States, at the port of Philadelphia

and on the 10 day of August 1910

Fifth. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on the 10 day of August 1910

at Philadelphia Pa. in the District Court of U.S.

and I am now a married. My wife's name is Sadie with me she was born on the 10 day of May 1898

and our residence is with me

I have one child, and the name, date and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children is as follows:

Florence Dec 6, 1919 Philadelphia with me

Sixth. I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposed to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and it is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to transmit absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to the United States of America of whom at this time I am a subject, and it is my intention to reside permanently in the United States.

Seventh. I am able to speak the English language.

Eighth. I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of five years at least, immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since the 10 day of August 1910, and in the State of Pennsylvania, continuously next preceding the date of this petition, since the 10 day of August 1910, being a residence within this State of at least one year next preceding the date of this petition.

Ninth. I have not heretofore made petition for admission to citizenship, and I now make petition for admission to the District Court of U.S. and the said petition was denied by the said Court for the following reason and cause, to wit, lack of education and the cause of such denial has since been cured or removed.

Attached hereto and made a part of this petition are my declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States and the certificate from the Department of Labor, together with my affidavit and the affidavits of the two verifying witnesses therein, required by law. Wherefore your petitioner prays that he may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America.

Morris Wolinsky
(Signature and true name of petitioner)

1898 and Certificate of Arrival from Department of Labor filed this 10 day of May 1921
(Signature and true name of petitioner)

Figure 41 Morris Wolinsky's Naturalization Petition from 1921

Sadie and Morris had a second daughter in 1922. Her name was Florence. In 1928, a birth certificate indicates that Sadie and Morris had another daughter who was born prematurely on June 15, 1928, and sadly passed away on June 17th. The certificate calls her only “baby Wolinsky.”

Sadie's husband Morris Wolinsky passed away not long after the loss of this daughter. His death certificate indicates his date of passing was October 8, 1928, when the family was living at 7411 West Chester Pike and Morris was a storekeeper. According to later obituary, Sadie raised the kids while running the store.

Two years later, in the 1930 census, Sadie and her two daughters, Florence age 10 and Sylvia age 8, appear still at 7411 West Chester Pike. The family is at the same address in 1940. In that record, Sadie is listed as “naturalized” and was likely “grandfathered” into her status by her husband who became a citizen before the Cable Act of 1922 went into effect. For this reason, Sadie did not have to fill out her own naturalization papers like her sister Jennie Levin. The 1950 census shows Sadie, age 50, and daughter Sylvia, age 28, living together but Florence has left home.

18	7411 West Chester Pike	Wolinsky Sadie Head	017000	2	11	30	1919	Poland	Poland
19		Florence Daughter		3	11	10	1922	Poland	Poland
20		Sylvia Daughter		4	11	8	1924	Poland	Poland

Figure 42 1930 Census of Sadie Wolinsky with daughters at 7411 West Chester Pike

66	7411	40	R	60	Ms	Wolinsky, Sadie @	Head	F	W	41	Wa	26	9	Russia	Na	Same House
67						Florence	Daughter	F	W	20	S	26	11-4	Penn		Same House
68						Sylvia	Daughter	F	W	18	S	34	61	Penn		Same House

Figure 43 1940 Census at 7411 West Chester Pike

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	A	9	10	11	12	13
1	7501	1	Ms	Ms		Wolinsky Sadie	Head		21	15	50	202	Russia
2			Ms	Ms		- Sylvia	Daughter		21	2	28	202	Penn

Figure 44 1950 Parkview Road, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania

Since Florence doesn't appear in the 1950 census with her mother and sister, it seems likely that she left home to get married sometime in the 1940s, though her husband has not been identified as of this writing. In her mother Sadie's obituary, Florence is called Florence R. Steinberg, suggesting she married a man by that surname.¹⁰

Florence's sister, Sylvia Wolinsky, married Randle Morgan Kauders. Their engagement was announced in 1953. The girls' mother, Sadie Wolinsky, passed away on Jan. 20, 1986. Her obituary indicates she operated a delicatessen on West Chester Pike until 1945.

