

**THE GOLDBERG/GELBERG STORY
A MLYNOV FAMILY STORY**

mlynov

Version 34

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A note about the researcher/author: Howard I. Schwartz, PhD, is the grandson of Paul Schwartz and Pauline (Shulman) Schwartz, first cousins from Mlynov. Paul and Pauline's mothers were sisters and part of the large Demb family of nine children in Mlynov. Paul's mother Yetta Demb married Chaim Schwartz and Pauline's mother Pearl Malka Demb married Tsodik Shulman. The Demb patriarchs were Israel Jacob Demb and Rivkah (Gruber) Demb, Howard's great-grandparents on his father's side of the family.

After Howard's parents, Leon Schwartz and Joan (Schinker) Schwartz, passed away, Howard began researching his family roots, an effort which almost naturally expanded into an interest in the story of Mlynov in general, since almost every family married every other family in the small town of Mlynov.

Howard has been publishing the results of his research and interviews on a website about Mlynov and the adjoining town of Mervits, hosted by JewishGen (<https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/>)

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The Gelbergs / Goldbergs from Mlynov-Mervits

There were a number of Gelberg/Goldberg family members from Mlynov and Mervits who made their way to the US between 1898 and 1921 and the photos from one family line appear in the Memorial book. In the American records, their family names vacillate between Gelberg, Gilberg, and Goldberg but one family line stabilized on “Goldberg” and another on “Gelberg.” These two lines of Gelbergs/Goldbergs were almost certainly related to each other, likely descendants of siblings or cousins, though the exact relation is lost in memory and the two lines of descendants today didn’t even know about each other before this research brought it to light.

I first learned of the Goldberg line from Mlynov when visiting in Baltimore in 2019 for a “Gathering of Mlynov Family Descendants” that I had organized. Through a Facebook post, I serendipitously learned of a family named Schuchman in Baltimore that had also descended from families in Mlynov. That week I met and visited with the Schuchman family in Baltimore. From them, I learned that one of their relatives, Eta Laya Schuchman from Mlynov, had married a man named Labish Goldberg/Gelberg, and a number of their offspring had come to the US. In the months following that evening, I spent a fair amount of time, learning about this lineage who eventually settled on the name “Goldberg” in the US, though both variations “Gelberg” and “Gilberg” also appear in some of their records.¹ Quite a number of these Goldberg immigrants from Mlynov appear in photos in the Mlynov-Muravica Memorial Book and I would later figure out why: Sylvia Goldberg, the wife of Gershon / Joe Goldberg had been on the Mlynov Memorial book committee. Why Sylvia got involved in the making of the Mlynov Memorial book is a story I tell in another essay.²

The Other Gelberg Line from Mlynov

As I was researching the first Goldberg line, I started bumping into the records of other Gelbergs from Mlynov. Were they related? First, I found a Nussen (Nathan) Gelberg from Mlynov who arrived in NY in 1911. Next, I found a record of his wife, his second wife as it turns out, who arrived with some of Nussen’s kids in 1914. One thing led to another and I tracked down one of Nussen’s great-granddaughters: Amy Westpy. With additional research coupled with some of Amy’s family lore, another line of Gelberg’s from Mlynov emerged into view.

Nathan had in fact two other brothers who came to America, Joseph (Gedale) and Abraham Gelberg, and another brother, Yossel, who was still back in Mlynov in 1914. I eventually found and communicated with Joseph’s granddaughter, Denise Gelberg, a

¹ Morris’ passenger manifest uses the family name of what appears to be “Gilberg” and his wife and family came to the US in 1921 under the name “Gelberg.” Morris had begun to use the family name Goldberg by at least 1920, if not earlier.

² See my essay “The Story of Sylvia Barditch Goldberg”

https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/Ravings_of_a_genealogist.html#SylviaGoldberg

writer living in upstate New York. As I explored the lives of these three Gelberg brothers who came to the US, it became apparent that they were sons of one **Pinchus Meir Gelberg**, whose name appeared in a US death record and on a tombstone.

Why the Gelberg/Goldberg Lines Appear Related

There are several reasonable grounds for assuming that the original “Labish Goldberg” line and the “Pinchus Gelberg” lines are indeed related. To begin with, all of these immigrants were born in Mlynov, in the district of Volyn, which was a town of less than a thousand persons at the time and probably not more than 100 families if that. Second, the Hebrew/Yiddish spelling is the same for Goldberg and Gelberg and the variations are thus easily artefacts of English transliteration. In fact, one of the descendants of the Goldberg line specifically remembers hearing that the family name was originally pronounced “Gelberg” back in Mlynov.³

Of most relevance and importance, I discovered that Nathan and his daughter Sarah (Sima), appear on the same 1911 passenger manifest to America as Labish’s son, Morris, suggesting they all made plans and travelled together. Their names are only 19 names apart on the manifest. Had the page break fallen differently, they would have been on the same page. It is hard to imagine they were not traveling together and had not planned the trip together.

As we shall see, the names of the children in both lines are overlapping, though that can be an artefact of everyone using the same Hebrew names, like Moishe, Abraham and Sura and so forth. Of more pertinence, perhaps, is that Labish and Eta named their oldest son Pinchus, likely after a male relative in Labish’s line, perhaps his father or grandfather. Pinchus was also the father’s name of the three Gelberg brothers (Nathan, Joseph and Abraham). This could be a coincidence, but the cumulative evidence is at least suggestive. Still, there is some counterevidence that merits caution in drawing any firm conclusion about the relationship of these two lines, which we now consider.

On Finding Edith (Spector) Geller

Doubts about the relationship of these two Mlynov family lines arose when I recently met and spoke to Edith (Spector) Geller, a clear-minded ninety-six-year-old granddaughter of Labish and Eta (Schuchman) Goldberg. How lucky I was to find Edith. Since I started working on the Goldberg story, people kept telling me that I need to speak to Edith Geller, she knows all the history. But no one I had spoken to had known how to connect me to Edith in Florida. Until recently.

I had already completed my research and an early draft of this narrative when I was finally introduced to Edith by other relatives of hers whom I had tracked down. How wonderful to speak to Edith, an animated firecracker on the phone, who shared her

³ Citing Edith (Spector) Geller, “The Goldbergs,” page 1.

detailed illuminating memories with me, both confirming and deepening parts of the Goldberg story for me.



Figure 1 Edith Spector Geller with one of her granddaughters

Excavating other people's family histories has the effect of breaking through the walls of polite aloofness that are typically present when being introduced to someone you never met before. Suddenly, it is as if we become best friends for a lifetime, because I know all the characters in that person's life story and I savor and probe all the memories that come pouring out, memories which other younger family members often have no particular interest in hearing or find boring. I am a new audience, thirsty for these stories, which bring the dry facts I have collected to life. And based on the detailed methodical research I have done, I can usually add new nuances to that person's family story and sometimes even correct memories that have been distorted through time or never known before.

I have described this experience to my wife and friends as parachuting into another person's life, even though, to be honest, I'm scared to death of parachuting. But it feels to me like I have suddenly dropped out of the sky into someone else's story. I feel that now when speaking with Edith, my newfound ninety-six-year-old friend. We started talking like we had known each other for years. I wanted to hear all her stories. I imagined that if anyone else would have been listening, they would have thought we were like two middle school best friends who were sharing secrets.

Born in 1923 in the US, the daughter of Sarah (Goldberg) Spector, Edith has first-hand memories of all the first generation of the Goldberg line in America. Because she never heard about the other Gelberg line from Mlynov, she doubts the relationship of these two lines. In reading my narrative, she writes:

I can't imagine that we are related to the New Jersey Gelbergs and that we had no contact with them. The way my mother cried for her parents and brother Pinchus and sisters Esther and Channah Gitel who remained in Europe tells me that if she had nephews or cousins in

America there is no way we wouldn't see them. That's all we did—spend weekends with family. If they were estranged, we would have heard about it. And Aunt Sylvia would have been right in there to patch things up. So, if you find that we are related I would be truly shocked. I really can't help you with that one.

