

MORRIS AND NANCY EDELMAN

and their sons, Gerald, Bernard and Lionel

(Written by Leon Chonin – September 2021)

Morris Henry Edelman (whose Hebrew name was Moshe Henoah ben Ben Tzion) married Nancy Marks, the daughter of Freda and Judel Marks who was from the Ukraine. Judel whose Hebrew name was Yechezkel Yehuda ben Sachne died in February 1939 and was buried in the Kimberley cemetery. Bernard, Freda's grandson recalls that Freda owned a second-hand clothing store in Kimberley. She died in June 1958 after the family had moved to Johannesburg and was buried at West Park Cemetery.

Morris was a travelling salesman while Nancy worked in the accounting office at OK Bazaars during the period they lived in Kimberley and after the family moved to Johannesburg a few years after Morris passed away on 26th June 1951, she continued her employment with the company. At one time they operated a boarding house as my parents lived there after they were married in around 1941. They lived next door to Jack Sussman butchery, called Newton Meat Market in Jones Street.

Morris and Nancy had three sons, Gerald, Bernard and Lionel. The boys attended Kimberley Boys High until they left Kimberley in around 1956. Gerald qualified as a diamond cutter and polisher but quit his trade because of the instability of the industry and then acquired Jacks Paint and Hardware store in Orange Grove in Johannesburg. Gerald married Joyce Orbach and had three sons, Morris, Antony and Joel and a daughter Loren.

Because Nancy was struggling to cope after the death of Morris, Bernard at the very young age of 12 was sent to Arcadia Orphanage in Johannesburg where he had his barmitzvah. He attended and completed his matriculation at Parktown Boys High. Bernard qualified as a Chartered Accountant and married Andrea Janks. They had two sons, David and Lawrence and a daughter Karen.

Lionel the youngest of the three boys also lived at Arcadia Orphanage for a while until Nancy settled in Johannesburg when he attended Highlands North High School. He then pursued a career in accounting/bookkeeping but mainly focusing on computer network management. He married Jennifer Bermann and they have two sons, Nathan and Ronald who have excelled in their careers, qualifying with a B.Com. Honours (Informatics). Both Lionel's sons are married.

Both Gerald and Bernard's families emigrated to Sydney Australia in around 2010. Sadly, Gerald is deceased. Lionel and his family have remained in the suburb where he grew up as a young boy, Orange Grove, Johannesburg.

Lionel has told me that Gerald's son Morris qualified as a doctor and emigrated to New York with his family.

While all three of Nancy and Morris's sons were successful in their careers, Bernard's wife Andrea reminds me that the Edelman family struggled after the death of Morris. She described their economic circumstances as poor. I can recall my parents concern for the lack of Jewish community support for them which probably was one of the contributing reasons for Nancy leaving Kimberley for Johannesburg to be with her sons and where there would have been more social and economic opportunities. After moving

to Johannesburg, Nancy remarried Daniel Samuel who was a French immigrant. The Edelman and Chonin families continued their friendship as both Geheli (Chaya) sisters, Sarah and Pauline lived in the same suburb. Nancy passed away on 31st October 1978 while Daniel passed away on 26th April 1985, both were buried at the West Park Cemetery.

Our families remained very close friends while the Edelman's lived in Kimberley but even continued when Nancy moved to Johannesburg as both my aunts Sarah and Pauline remained in close contact with her; and Bernard and I, while they lived in Kimberley carried on the family friendship. Bernard's contemporaries at school were Leonard Hammar, David Diamond and Colin Stein.

1 Nancy and Morris Edelman



2 Nancy, Gerald, Bernard, Morris in front of their home in Jones Street



3 Bernard, Unknown, Lionel, Nancy, Gerald



4 Freda (Nancy Mother), Nancy, Geheli Chonin, Leon Chonin, Edel Chonin, Gerald, Bernard, Morris (circa. 1945)



5 Nancy and Morris Edelman



6 Bernard Edelman with his grandsons Joshua and Jordan



Bernard and Andrea with grandson Joshua



7 Bernard's daughter Karen with her husband Yaron Segal
and their children, Joshua and Jordan



Bernard's sons Lawrence and David with Jordan