Figure 45 Engagement Announcement,
Philadelphia Inquirer, Sept. 20, 1953 (p. 80)

Kauders-Wolinsky
The engagement is announced of Miss Sylvia Wolinsky, daughter of Mrs. Sadie Wolinsky, to Mr. Randle Morgan Kauders, son of Dr. and Mrs. H. Randle Kauders of the School Lane House, Germantown.

Figure 46 Obituary of Sadie Wolinsky
Philadelphia Inquirer, Jan. 22, 1986, p. 55

Sadie Wolinsky, 85, a former Upper Darby businesswoman and a long-time resident of the community, died Monday at Graduate Hospital.
A native of Poland, she moved to this country at age 12. In 1924 she moved to Upper Darby, where she operated a delicatessen on West Chester Pike until 1945. In 1983, she moved to Center City.
She was an active supporter of Jewish charities and was a charter member of the Delaware County chapter of Hadassah.
Survivors: daughters, Florence R. Steinberg and Sylvia Kauders.
Services: 1 p.m. today, Rosenberg's Raphael Sacks, 4720 N. Broad St.; burial, Har Nebo Cemetery, Oxford Avenue and Benner Street.

Sadie's daughter, Florence Steinberg, passed away on August 19, 2000. Sadie's other daughter, Sylvia Kauders, had an interesting career development later in life. An obituary in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* from May 8, 2016, indicates that she worked for several mayors as director of special events and led a

¹⁰ A record shows a man named Stanley V. Steinberg married a Florence during this period, but this Florence had a different birth surname (Riskoff) and her daughter messaged me indicating they are not related. It remains unclear so far who Florence married and whether she had children.

campaign to bring the Declaration of Independence back to Philadelphia for the Bicentennial. Later in life she had a second career playing small roles in films:

The diminutive Mrs. Kauders shared screen time with Harrison Ford, Robert De Niro, Billy Crystal, Lisa Kudrow, Nicole Kidman, Woody Allen, Adam Sandler, James Gandolfini, Danny Glover and Predator. Yes, as in Predator 2, armed with a broom as the killer alien smashed through her apartment.

*Figure 47 Sylvia Kauders and Paul Giamatti in
American Splendor from 2003
Philadelphia Inquirer, May 8, 2016 (B10)*



She told the New York Daily News in 2008 that she never dreamed of being a star. "I was never a beauty, but I was talented and smart. Someone had to play small roles, and I love the work."

No children are mentioned in Sylvia's obituary.

Joseph Pincus and Family

Joseph was the fourth of Benjamin and Yenta's children. In the 1920 census, he was still living at home with his parents and his sister, Sadie and her husband, his sister Celia, and his younger brother Isadore (Chaim Yitzhak). His various records all point to his birthdate in 1902. On his passenger manifest from February 1912, he was listed as 9 years old. The 1920 census lists his age as 17 also implying a birth year in 1902-03. On his father's Petition from 1923, Joseph is listed with the birthdate of December 26, 1902.

In the 1920 census, Joseph was still living at home with his parents and is described as still an "al" [alien] and a "dealer" in "produce." He was probably working with his father. Not long after the 1920 census, Joseph left the family household, when he married Lillian Gottlieb, who was born in Pennsylvania. A marriage license was issued for their marriage on Dec. 3, 1922, according to the

Philadelphia Inquirer. In that listing, Joseph was still living at 619 Mifflin Street, the address of his parents' home. Lillian was living at 1839 N. 7th Street.

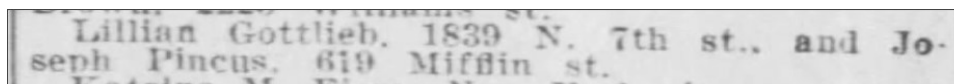


Figure 48 Wedding license issued to Lillian Gottlieb and Joseph Pincus

The 1930 census indicates Joseph and Lillian were living at 2411 Marshall and were age 28 and 26 respectively. Joseph was working as a fruit salesman. By the 1940 census they have two sons, Bernard age 6, and Howard age 3. On March 28, 1938, a daughter named Patricia was born. A death certificate shows she sadly died six months later.