Edith's lack of knowledge about the Gelberg line is strong counter evidence against the relationship of these two lines, though family lines can lose touch for all sorts of reasons as we all know. Almost every family I talk to in doing these histories has some sibling or relative who is identified as a narcissist or considered unbalanced and who other members of the family avoid like the plague. I find these ruptures in family stories to be intriguing. From Edith, in fact, I learn about one such breach that nearly broke up the Goldberg line itself before illness helped to heal the rift. It is a story we shall come to by and by.

In any case, the relationship of the Goldberg and Gelberg lines will have to remain a hypothesis which we may never be able to verify—without other evidence or some DNA testing perhaps. In fact, we shall see that there were at least two other Goldbergs from Mlynov, and possibly a third, who made their way to the States, and whose names show up in the records, but who can't be identified. I suspect that they too were probably also part of these lines but their exact relation has not yet been discovered.

In the end it doesn't really matter to me if the Goldberg and Gelberg lines from Mlynov are related, since I am interested in the broader story, the trajectory of lives coming out of that small town called Mlynov, where my grandparents and great-grandparents were all from. Both of these lines are of interest to me, though I still think they are related.

It is to the story of these Mlynov Gelberg/ Goldberg immigrants that our attention now turns.

Part I The Line of Labish Gelberg from Mlynov

By 1874 when they had their first child, Labish Gelberg had married Eta Leah Schuchman, a daughter of Gershon and Shaina Blume Schuchman. This Goldberg line is thus related to the Schuchman family from Mlynov who also made their way to the US, as described under the Schuchman story.⁴ As I was working on these family trees, it also dawned on me that this Goldberg family line is also related to the family of Ezra Sherman, a Shoah survivor from Mlynov, whose grandmother was Eta Leah's sister.⁵

Not much information has been passed down in the family about Labish Gelberg. We can guess that he may have been born around 1857 based on the age of his first child

⁴ On the Schuchmans from Mlynov, see <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/families.html#Schuchman>

⁵ Ezra Sherman -> Etel (Golisuk) Sherman, his mother-> Hannah (Schuchman) Golisuk, her mother ->Eta Leah (Schuchman) Gelberg, her sister. On Ezra Sherman's story, see https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/Mlynov_Interviews.html

in 1874. According to a family memory reported by his granddaughter Edith (Spector) Geller:

We know nothing of his parents. He was an orphan from another town and was a very learned young man (which of course meant in Torah) and Eta Laya's father, Gershon, took him in to live with them. When Eta Laya was thirteen, her mother said to her, "now that you are tall enough to reach the light you can get married." And they gave her to Labish.⁶

If Labish was in fact an orphan, as this family memory suggests, then it would be evidence that the other Gelberg line from Mlynov may not have been related to this Goldberg line. There are some family notes, however, that suggest Labish possibly had two sisters, named Leah and Libbe.⁷ According to Harold Goldberg, a great-grandson, Labish died of pneumonia during WWI in "Varkovitch," likely the town today called Varkovychi, Ukraine, only a thirty-minute drive to Mlyniv today.⁸ Edith elaborates, "My mother told me that it was during WWI and the German soldiers ordered Labish to shovel the snow and that is when he contracted pneumonia."

We can confirm in fact that Labish was there during the evacuation of Mlynov during WWI from the account of one of his granddaughters, Helen Lederer that was published in the Mlynov Memorial Book. I had read that account sometime earlier but that was before I knew that Helen Lederer was Labish's granddaughter, knowledge provided by my new friend Edith (Spector) Geller.⁹ We shall return to Helen's account of that Mlynov evacuation below. It is one of the few firsthand accounts we have of that moment in time.

Labish and Eta Leah Gelberg had seven children. As was the case of other Mlynov families, some of the older children stayed behind in Europe when younger members of their family left for the US, probably because they had already established families of their own and it was more difficult for them to leave. The three who remained behind were **Pinchus Gelberg** (1874–1935), **Esther (Gelberg) Malar** (1888–~1942) and **Chana Gittel** (~1890–~1942).

⁶ Edith (Spector) Geller, "The Goldbergs," page 1.

⁷ In an Appendix, I discuss what else we may know about Leah Gelberg.

⁸ On Varkovychi, Ukraine, see <https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/community.php?usbgn=-1057382>

⁹ I had earlier read Helen Lederer's account but couldn't figure out who she was. It was only when reading Edith (Spector) Geller's account of "The Goldbergs", that I realized that Chultzie Goldberg, became Helen Dishowitz, and later Helen Lederer. For the translation, see https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/mlynov_in_WWI.html#Helen%20Lederer



Figure 2 Caption reads *Pinchus Gelberg, lived in Klevan. Mlynov-Muravica Memorial Book, p. 503.*

The Mlynov Memorial book (p. 503) shows a photo of **Pinchus Gelberg** with the comment that he lived in Klevan which is between Lutsk and Rivne, and not very far from Mlynov.¹⁰ Edith tells me that his younger brother Gershon/Joe is standing to his right with his arms crossed.

Joe appears in many of the photos in the Mlynov Memorial book and Edith jokes to me in an email that he is like the Woody Allen character Zelig who appears in every scene. I make a note to myself to go back and refresh my memory of that movie.

According to one of the stories that Gershon/Joe Gelberg later wrote down and that Edith shares with me, Pinchus had become an educated man, had married Chaia Rive in Klevan, where he had a leather goods store and two sons. He was wealthy and visited his parents often. He died in 1935. His wife and sons were later

killed during WWII.

Labish and Eta's oldest daughter, **Esther Gelberg**, for her part, married a man named Yussel (also Josef) Malar and they had two children: David and Gissie Malar. I learned from Edith that all of the Malar family were killed in the Holocaust except David who apparently survived, and subsequently came to America and died at the age of 94 in 2004.

I ask Edith whether David ever published any memories of his experiences. "He only told us about them," Edith responds. She recalls that David had been drafted into the Red Army as a young man and thus separated from his family at the time they were murdered. I'm guessing this must have been after 1939 when Russia invaded Poland from the East and Mlynov fell under Soviet control. Edith indicates that he survived by hiding in the woods for a long time. He later met his wife, Irene, in a displaced persons camp. She had been married before, but lost her family; David and Irene never had kids together. Edith tells me that I should talk to Joyce's sister who cared for David as he aged. I make another note to do so wondering where that conversation would lead and what other avenues of exploration will open up.

¹⁰ On Klevan, Ukraine, see <https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/community.php?usbgn=-1042145>



Figure 3 Mlynov Memorial Book p. 502, caption reads "Yossel with his wife Ester Malar with their children."

As I learn David Malar's story, I recall that there are other Malars from Mlynov mentioned in the Mlynov Memorial book and one of my own great aunts on the Shulman side (Nechuma Shulman) married a Saul "Meiler" in Mlynov, the spelling of which I now suspect is probably just a different English transliteration of the same family name.¹¹ My great aunt and her family also died trying to head east from Mlynov when the Nazis rolled in. They never made it to meeting point set with her sister, whose family waited until they could wait no longer and survived by making their way to Kiev.

Labish and Eta's third child who remained in Europe, Chana Gittel, married a man named Yankel whose family appears under a photo in the Mlynov Memorial book (p. 473).



Figure 4 Mlynov-Muravica Memorial Book, p. 473. Caption reads: "Yankel Preziment and his wife Chana Gitel (Goldberg) and their children, may their memory be for a blessing." Chana Gitel is one of the daughters of Labish and Eta (Schuchman) Goldberg.

¹¹ I want to thank Joyce Jandorf for this insight.

Yankel's last name is rendered as "Frumiut" in the current translation, but the pronunciation of which is actually "Preziment," as I learn from the back of a postcard retained by a descendant.¹² Chana Gittel and Yankel Preziment had three children. The family all died in the Holocaust as well.

The Migration of Labish and Eta's Children

Labish and Eta's other four children all made their way to the US and thus we know more about them. Those who came to the US were Moishe ("Morris") Goldberg (1875–1967), Chaya Gelberg (Ida Gevantman) (1893–1949), Sura Gelberg (Sarah Spector) (1894–1941), and Gershon (Joseph / George) Goldberg (1896–1984), the one who appears in the photo with Pinchus above.

