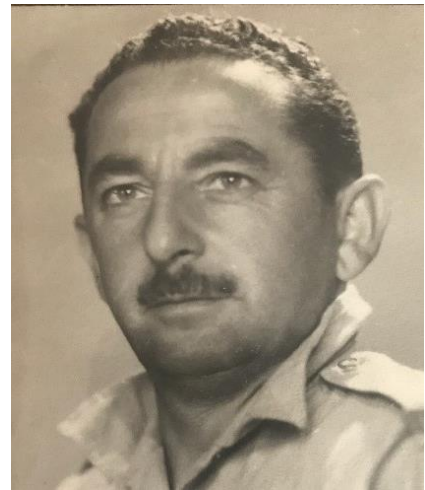


Louis David 1900-1978

Businessman

wife Connie (née Bennett)

sons Bobby and Aubrey



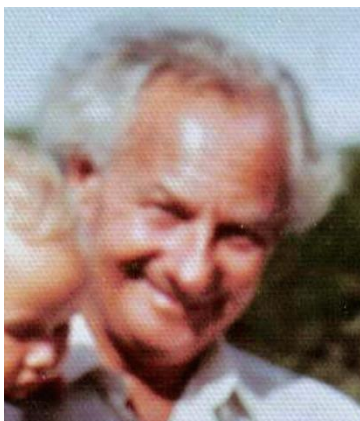
Compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE
from information and pictures sent by grandson
Rick David in San Francisco, and input from members of the family.
Updated March 2022

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**Louis David** was born on 1 April 1900 in Plungyan Lithuania. His father **Abraham Moses David** is the one who started the well-known wholesale business in Kimberley, '**A David & Co**'. According to his tombstone in the Kimberley Pioneers' Cemetery, Abraham died in Kimberley in July 1929 aged just 58. He was married to **Esther Dixon** (formerly Duksh).

Abraham and Esther had four children. **Louis** was the oldest. He had three siblings. His brother **Bennie David** was born about two years later in 1902. They had two sisters Becky and Dora. Bennie married **Sadie Lincow** of Kimberley (sister of **Hilda Lincow** who married **Charlie Hotz**). Bennie and Sadie David had 3 sons **Gerald David** b c1940 **Eric David** b c1942 and **Roger David** b c1946. Bennie worked with Louis in the business in Kimberley.

Of their two sisters: **Rebecca David** (Becky) married **Monty Dave**. Monty was also employed in the family business. They had two children **Alan Dave** 1936- 2022 and **Barbara Dave** 1939 - 2017. Barbara was a very pretty and popular girl. See her entry on the family page [Grigson \(nee Dave\), Barbara](#). Their other sister **Dora David** married **Louis Jacobson** (known as Angie) and they lived in Port Elizabeth. Their children were Harry Jacobson who married Naomi Wolman and Israel (**Solly**) **Jacobson** b1922. Solly came to Kimberley and became a traveller for A David & Co. He married **Julie Lurie** of Kimberley. (See more about Solly and Julie and their five daughters on their own family page [Jacobson, Solly & Julie \(nee Lurie\)](#)).



Louis married **Connie Bennett** (her full name was, Annette Marion Bennett). She was a great friend and constant companion of Hilda Hendler. Connie was a chain smoker.

Connie was the sister of the famous crime writer, **Benjamin Bennett** (left). They were both born in Kimberley: Bennie (1907 – 1985) went to Kimberley Boys' High School (KHS) where he excelled. (Louis David was also an excellent student at KHS being the Dux medallist in 1918.) Benny Bennett wrote about his experiences as a small boy during the [Spanish Flu Epidemic](#). (You can read more on this link and about how it affected

Kimberley Jewry.) He said: 'Fortunately, the plague passed by my home. I remember vividly, as a little boy, cycling through Kimberley's streets of death to collect lemons at the City Hall – they were said to be good for one's health and somehow staved off influenza – then watching the unending funeral processions on their way to the cemeteries'.

Benny Bennett became a renowned journalist with the Cape Argus, Cape Town's evening newspaper, where he worked from 1925 to 1975, as a **crime reporter**, and subsequently as news editor and finally editor of *Argus Action*.

His prodigious output of books reflects a close involvement, as crime reporter, both at the crime scene and in the courtroom, where his professional life regularly took him, pen and notebook in hand. It is said that, for his insight, he was even consulted by the police for the solving of certain complex cases. He is credited with having posed the most plausible scenarios for enduring murder mysteries, such as that of Bubbles Schroeder.



Louis and Connie lived at **75 Milner Street** the corner house at the end of the crescent. They had two sons **Bobby b 1928** and **Aubrey b 1930**. Louis David signed up for active service with the Kimberley Regiment in 1940. He was involved with major battles in North Africa and Italy where he had once to lie in a foxhole near Monte Cassino. You can read about his activity in Italy in the article about the war service of Kimberley Jews.