The family moved to Atlantic City by the 1950 census. They appear that year at 108 S. Texas Ave. Bernard was age 16 and Howard age 13. Irv Settleman (the son of Frank Settleman/Zutelman) and a cousin of the Pincus family, tells me he remembers seeing the Pincus brothers in Atlantic City when he got a job selling the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on a corner there. They too used to sell the *Inquirer* there.

15	2411	281	314	Pincus	Joseph	Head	3500	R	M	W	28	M	20	no	yr	Russia
16					Lillian	Wife			F	W	26	M	19	no	yr	Pennsylvania

Figure 49 1930 Census of Joseph and Lillian at 2411 Marshall Street

54	2411	100	1000	Pincus	Joseph	Head	31	M	20	Russia	same house
55					Lillian	Wife	35	M	18	Penna	same house
56					Bernard	son	6	S	4	Penna	same house
57					Howard	son	3	S	0	Penna	same house

Figure 50 1940 Census at 2411 Marshall Street with two sons

15	108	18	7	7	Pincus, Joseph	Head	W	M	47	Mar	Russia
16					Lillian	Wife	W	F	45	Mar	Pennsylvania
17					Bernard	Son	W	M	16	Mar	Pennsylvania
18					Howard	Son	W	M	13	Mar	Pennsylvania

Figure 51 1950 Census in Atlantic City at 108 S. Texas Avenue.

Joseph passed away May 13, 1980. Lillian passed away April 8, 1995.

The Lives of Cecilia Pincus and Israel H. Pincus

Celia and Israel ("Isadore") (Chaim Yitzhak) Pincus were the two youngest children of Benjamin and Yenta. In the 1930 census they were both still living at home with their mother Yenta at 619 Mifflin Street. Celia, called Sylvia in the census, is listed as age 25, and Israel, called Isadore here, is listed as 22. Neither of them were naturalized yet. The census describes both Sylvia and Isadore as teachers in a public school. The 1940 census shows the three were living together but had moved to 2472 76th

Avenue. Israel was then 32 and teaching in a senior public high school, and Celia age 34, was teaching in a junior public high school.

81	619	303	359	Pincus Yedda	Head of	0	4500	No	F	W	55	1/2	21	no	no	Russian
82				Isadore	son			V	M	W	22	S		no	yes	Russian
83				Sylvia	daughter			V	F	W	25	S		no	yes	Russian

Figure 52 1930 census Yetta and two children at 618 or 619 Mifflin

52	2472	56	0	6000	Pincus Israel H @	Head	M	W	32	5	No	C4		Berna	
53					- Celia	Sister	F	W	34	5	No	C4		Berna	
54					- Yetta	Mother	F	W	65	Wd	No	8		Poland	

Figure 53 1940 Census for Yetta, Israel and Celia at 2472 76th Avenue

In October 1940, Israel H. (Isadore) filled out a draft registration. He used the middle name “Harvey” instead of Chaim and listed his birthdate as September 8, 1907. He is described as 33 years old and lists his sister Celia as his closest relative at the same address. On the second page, he is described as 5’5” 160 pounds with hazel eyes and brown hair. In this record, he listed his birthplace as Dubno, the same place his father was born. And while that birthplace is possible, in another veteran record requesting compensation, his birthplace is listed as “Mylinow.” It seems reasonable to guess that he was born in Mlynov but used the larger more familiar city, Dubno, on his draft registration card. Two other veteran records show he served in WWII from June 1942–September 1945 and as his obituary makes clear he was in the Army Air corps.