The Story of Moishe Goldberg

Moishe Goldberg (1875–1967) apparently was the first of Labish and Eta's children to make his way to the US in 1911. He was not the first Mlynov immigrant to arrive in this country or even New York. The first Mlynov pioneers found so far, Getzel and Ida Fax, had arrived in Baltimore by 1890/1891. There were already a number of Mlynov husbands and a few families that had settled in Baltimore by 1911 and the arrivals were continuing to grow. New York seems to have had fewer Mlynov immigrants by 1910, but among them were not only other Gelbergs but the Katz family, whose son Aleph Katz, born in Mlynov, would become a well-known Yiddish poet.¹³ The Goldbergs apparently knew the Katzes and a photo of Sylvia Goldberg appears in the Mlynov Memorial book (p. 500) with Aleph Katz's mother, Henia Arelas. It is of interest too that one of the unidentified Simon Goldbergs discussed below was on the same ship that Aleph's father, Chaim Yurukim Katz, took to the US according to his naturalization papers.

In any case, by the time Moishe left for the US in 1911, he already had four children with his wife **Gitel** (also Gitla and Gussie) whose family name was **Weitzer (or Weizer)** and who lists a relative, possibly a brother or father, named Aron Weizer back in Mlynov on her 1921 passenger manifest.¹⁴ Edith tells me that I am wrong about her aunt Gitel's maiden name, which she had heard was "Frieberg" from Gitel's grandson, Harold Goldberg, who had earlier worked on the family tree and who heard that name from his

¹² I want to thank Joyce Jandorf for the insight on how to pronounce the family's last name, which she found transcribed on the back of a postcard in her possession.

¹³ On Aleph Katz, see <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/famous.html#Aleph>

¹⁴ A social security record and the passenger manifest suggest her family name was Weitzer. Harold Goldberg recently confirmed that, in the wake of reading this narrative, he found his father's (Abraham) death certificate and his mother is listed as Gussie Weitzer. Harold was named "Aron Usher" in Hebrew perhaps after his grandmother's father Aron. I wonder whether the Weitzer name here is related to the "Wurtzel" family name that is part of the Steinberg family tree from Mervits.

mother. Harold should know. But after sharing the records I have found, Harold tells me he has verified my findings independently now as well. It always interests me to see how oral traditions diverge from written records in family memory like the tension between the written and the oral Torah. In any case, Gitel is also remembered in the Mlynov Memorial book (p. 507) as "Pasia Hollis's daughter," likely how her mother was known in the community.

Moishe and Gitel's first daughter, Chultzie (also Chana), who became Helen Dishowitz in the US, and later Helen Lederer after a second marriage, was born in Mlynov by 1903. Moshe and Gitel had three additional children before Moishe left for the US: Sarah (later Sarah Lewbel) (1906-1987), Avrum Gelberg (1908-1954), and Gershon (later Jack) Gelberg (1910-1970). Shortly after the youngest child Gershon was born, Moishe departed for the US.

"**Mojshe Gilberg**," as his name was transcribed by a clerk on his passenger manifest, arrived in NY on Dec. 13, 1911 on the SS President Grant having left from Hamburg. Like a number of other Mlynov husbands who came ahead of his family during this period, he would be separated from his wife and children during WWI and would not be reunited with them until 1921. His youngest son most likely had no memories of his father by the time they met in 1921.

13	Pödnar	Peter	18	Hamburg
14	Gilberg	Mojsche	36	Russia
15	Haricenko	Katharina	17	Russia

Figure 5 Mojsche Gilberg arriving in New York on Dec. 13, 1911 on the SS President Grant

Yagyer	"	Mlynov	Mlynov	son	Gridgorov
Kaban	Russia	Mlynov	Mlynov	NY	New York
			father Dimitro Haricenko		

Figure 6 Right columns of Moshe's manifest showing his wife Gitel Gilberg is still back in Mlynov



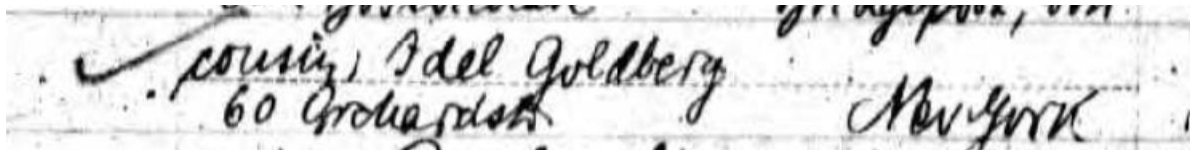
Figure 7 Mlynov-Muravica Memorial Book, p. 503. Caption reads: “Moshe Goldberg and his brother” [Joe]



Figure 8 Mlynov-Muravica Memorial Book, p. 502 showing Moshe Goldberg with his aunt, Chissa (Kepatch) Schuchman. She is the wife of Joseph Schuchman, brother of Moishe’s mother

Moishe’s passenger manifest makes evident that other cousins had already made their way to the US and were using the Goldberg name already. His destination was a cousin in NY, whose name appears to be “Idel Golberg” (Judel?), a person I assume was related via his father Labish, but whom I and the Goldberg descendants so far have been unable to identify. Here is some evidence, by the way, that Moishe knew a cousin on the Goldberg side of his family in America, even if his father Labish arrived in Mlynov as an orphan. Orphans can have siblings and cousins too.

Idel’s address is difficult to read and appeared to me to be something like “Grokerd st” in NY, which did not match the records of any other Goldbergs whom have been identified so far. In recent exchanges with Edith (Spector) Geller, however, she deciphered the street name for me to be “Orchard Street” which she recalled as the home of the Krellin family, of whom she had fond memories from visits with them as a girl growing up. I don’t think I ever could have figured out that that scrawl was “Orchard Street.”



Orchard Street is considered the heart of the Lower East Side. It was filled at the time with low-rise tenement buildings, with multiple apartments, which were narrow and typically made up of three rooms. It was common for a family of 10 to live in a 325-square-foot apartment. Today, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum at 99 Orchard

recalls the crowded lives of the new immigrants, but 55 Orchard Street, Edith tells me, is no longer standing.¹⁵

A search for the Krellins indeed turned them up initially at 60 Orchard Street as early as the 1910 census, one of seventeen families living at that address. It appears that Louis Krellin had arrived from Russia in about 1905, though his birthplace is not known at the time of this writing. There was also a “Jacke Goldberg” who was boarding with another family at that address in the 1910 census. I wonder whether this perhaps was the “Idel Goldberg” to whom Moishe was headed? Nothing more is known about Jacke Goldberg at this point in time.

But even more interesting was discovering the Krellin’s 1915 Census at 55 Orchard Street and the fact that lodging with them was our “Moisha Goldberg,” whose records before 1920 I had previously been unable to find. Without Edith’s memory, there just were too many Moishe and Morris Goldbergs in the New York City Directory to disambiguate them all. The record identifies “Mosha” in the pushcart business in that year, a fact that Edith tells me even she did not know. This discovery was a good example of how family memory and research enrich and deepen each other and how either one alone is only half the story.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
55	Krellin Louis	head	M	36	Russia	10	al		salesman det. str.	X
	Yetta	wife	F	36	Russia	9	al		housewife	X
	Oda	daughter	F	9	Russia	8	oc		school	X
	Tillie	daughter	F	4	5		civ		no occupation	X
	Fred	son	M	3	5		civ		no occupation	X

Figure 9 The Krellin family at 55 Orchard Street in 1915 Census

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
55	Goldberg Moisha	Lodger	M	37	Russia	3	al		pushcart business	0A
	Edelweide Lamm	head	M	25	Russia	8	al		clothing salesman	M
	Beanie	wife	F	24	Russia	7	al		housewife	X
	Dora	daughter	F	11	5		civ		no occupation	X
	Sylvia	daughter	F	9	5		civ		no occupation	X