[Kimberley Jews and the Second World War](#)

Louis became a squash enthusiast during his time in the army, and had a court built at 75 Milner Street after the war. Grandson Rick writes in 2020: The first court I remember had a wire-mesh roof, with lights for night play.

Sometime in the mid-sixties the court was rebuilt with a roof, a spectator balcony, and new changing rooms. Louis, with typical generosity, opened the facility to friends as an informal squash club. He liked nothing better than to play a game with my older brother Anthony or me, followed by a nice cold Lion lager. He usually won against me, but he was no match for Ant, who went on to become a skilled player.



The photo above is of a group attending Aubrey's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday party in 1947 in the garden at 75 Milner Street, Grandson Rick says this is a great picture of post-WWII kids enjoying themselves, happy to have their fathers at home from the war. We can see Louis extreme left, partly obscured by railings, and Connie seated far right with white collar. On the left below Louis are Mendel Apter and his wife-to-be, Winnie. Next to them on the lawn are Owen and Herbert Hendler. Bobby is further along on the lawn with black shorts with Aubrey behind him.

Louis and Connie lived out their days in Milner Street in Kimberley. Louis died in 1978. Both lie buried in the Kimberley Cemetery.

## **Bobby David b 1928**

The eldest son, **Bobby David (Evan Robert)** (1928 – 2019) married the beautiful **Lorraine Hendler** of Johannesburg in 1952. She was the daughter of Chrissie and Alec Hendler, the brother of **Nate Hendler** of Kimberley who married **Hilda Bergman**.

Bobby and Lorraine made a very handsome couple (as you see below).

**From 1960 to 1972, Bobby and Lorraine David came to live in Kimberley** where Bobby worked with his father in the family firm **A David & Co**. Lorraine became well-known for her roles acting in plays at the Kimberley Theatre. She was also active in the Union of Jewish Women in Kimberley and as a teacher of swimming.



In the picture above, we see Lorraine and Bobbie at their wedding in Johannesburg.

In the picture below from 1964, we see **Lorraine David** (née Hendler) centre flanked by Mrs **Basil (Shirley) Benjamin** (left) and Mrs **SJ Smo**. They were responsible for the annual UJW ball which was deemed a masterpiece, specially for the hall and table décor.



### **Bob and Lorraine had four sons:**

**Anthony b 1953**, who sadly died of cancer in 2000 at the age of 47, **Ricky b 1955**, **Neal b 1961**, and **Cristopher b 1968**.

The two older boys went to CBC in Kimberley and the two younger boys who were born in Kimberley had their early schooling in Spain, where in the early 70s, Bob and Lorraine had a sojourn when Bob worked with his brother Aubrey.

They then went to Johannesburg where Bob went into business with Lorraine's cousin Benny Friedlander. The younger boys attended and matriculated at King David Jewish High School in Joburg.

In this picture below taken in about 1964 in the back yard of their home at 65 Carrington Road, Kimberley, we see Chrissie Hendler (Lorraine's mother, back left) with Louis and Connie David at the back.

Anthony and Ricky are in the middle and Neal who must have been about three is in front with Bob and Lorraine. Ricky (now called Rick – or Richard) says the pool in the background is the site of the famous Lorraine David Swimming School where not a few Kimberley kids learned aquatic skills in the 1960s.



Here we see the family 'grown up' in Cape Town with Anthony as an inset, Rick, Neal and Cris.

Bob passed away in 2019 aged 90. Lorraine still lives in Cape Town, in a retirement village in Rondebosch, nearby to Neal and his family. She has an active social life, including regular bridge games, attending symphony concerts, performances at the Baxter Theater where she was once on stage, and summer school at UCT.

**Anthony's** widow Justine (nee Sacks), as well as their two married children Nicky and Michael, with their spouses, all live in **Los Angeles**; each child has a son – Ant's grandchildren are Liam and Antoni,.

**Rick** a lawyer and real estate developer is in **San Francisco**. Married to Lauren Fein of Johannesburg, they have 3 children, Olivia, and twins Nicholas and Julian.

**Neal** is a doctor in **Cape Town**, married to Marion Swartz, with three sons, Tom, Jamie, and Paul.

**Cris** graduated from UC Berkeley and went on to do an MBA at UCT. He married Sue Osher of Johannesburg; they live in **Toronto** with their three children, Danny, Jake, and Ella.



**Rick sent a recording of Bobby David's BBC interview** when he was on a student tour of Europe shortly after the war. Rick says: I still find it amazing that a small-town boy, born and raised in Kimberley, spoke what sounds to me like the King's English. My dad was like that all his life, a proponent and practitioner of proper diction and good grammar. My brothers and I had this exchange on the subject:

Rick: Is it a post-war colonial UCT accent and delivery?

Neal: Yep. Agreed, post-war UCT accent. The thing is that they conceptualized the Oxbridge male as the apex life form and emulated that as closely as they could. Clearly it started way back in the British colonial era and evolved into the SA form with a bit of vowel-flattening that makes us who we are.