SERIAL NUMBER 2926	1. NAME (Print) Israel Harvey Pincus		ORDER NUMBER 1191
2. ADDRESS (Print) 2472 - 76th Ave, Phila. Phila. 38 Pa.			
3. TELEPHONE Han 5922	4. AGE IN YEARS 33	5. PLACE OF BIRTH Dubno	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U. S. A.
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Miss Celia Pincus		8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Sister	
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 2472 - 76th Ave, Phila. Phila. Pa.			
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME Board of Education			
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 24th & Cherry Phila. Phila. Pa.			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. FORM 1		19 Israel H. Pincus	

Figure 54 Israel Harvey Pincus WWII draft card with Dubna a birthplace

Form No. 1 10

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
WORLD WAR II VETERANS' COMPENSATION BUREAU

APPLICATION FOR WORLD WAR II COMPENSATION—TO BE USED BY HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERAN OR PERSON STILL IN SERVICE

IMPORTANT—Before Filling Out This Form Study it Carefully.
Read and Follow Instructions—Print Plainly in Ink or Use Typewriter. DO NOT Use Pencil—All Signatures Must Be in Ink.

1—Name of Applicant. Pincus Israel Harvey Last First Middle or Initial		Applicant Must Not Write In Space Below Date Application Was Received MAR 20 1950	
2—Address to Which CHECK and MAIL is to be Sent. 2472-76 th Ave. Phila. Phila. Pa. House No. St. R. D. P. O. Box City or Town County State		Batch Control Number 8686 62587	
3—Date and Place of Birth. Sept. 8 1907 Mylinow Poland Month Day Year City or Town County State		Active Domestic Service Months \$ 390 Days \$ Amount Due \$	
4—Name Under Which Applicant Served In World War II. Pincus Israel Harvey Last First Middle or Initial		Active Foreign Service Months \$ Days \$ Amount Due \$	
5—Date of Beginning and Date of Ending of Each Period of Service Between December 7, 1941 and March 2, 1946 (Both Dates Inclusive) During Which Applicant Was In DOMESTIC SERVICE. July 13 1942 — Sept. 29 1945 Date of Beginning Date of Ending		Total Amt. Due \$ 390 Audited By [Signature] Service Computed By [Signature]	

Figure 55 1950 Application for WWII Compensation for Israel "Harvey" Pincus showing "Mylinow" as birthplace

WS. FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1961

Israel H. Pincus, 63, an English teacher at Central High School, died Wednesday.

A veteran of the Army Air Corps in World War II, he lived at 2472 76th Ave.

While in the service, he taught English to Chinese air cadets at Santa Ana, Calif. He was a charter member of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers.

He is survived by three sisters, Celia, Mrs. Sadie Wolinsky and Mrs. Jennie Levin, and a brother, Joseph. Services today.

Israel Pincus, English Teacher at Central High

June 30, 1961, Philadelphia Inquirer, p. 32

According to a 1950 Philadelphia city directory, Israel H. was still living at 2472 76th Ave. In 1955, he and his sister Sadie donated \$20.00 for the Mlynov/Mervits commemorative plaque. The record of their contributions set me off on this search to figure out who the Pincus family was from Mlynov.

Israel H Pincus passed away on June 28, 1961. He was survived by three of his siblings: Sadie Wolinsky, Jennie Levin, and Celia Pincus. Israel's sister, Celia Pincus, became a rabble rouser in union activities. She passed away on November 27, 1982. It appears Celia never married and no children are mentioned in her obituary. Only her sister Sadie Wolinsky was still alive when Celia passed away. Celia's obituary characterizes her this way:

Celia Pincus, the diminutive English teacher who became a towering figure in the city's trade-union movement after helping found the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers in 1941, died Saturday at the Philadelphia Geriatric Center. She was 75. Miss Pincus was the first PFT [Philadelphia Federation of Teachers] president, and

served in several top union positions for nearly 25 years, gaining a reputation for toughness and candor in the rough-and-tumble arena of confrontation between the union and Philadelphia school board officials....



Figure 56 Celia Pincus Obituary, Philadelphia Inquirer, Nov. 29, 1982

Conclusion

A record of Eli Pincus and Sadie Wolinsky's donations to the Mlynov/Mervits memorial plaque in 1955 prompted my search to learn who they were and the story of their family. Much of the story is clear from records. But there are gaps in this narrative that I attempted to fill in. No family history is complete without the oral traditions that have been passed along. In this case, I have not yet been able to connect with a Pincus descendant with the result that parts of this story that remain hypotheses and incomplete. Hopefully someday descendants will find this narrative and fill in more details and color.