Figure 10 “Moisha Goldberg” a lodger in 1915 with the Krellin family at 55 Orchard Street, identified in the pushcart business

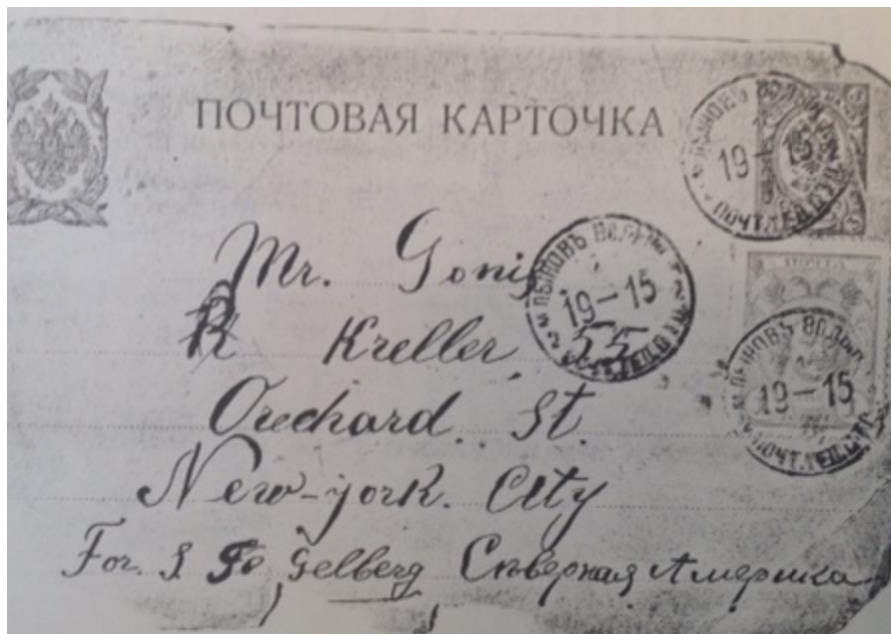
It is of interest to note that Moishe’s sister Sarah does not appear in the 1915 census, even though, according to Edith, she had arrived before the War and was living with the Krellins too. As sometimes happens for other women of the day, she does not show up in the records until she married Sam Spector in 1918. Under a 1907 US law, marriage determined a woman’s national status and upon marriage, she would receive her husband’s naturalization status. It wasn’t until September 22, 1922 that the Cable Act

¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_East_Side_Tenement_Museum

was passed and a woman would have her own nationality apart from her husband. At that time, women begin showing up in the records with their own naturalization papers.¹⁶

Edith shares with me a moving emotional postcard written in 1915 that was sent from her uncle Gershon/Joe in Mlynov to her mother Sarah while she was at 55 Orchard. The envelop confirms Sarah was at that address at the time. A translation of the Russian postcard gives a glimpse into what it must have been like for a young woman wanting to hear from her father during WWI whom she had left behind in Mlynov and whom she would never see again. Gershon writes:

Dear Sara! I want to tell you that thank God, we are all healthy. God bless you with good health! I want to let you know that we got the letter that you sent to [word illegible]. But he cannot read and write and that is why he doesn't send you letters. We are very glad to read in the letter that you are doing well. You were asking why father doesn't write to you and I am telling you that he can write to you only in Jewish [Yiddish]. Please, write to us and we will always answer you. Mother wants to ask you to send a few rubles because she was sick and needs money for healing. On the right, father wrote in Jewish, please answer.



Edith is not sure if the origin of the friendship between Moishe and the Krellins precedes his arrival in the US; she also cannot identify the mysterious Idel Goldberg whose Moishe's passenger manifest indicates was living with the Krellins on Orchard Street when he arrived. Perhaps one day we will know. Below, we shall see that Moishe's

¹⁶ "Women and Naturalization," <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1998/summer/women-and-naturalization-1.html>

addresses track closely to the Krellin family's movements for a time, showing the close friendship, if not familial relationship, that existed.

As noted earlier, Moishe was traveling to the US on the SS President Grant with other Gelbergs from Mlynov who are listed not far away from him. Moishe appears on "List 20." On "List 21," only 19 names away from Moishe, appear Nussen (Nathan) Gelberg and his daughter Sima (Sarah) also from Mlynov. Had the page break fallen differently, they would have appeared on the very same page.

The presence of these other Gelbergs from Mlynov on the SS Grant does not seem like it could have been a coincidence. They must have been traveling companions and planned their trip together, seeming to confirm the hypothesis that these two lines of Goldberg and Gelbergs from Mlynov knew each other if not were related to each other. Nor were Moishe and Nussen the first Gelbergs from Mlynov to arrive in America. We shall see in Part II that two of Nathan's brothers and two sons had already arrived and settled in Jersey City.¹⁷



Figure 11 Caption reads: "Gitel Goldberg (Pese Hollis's daughter)." Gitel Weitzer became Moishe Goldberg's wife. Mlynov Memorial Book, p. 507



*Figure 12 "Avrum Goldberg," Mlynov Memorial Book, p. 507
Al Goldberg is one of Moishe Goldberg's sons. He married his first cousin, Frances Spector.*

¹⁷ I discuss Nussen and his family in Part II of this narrative.

The Gelbergs/Goldbergs from Mlynov–17



Figure 13 A family photo of Morris (Moishe) Goldberg courtesy of Joyce Jandorf¹⁸

Figure 14 Gershon / Joe Goldberg's wedding photo, courtesy of Joyce Jandorf



¹⁸ Harold Goldberg has this photo too and loves that Morris is standing in front of a sign that says “keep off the grass”. Edith adds, “What do you expect? He couldn't read English”.



Figure 15 From the Mlynov-Muravica Memorial Book (p. 499) showing Gershon /Joe Goldberg (known in the family as “Uncle Joe”) with his sister “Sorke” [Sarah (Goldberg) Spector] holding her baby, Edith (Spector) Geller.



Figure 16 From the Mlynov-Muravica Memorial Book (p. 499), caption reads “Chaya Goldberg, Gershon’s sister,” referring to Ida Gevantman who is with her brother “Uncle Joe” (Gershon/Joe Goldberg)

First Generation of Goldbergs from Mlynov

	Parents	Children and Years of Birth
Unknown Father	<p>Labish Gelberg (~1857--~1915) married Eta Leah Schuchman from Mlynov before 1874</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pinchus (1874–1935) • Moishe / Morris (1875–1967) • Esther Malar (1888--~1942) • Chana Gittel (~1890--~1942) • Chaya / Ida Gevantman (1893-1949) • Sara (Sura) Spector (1894-1941) • Gershon (Joe / George) (1898–1984)

The Arrival of Sura (Goldberg) Spector

To continue Moishe's story, he arrived in NY in 1911. Moishe's wife and children would not arrive until 1921. During this time, two other close relatives of Moishe arrive. His sister Sarah (Sura) Goldberg arrived in 1912/1913, according to her 1930 census and family memories. So far, however, her passenger manifest has not yet been located by those who have searched and there is no evidence of her in the US until 1918.

In that year, Sarah would marry Samuel Spector, a furrier from "Warkovich" (today Varkovychi, Ukraine) which is only 16 miles east of Mlynov.¹⁹

According to family lore, shared with me by Sam and Sarah's grandson, Harold Goldberg, and also recounted by their daughter, Edith (Spector) Geller in her narrative, Sam had met Sarah briefly in Europe and was involved in helping to bring her to America. Harold writes:

The story as I heard it is that Sam sent for Sarah (paid for her passage) but that when she arrived she said that she was not ready to get married and wanted to look around. Sam was upset but waited. I believe Sarah even had another boyfriend for a while but eventually agreed to marry Sam. I also heard that she said that she would "learn" to love him.

Edith (Spector) Geller elaborates on the details of the story.