My brother Cris added: You know, for all his King's English and Oxford diction, Dad never came across as pompous or self-important. No one would have said he was putting on airs.

There was no affectation in Bob; he was authentic, genuine, unassuming, a great and good man. We try to follow his example, although none of us has quite succeeded in emulating his accent! There is an element in this of *l'dor va dor*. Bob's famous words about his father at **Monte Cassino** have been passed on by us to our children, and I suspect (or hope) will be passed on by them to theirs.

Nicky and Michael, our late brother Anthony's children, now have kids of their own: Liam (7), born to Nicky and her husband Eric, and baby Antoni (1 1/2), born to Mike and his wife Katie. They are wonderful, happy, loving little boys; I know that Ant would have been so proud of them, and pleased to have them learn of their South African roots.

## **From: Justine David Sent: 29 March 2020 00:06**

This story emanates from Justine David who said: Hi Geraldine, I found your Kimberley Newsletter on my face book feed. I just sent the article, to my late husband's brothers: Rick who lives in San Francisco, Neal a Dr lives in Cape Town and Cris lives with his family in Toronto. I was married to Anthony, and we lived in Los Angeles. He was the oldest brother. He passed away at 47 from cancer and I have two children who both have their families here in LA. We left South Africa in 1980.

Please send me any more info you might have on the David Family. My son Michael who is 35 years old, is very interested in learning all about his family history. I hope you hear from one of the brothers but I can't say for sure. I am very happy to have read the article and passed it on to my son.

Hope you will hear from Ant's brothers. (well of course I did – thanks Justine for starting the ball rolling)

## **Rick from San Francisco wrote in April 2020**

Greetings from the US west coast. My sister-in-law Justine David, who lives in LA and was married to my late brother Anthony, sent me a copy of your latest newsletter. I have been keeping a sort of journal for myself during these pandemic days. You are right, we are living through a time that is worth documenting. I have found in writing my journal or diary of current events, that the writing gives rise to memories, and I inevitably veer off into the past. Reading your letter has revived lots of old memories of Kimberley; I will try to write them up in the coming days, and send them to you.

**Here are a few notes to myself**, written in the early hours this morning:

Kimberley:

Connie / Louis 75 Milner Street

Lorraine / Bob – our house 65 Carrington Road

Carrington Road Jews: Benny and Sadie David, Noel and Beryl Kretzmar, Ron and Rhona Amoils, Harold and Marion Lusman children Jules and Michael, Shim Klein, Harry and Lila Klein, Natie and Fay Cohen, Bob and Lorraine David, Buchman.

I remember the photo of the party at Connie & Louis' house circa 1948 Kimberley Regiment / MOTHS Aubrey David, Mendel Apter, Hendler brothers (Herbert & Owen) A David & Co Bennetts, Friedlanders, Hendlers, Daves, Jacobsons, Benjamin Brothers, Dave Apter, Robin Apter, Trevor and Ivan Tocker, Jeff Katz, David and Philip Kretzmar, Sidney Sacks, Barney Horwitz, Goldie / Judith Mehl, Gus Haberfeld, Cecil Sussman, (Kimberley Jewish Mayors) Louis and Harold Levinsohn, Klein, Seidel, Pony Club

Bob and Lorraine - 11 grandchildren Bob's BBC interview – 'Monte Cassino.....where my father had once to lie in a foxhole.'



## **Aubrey David b 1930**



## Aubrey David b 1930

Louis and Connie David's second son **Aubrey Marcus David**, became a distinguished architect. He married ballet dancer Muriel Jones. They went to live on the Costa Del Sol in the mid-50s. Aubrey was a pioneer, designing and building the first exquisite tourist and ex-pat homes in Malaga and other seaside towns of Southern Spain.



Aubrey passed away in 2016; he is still a 'brand name' and his innovative cluster housing projects are

recognizable in those areas. The villas he designed and built are still referred to as classics and command a high premium. See this sale notice for a house in Bahia <http://www.inmo-andalucia.com/blog/4-bed-villa-for-sale-with-spectacular-coast-views-in-bahia-de-casares-3502/> - and some villas he is said to have built as his own home that are now up for holiday rentals. [http://www.rusticblue.com/holiday\\_villas\\_in\\_spain/zc30.php](http://www.rusticblue.com/holiday_villas_in_spain/zc30.php)

This is from a sales advert on the internet:

**Renowned local architect Aubrey David was responsible for designing some of the most stunning properties to be found on the Costa del Sol, but he really outdid himself with this 4-bed villa in Bahia de Casares.**

Having moved to Spain from his native South-Africa in the mid-50s, Aubrey David went on to design many of the coast's most emblematic and popular residential developments as well

as numerous private villas and country properties. Bahia de Casares (above) is arguably the best of them all and is as picturesque as they come. Built on elevated land just 200m from the beach, the properties here have spectacular coastal views.



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The David Family

Compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London July 2019 from Rick David and family input and additional research.

Posted by Eli Rabinowitz, December 2019 Updated July 2020
Updated again, March 2022