Sarah married Samuel Spector. He came to America in 1912 and sent for her soon after that. Though they were related, they didn't know each other well until shortly before he left for America.²⁰ He saw her briefly when she was visiting her sister Esther [in Dubno] and fell in love with her. He knew he had to marry her and immediately upon his arrival in America he worked on getting her here. First, he had to convince her. She was not in love with him but her parents, knowing that they were on

¹⁹ On Varkovychi: <https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/community.php?usbgn=-1057382>

²⁰ Edith has a recollection that Faiga (Foodman) Spector may have been related to the Goldberg family.

the verge of a world war, urged her to go. And then he had to battle his father, my beloved Zaida (Nathan Spector), who wanted Sam to marry a rich American girl. But Sam prevailed and brought Sarah here just before the war broke out in 1914. After she came here, she met and fell in love with and became engaged to a man named Ben. My father was heartbroken. But then my mother had a dream in which her father appeared and told her to marry Sam. Being a provincial, superstitious girl, she did. They were married New Year's Eve 1918.²¹

Edith recalls that once her parents were married, Sam's father, being a furrier, made Sarah a Hudson seal coat, which was quite a luxury item for any woman, let alone a relatively new immigrant. In 1920, Sam and Sarah had their first daughter Frances who would later marry her first cousin, Abe Goldberg, the son of her mother's brother Moishe (Morris). After Abe passed away, Frances would later remarry and become Frances Rosen (1920–2008).



Figure 17 Sarah (Goldberg) and Sam Spector on their wedding day

On a side note, this is not the only first cousin relationship I have found among first generation Mlynov immigrants. My own grandparents were first cousins both born in Mlynov who re-met one another in Baltimore in 1921 when their families were reunited there. David Fishman, another Mlynov born man, married his first cousin, Mlynov born, Eta Goldseker, in Palestine before they came to the US in the late 1920s. I think about the strong “village” and familial ties from Mlynov that still had power initially among the next generation and am reminded again that back in Mlynov the village itself was in

²¹ Edith Spector Geller, “The Goldbergs,” page 2. Interpolations based on a conversation with Edith June 17, 2020

many ways an extended family, a network of interlocking marriages across and between family lines. Frances Spector's marriage to her first cousin, Abe Goldberg, was another example of how those village and familial ties still had a strong presence in this first generation in America.

Also arriving around this same time was Moishe's uncle "Josel" (Joseph) Schuchman (his mother's brother). Joseph landed Aug. 24, 1913 traveling from Antwerp to Quebec on the SS Montreal. He was not the first Mlynov immigrant to come to the US via Canada. Israel Herman, who married Mollie Gruber from my family, arrived via Canada in 1911 and headed to Baltimore, where a growing contingent of Mlynov immigrants had settled at 836 E Pratt Street and 104 Albemarle Street, today the location of the Star Spangled Banner House. Baltimore was the destination of Joseph also, who was headed to a nephew by the name of Morris Weinstein.



Figure 18 Mlynov-Muravica Memorial Book, p. 501, caption reads "Simha Spector and his wife Sorke (Gershon Goldberg's youngest sister)"

Edith tells me she is on the lap of her father Sam Spector, and her older sister Frances is seated in the chair. Standing is Gershon/Joe Goldberg.



Figure 19 Mlynov-Muravica Memorial Book, p. 501, caption reads "Chaya Goldberg with her man Benjamin (Labish's daughter)" referring to Benjamin and Ida Gevantman

To return to Moishe Goldberg's story in New York it appears that for a time his addresses follow the movements of the Krellin family and it seems likely he was continuing to follow them until his family arrived. By 1917, when Louis Krellin filled out his WWI draft registration, he was living at 139 Division Street, just a few blocks from 55 Orchard Street, and appears there up through at least 1925. The Krellins then reappear at 55 Orchard again in the 1930 census.²²

Moishe isn't listed at any of the 19 apartment units at 139 Division Street in the January 1920 census from that year. His 1920 census is nowhere to be found in fact. But he does show up for the first time at that address in the records on May 17, 1920, when he filled out his Declaration of Intention to naturalize. I suspect he was starting to prepare for the arrival of his wife and children in 1921. His occupation is now listed as a grocer and he has settled on "Morris Goldberg" as the anglicized spelling of his last name, though his wife and family would still arrive a year later under the name "Gelberg." By this time, Morris is also apparently a partner in a business concern called "Goldberg and Flaum," which was listed in the NY City directory.

²² Edith (Spector) Geller remembers visiting the Krellins at 55 Orchard and was surprised by their appearance at 139 Division in the 1920s. In the records, the Krellins no longer appear at 55 Orchard by 1918, show up at 139 Division throughout the 1920s and then reappear at 55 Orchard in the 1930 census. It could be that Edith recalls visits after 1930 (when she was already 7) or that the Krellins retained 55 Orchard throughout the 1920s but were living at 139 Division Street or using that address for some reason. Since their names appear there in a 1920 and 1925 census, it does not appear to be a business address.

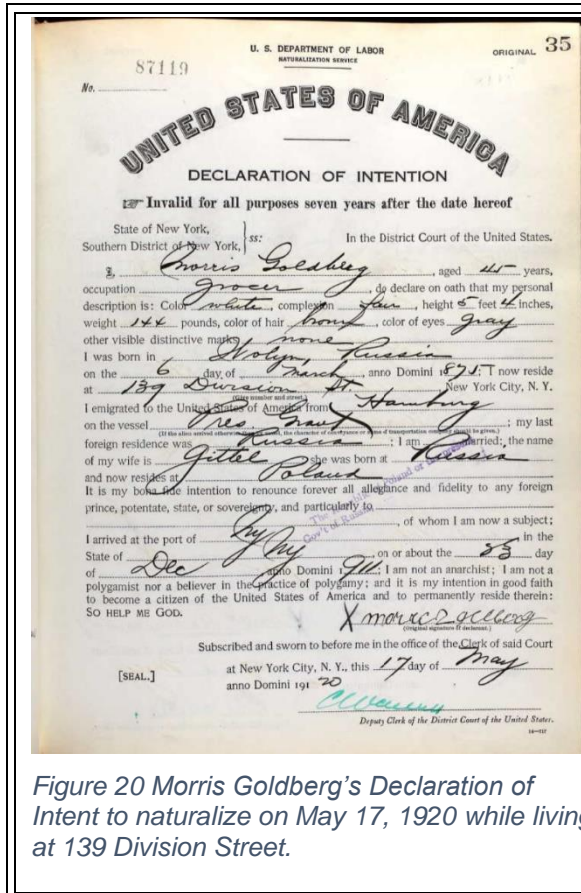


Figure 20 Morris Goldberg's Declaration of Intent to naturalize on May 17, 1920 while living at 139 Division Street.

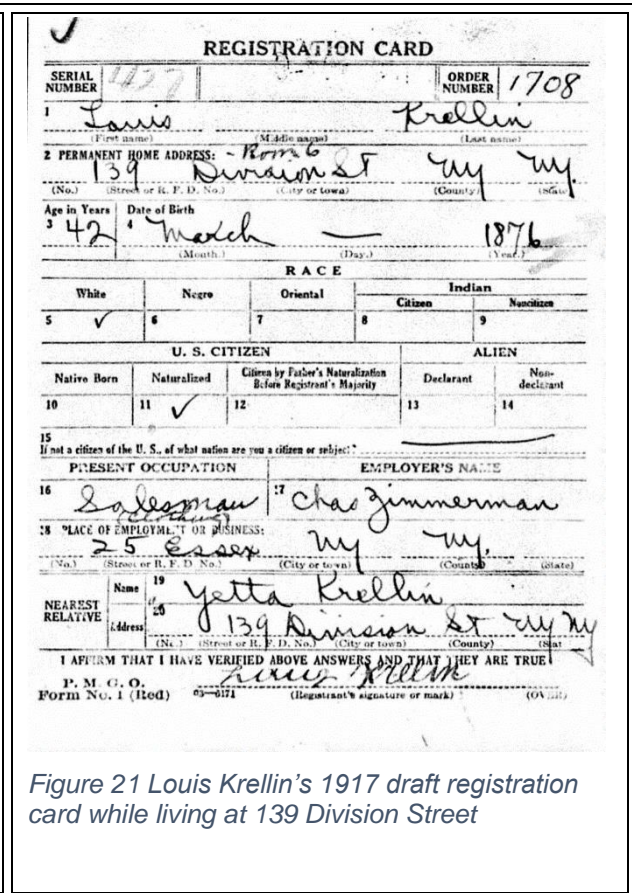


Figure 21 Louis Krellin's 1917 draft registration card while living at 139 Division Street

A year later in 1921, Moishe has moved to 24 Ludlow Street in NYC, just a few blocks away, now ready to receive his wife Gitel and his children, who arrived in 1921. Gitel was accompanied and probably assisted by Moishe's younger brother Gershon (Joe) Gelberg, who was the third of Labish and Eta's children to arrive in the US. This is not the first example I have found of a sibling assisting his sister-in-law on her passage to America to rejoin her husband.

The Goldbergs in the Evacuation of Mlynov

While Morris and his sister were settling into life in New York's Lower East Side, WWI fighting had intensified on the Eastern front and was moving back and forth quite close to Mlynov, and the town had to be evacuated at one point.²³ One of the only firsthand accounts of that evacuation comes from Morris's daughter, Chultzie, born in Mlynov in 1903, who later became Helen Dishowitz and then Helen Lederer, after she arrived in the US. Helen Lederer was the name she used in her piece written for the Mlynov Memorial book, a searing account of the evacuation from Mlynov as experienced by a young girl of 12 or 13, when the Germans occupied the town. In this account, Chulzie recalls seeing her grandfather Labish in Varkovitch when they arrived there on foot. The

²³ On Mlynov's location during WWI, see https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/mlynov_in_WWI.html

home they reached belonged to the family of Nathan Leyb Spector, a relative of some sort, who was already in the US with his son Sam. This was the very same Sam who had fallen in love with and was soon to be the future husband of Moishe's sister Sarah Goldberg.

Helen, still back in Mlynov at the time of this memory, recalls the trauma of the evacuation by Russian soldiers. As I read her account, I think about Helen going through this experience without her father Moishe who had gone to the US already in 1911 when she was just a little girl of seven. And I think about Moishe living in New York worried about the fact that the Eastern front of the War had moved close to where his wife and children were living. Here is a selection from a new translation I just commissioned, the full translation which appears at the end.²⁴

It was during the time of the first World War. A cold winter day, a burning frost, a deep snow. The Germans are getting closer to our town Mlynov. All of us are taken out of our homes. The [Russian] soldiers intrude into the synagogue sanctuary and pack us inside, like sardines. We are lying in great anxiety—not knowing what to expect. 2:00 a.m. An angry wind howls, like devils dancing. A banging is heard. Soldiers are standing with guns. They order everybody to go out into the street.

The soldiers have brought wagons, which are standing there: "Pack what you can on the wagons, and you—walk." The horses can barely drag themselves in the deep snow. Women and children shlep after the wagons on the way to Varkevetsh.²⁵ Everybody's hands are busy grabbing provisions for the children to eat. My mother, Gitl-Pesye Khoilye's,²⁶ has four small, crying children shlepping along with her. Also my Aunt Soreke-Pesye Khoilye's is going, carrying something in both hands, with her little girl Dvoyrele. After having walked a few versts, Soreke looked around – the child is not there!... She screamed; there was a commotion; Soreke ran back. The soldiers with their rifles drove on and said that the Austrians throw their light projectors on us; they will see her walking, and they will shoot. Soreke crept back and found Dvoyrele in the snow, passed out!

It is day. We get to Varkevetsh. We come to our relative Nakhman Leyb.²⁷ There is not even room for a pin. There is my grandfather,

²⁴The narrative is from Helen (Goldberg) Lederer, "In Anguish of the First World War," in Mlynov-Mervits Memorial book, pp. 147-148.

²⁵ Varkovychi, Ukraine.

²⁶ *Khoyle* is someone sick; perhaps the mother of Gitel and Soreke was ill.—HBF. In the Memorial book, Gitl is called Pasia Hollis's daughter in a photo suggesting Pesye was her mother.

²⁷ Nachman-Leb (Nathan) Spector is the father of Samuel Spector, the future husband of Sarah Goldberg. Edith indicates they were related via Nathan's wife, Faiga Foodman.

Leybush Gershon's, both his daughters Chana Gitl and Chaya, and other refugees—there is no place for us. And there is no place to go to. Frozen, tired. . . at last we see a cover over the cellar-- the only empty spot. We put a feather bed on it, and we lay down, exhausted.

After the family leaves Varkevetsh they head to Ozeryany, Ukraine, where they learn they have to head to Rovno. All told the walk from Mlynov to Varkovychi to Ozervany to Rovno was a distance of about 65 km or 40.4 miles.

Reflecting back on the experience later in life, Helen concludes, “We went through much fright and suffering until we made it to America. Thank God that this all happened in my young years, and I was able to overcome it. May the future generations know of better times with peace spread over the entire world. Amen.”

Moishe's Family Arrives with Brother Joe/Gershon Goldberg

Back in the US, Moishe had not seen his wife, Gitel, or his children in ten years since WWI had intervened. While Moshe's passenger manifest from 1911 says he left Mlynov, Russia, Gitel's reflected the new reality that they had left “Mlynov, Poland,” which had come into existence in the 1919 Paris Peace treaty following WWI.

Moishe's family thus participated in what was the third wave of Mlynov immigrants to the US between 1920–1924 and which also included other Mlynov immigrant families, including the Dembs, Lerner and Marders, who were also rejoining husbands and fathers in Baltimore who had been separated by the war.²⁸

Moishe's family arrived in New York on April 2, 1921, traveling on the SS Rotterdam from the city of the same name. Moishe's wife, Gitla (Gitel), age 42 at the time, was accompanied by Moishe's youngest brother, “Gerszon,” age 21, who presumably assisted his sister-in-law with the children: “Chirleja,” age 16, (soon to be Helen Dishowitz and later Helen Lederer), Sura, age 13 (later to be Sarah Lewbel), Gerschon (later Jack), age 8, and Avrum, age 11, who I have now confirmed is the one who later married his first cousin Frances, daughter of Morris's sister, Sarah Spector. They were all headed to Moishe's home at 24 Ludlow Street in NYC.

²⁸ On the third wave of migration from Mlynov after the war, see my discussion: https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/mlynov_in_WWI.html#Aftermath%22

	GELBERG	WOLF	3	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
	GITLA	GITLA	42	✓	F	M	HOUSEW.	YES	HEBREW	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
	CHAKJA	CHAKJA	16	✓	S	DONE	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
✓	UNDER 16	SURA	13	✓	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
✓	UNDER 16	GERSCHON	8	✓	M	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
✓	UNDER 16	AWRUM	11	✓	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
0		GERSZON	21	✓	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

Figure 22 The passenger manifest of Moishe’s wife Gitla, their children and his brother Gerszon.

In 1922, the Goldbergs are still living at 24 Ludlow Street, NYC, when Moishe filled out his Petition for Naturalization. One of the witnesses on his petition was Nathan Dishowitz, whose brother Louis married Moishe’s daughter Helen that same year. Nathan was living only a few doors away at 18 Ludlow Street at the time. The Dishowitz family were from Dubno, another town close to Mlynov, though it is unknown if Helen and Louis knew each other before they met on Ludlow Street. Perhaps they had met during the evacuation that Helen described.

Arrival of Ida (Gelberg) Gevantman

A few months after Moshe’s wife and children arrived in April 1921, another of Moishe’s sisters, Chaya (Ida Goldberg) Gevantman arrived with her husband Benjamin. They landed in New York on July 17, 1921 traveling from Danzig on the SS Gdansk.

Ida was the fourth of the Labish and Eta’s children to arrive in the States. The Gevantmans listed “Trubitz” as their last permanent residence in Poland, likely Torhovytsia, Ukraine today, which is only 17 km from Mlynov and a 30 minute ride by car today.²⁹

Matris	✓ Sender	19	✓	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Gewantman	✓ Chaja	26	✓	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
"	✓ Benjamin	25	✓	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Goselana	✓ Katarzyna	16	✓	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

Ida and Benjamin indicate on their manifest that they have “no one” still living in Truvitz at the time they left and they also list Truvitz as their birthplace. It seems more probable that Ida’s birthplace was in fact “Linoff” (“Mlinov”), which is what her husband Benjamin listed as her birthplace on his Petition for Naturalization which he filled out in Baltimore on March 1, 1924.

Edith sends me a relevant recollection mentioning Truvitz from this same period of time, written down by Gershon/ Joe Goldberg later in life for his daughter, nieces and

²⁹ On Torhovytsia, Ukraine see <https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/community.php?usbgn=-1056486>.

nephews. Looking back, Joe recalled the responsibility that fell on his shoulders to get his sisters married after his father Labish had died in Varkevetch.

After a while I realized it was time to marry off my sister Chana Gitel... I went to a matchmaker and he said we would need a dowry. I promised half of the house. He brought a boy from Truvitz and the bride pleased him. I made a nice wedding and everyone came to the wedding, the wedding of an orphan. Chana Gitel and her husband Yankel [Preziment] had three children, two girls and a boy and they were all killed by Hitler.³⁰

For my sister Chaia, I asked the same matchmaker for a husband and felt responsible for them, although I was the youngest. The matchmaker brought her a husband, Bennie [Gevantman], also from Truvitz, and they liked each other. Bennie wanted me to promise that I would take them to America. Sarah and Sam (Spector) saw to that and brought them over."³¹

Chaya (Ida Gevantman) was apparently pregnant on the passage to the US, and her son Hyman (Lewis) Gevantman was born a month and a half after they arrived on Sept. 12, 1921. He was named "Labish Chaim" after his grandfather, as I learned from his daughter, Sandra (Gevantman) Zylberman, whom I only recently tracked down and met by phone. During our review of one of the drafts of this narrative, Edith reminds me in her classically dry humor.

Everyone was named for Labish. He was obviously beloved by everyone. My brother Larry was named for him. Fran and Al's son Lenny was named for him. My son Eric too. His Hebrew name is Labish. In fact when I was little my mother told me that when her father Labish died, so she was told, his mother-in-law, Shayna Bluma Schuchman, said, upon learning that he had died, "if Labish is dead, I have nothing more to live for" and promptly died. Nu?

In any case, who could have anticipated that this particular grandson of Labish, who as an adult styled himself as "L. H. Gevantman," would become a scientist and work on the atom bomb as part of the Manhattan Project. His daughter Sandra recently told me that as a young adult he had left Baltimore as soon as he could, both to escape the small knit Jewish community but also in quest of becoming a scientist, a project that required downplaying one's Jewishness in a community that was still antisemitic. He had done his undergrad at Johns Hopkins University and then left Baltimore to do his PhD at Notre Dame. He would later be assigned as a US representative to the International

³⁰ As noted previously, Yankel's last name is Preziment, as recorded in the Mlynov Memorial book (p. 473) and on the back of a postcard in possession of Schuchman descendant, Joyce Jandorf.

³¹ Shared with me via email by Edith (Spector) Geller.

Atomic Energy commission in Vienna in the early 1960's, a period of time in the family's life that Sandra remembers fondly as a young girl.

L. H. Gevantman's story about fleeing Baltimore reminded me of another Mlynov grandchild in Baltimore born in the 1920s, my aunt Neena B. Schwartz, who was born to two Mlynov immigrants, and who also left Baltimore for Chicago to become a scientist. Ultimately, with the help of her unique angle on things, she was able to prove the existence of the first female reproductive hormone called inhibin and to become a well-known advocate for women in science.³²

These budding young scientists, children of Mlynov immigrants, would only find their path in science by leaving what felt to them like the claustrophobic confines of the immigrant community in Baltimore. L. H. Gevantman would ultimately be among the scientists who signed the secret Oak Ridge petition to President Truman in 1945, requesting that the Atom bomb be detonated publicly so that its force could be demonstrated before it was actually used in warfare.³³ Unfortunately, they were not heeded. As I write this, I think about how surprised the earlier generation from Mlynov would have been to hear such stories of their grandchildren and the amazing outcomes of their lives. There are ironies here too deep at times for me to even fully plumb them. While the Mlynov ghetto would ultimately be liquidated in 1942, descendants of Mlynov families in the US were storming the beaches of Normandy on DDay,³⁴ working on the atom bomb that would help end the War, and laying the ground work for women in science.

Back in 1921, when the Gevantmans first landed in the US, and their son L. H. was still "Hyman" in the womb, they were headed to the home of Ida's sister Sarah (Sura Gelberg) Spector, who was by this time married. Two records list Sam's address as 142 West 125th Street in New York at the time, but Edith believes this was not a home address but a location of his fur business.

One of these records is a passport application that Sam Spector filled out to go back to Europe, ostensibly for his fur business and promises not to get involved in bringing family out. Edith tells me that there were no other family to bring back. His letter to authorities about his intentions is revealing.

³² See Neena B. Schwartz, *A Lab of My Own*.

³³ <http://www.dannen.com/decision/oakridge2.html>. I would like to thank Joyce Jandorf, a Schuchman descendant, originally for this insight and subsequently Sandra Zylberman, his daughter, who discussed her memories with me.

³⁴ Ben Berger, was the only Naval Officer with the Rangers when they attacked the Normandy Beach on D-Day. He was only one of 80 to survive from the 250 who landed and received a Silver Medal in 1945.



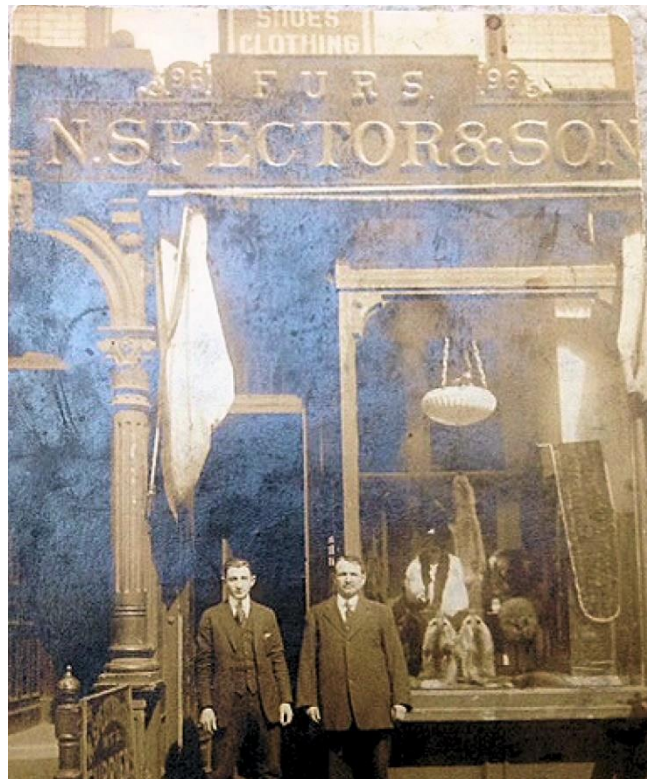
Figure 23 Letter and photo sent by Sam Spector to authorities with his passport application to return to Europe on business, signed Aug 25, 1921

I, the undersigned, an applicant for a passport, solemnly swear that I have not in the past and will not in the future, either directly or indirectly, solicit or advertise for money to be used in bringing immigrants or aid any emigrant, other than the members of my immediate family, to come to the United States, and will in no manner engage in or assist others engaged in inducing emigration to the United States; that in case I enter countries or sections of countries where disturbed conditions exist I will do so upon my own responsibility; that I will not digress from the purposes for which a passport is issued to me, unless such passport is properly amended; and that I will scrupulously observe the laws and regulations of the countries through which I may travel or in which I may reside.

I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

Samuel Spector

Figure 24 Edith's father, Sam Spector, and his father Nathan Leyb in front of their fur store 96 East Broadway.



The Gevantmans did not remain in New York long after they arrived. By March 1924, they were drawn to Baltimore where a little Mlynov had developed and where Ben Gevantman signed his Petition for Naturalization.

The family took up residence at 4804 Pimlico Road in the Northeast Baltimore where Baltimore Jews had been migrating as they left the poverty and crowdedness of East Baltimore. The Gevantman's next son, Joseph, was born in that city on July 17, 1927. Joseph, I am told, would grow up and have no children and would eventually be institutionalized. Another son Jerome is mentioned in an obituary of his father, but who left behind no other trace or family memories I have been able to find.

No. 11196

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DOMAINE PUBLIC
PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

To the Honorable the District Court of The United States at Baltimore Maryland

The petition of Benjamin Gevantman hereby filed, respectfully sheweth:

First. My place of residence is 4804 Pimlico Road, Baltimore Maryland
(Give number, street, city or town, and State.)

Second. My occupation is Examiner

Third. I was born on the 5th day of February, anno Domini 1895, at Truvez Poland.

Fourth. I emigrated to the United States from Danzig Free State, on or about the 2nd day of July anno Domini 1921, and arrived in the United States, at the port of New York, on the 17th day of July anno Domini 1921, on the vessel "Gdansk"
(If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given.)

Fifth. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on the 2nd day of April, anno Domini 1924 at Baltimore Maryland, in the Common Pleas Court of The City of Baltimore.

Sixth. I am not married. My ^{wife's} ~~husband's~~ name is Ida; ^{she} ~~he~~ was born on the 7th day of February, anno Domini 1893 at Linoff Poland, and now resides at with me.
(Give number, street, city or town, and State.)

I have 2 children, and the name, date, and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children is as follows:

<u>Hyman</u>	<u>November 10th, 1921</u>	<u>at New York.</u>
<u>Joseph</u>	<u>July 17th, 1927</u>	<u>at Baltimore Maryland.</u>

Both reside at Baltimore Maryland.

Figure 25 Benjamin Gevantman's Petition for Naturalization signed in Baltimore

The Goldberg Family, 1925–1930

By 1925, four of the seven children of Labish and Eta (Schuchman) Goldberg had arrived in the US and settled down. Moishe, by now Morris, had been rejoined by his wife Gitel and his children in 1921 and they settled in Manhattan where it appears Morris had a grocery business. Their oldest daughter Helen Dishowitz had married and started a family of her own. Their second daughter Sarah would marry Herbert Lewbel in 1929.

Morris's sister, Sara (Gelberg) Spector, who had arrived in 1913— early 1914, and married Samuel Spector by 1918, had four children during the 1920s including Edith

who has been my interlocutor for this family story. In the 1920s, the family was living in Brooklyn. Ida (Gelberg) Gevantman and her husband Benjamin, as noted above, had migrated to Baltimore by 1927, where their second son Joseph was born.

Moishe's youngest brother, Gershon Joe (now George) Goldberg, who had arrived with Moishe's wife in 1921, would marry Silka (Sylvia) Barditch, a transplant from Baltimore, in August 1927. Sylvia's family had settled in Baltimore, where her father and uncle had been living, but moved up to New York after a family tragedy made Baltimore no longer bearable. Photos of Sylvia Goldberg, as she was subsequently called, appear throughout the Mlynov-Muravica Memorial book and she became the only woman on the Book Committee that produced the Memorial edition. Sylvia also contributed an essay to the Memorial book about a wedding between a man from Lutsk and a woman from Mlynov. When I set out to learn about Sylvia, I was surprised to learn that she was not from Mlynov at all, but was from Lutsk, a town that is 36 km from Mlynov or 36 minutes driving today. Why had she become an editor of the Mlynov Memorial book? I leave the mystery of Sylvia's involvement in the Mlynov project for a separate essay that recovers Sylvia's own special connection to Mlynov and explains her abiding interest in the town and its history.³⁵

Sometime after 1921, after Moishe's wife and children arrived, a major fault line opened up in the Goldberg family. Edith recalls the family making "secret visits" to her Uncle Moise in the Lower East Side. These visits were secret because some argument had ensued between Moishe's wife, Gitel, and his sister Sarah's husband, Sam Spector. Edith no longer remembers the substance of the argument that caused the breakdown. But given that Moishe and Sarah had been the only two Goldbergs in New York between 1913 and 1921, it must have been a profound dispute to disrupt their close ties.

Edith recalls how significant this rupture in the family felt to her as a child. While most of the siblings' families were close to Edith's parents...

Uncle Moishe was another story. Although he was many years older than his sister, my mother, Sarah, they loved each other but his wife Tanta Gittel was a very excitable woman and she and my father got into an argument soon after she arrived in America, (Pop was excitable too) and they didn't speak to each other. She forbid Moishe from seeing us but I remember once or twice we would visit Uncle Moise on the lower east side where he had a store. It was a secret visit that his wife was not to know about. Now I can't remember any details, but I do remember meeting him. He was sweet. We understood how important it was for Moise and my mother to see each other and we were intrigued. My mother sometime would cry because she couldn't see her brother

³⁵ The essay is called "The Mystery of Sylvia (Barditch) Goldberg" to be published <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/>.

and what was very painful for her was that she couldn't be at his daughters' weddings. (Helen Lederer and Sarah Lubel).

Aunt Sylvia was always trying to get them to make up but it never happened until one day in the mid 30's our parents were notified by Uncle Joe and Aunt Sylvia that Gittel had a stroke and was very ill. My parents felt that that was the time to forgive and forget. So one Sunday we all piled into the car, my parents in the front and the 4 of us in the back as always and we drove up to the Bronx where Uncle Moishe and his family were living. We kids knew this was a dramatic event. I think it was about 1935. My father went up to the door, rang the bell and was greeted most warmly and we were invited up and embraced by our long lost relatives. Tante Gittel couldn't speak but we believed she knew we were there and it seemed okay with her.

And so we met our cousins, Helen, Sarah, Al [Abe] and Jack. It was that day that Al saw Fran for the first time. She was about 15. He fell in love with her. He was about 27. Remember, even though they were first cousins, they didn't know each other until that day. Al began courting Fran.

Harold Goldberg, the son of these two first cousins, Al and Fran, whose future relationship started that very day of the family reunification, elaborates on what he heard about this family dispute from his parents. The memory provokes as many questions as it ultimately answers. Harold writes:

The issue involved sending money to bring Aunt Chaya (Goldberg) Gevantman from Russia to the U.S. Moishe's wife, Gitel, was opposed and as a result the families of the two siblings did not speak for about 15 years (except as Edith says in secret). It is correct that after Gitel had a stroke, Sam and Sarah went to see Moishe and Gitel and they made up and they all decided to match Frances and Abe. Aunt Sylvia served as the go-between. The two cousins had about a 10-month engagement before getting married.

And that was how the first cousins, who would later marry, first got acquainted. Their marriage merged together two lines of the family that had almost fractured apart. I think about how this rupture in the Goldberg line almost created a situation where the next generation lost touch with their cousins. Could something similar have happened between the Goldberg and Gelberg lines who no longer remember each other? Perhaps.

I am grateful when Harold's memory of the family dispute shows up in my email. I treasure these family stories that otherwise might be forgotten, and I am grateful that

Harold Goldberg is now engaging with me and sharing some of the stories he remembers from his family. It wasn't that way in the beginning.

When I first tracked down Harold via my work on the Mlynov Goldberg tree in MyHeritage and Ancestry, he pretty much completely ignored me. He wondered "who is this bloke," who keeps pestering me with emails about the Goldberg story, who is not even a relative. Harold is no slouch. He is the "David E. Underdown Distinguished Professor of History, at the University of the South." But little did Harold know, I was no slouch either. And so I kept chasing Harold, because he and I have a DNA match of 3rd-5th cousins and I was certain that our match must have come via some marriage in Mlynov at some point in time beyond our families' memories. Indeed, I have already found so many intra-family marriages from the towns of Mlynov and Mervits that I had earlier come to the conclusion that the shetl of Mlynov was in fact literally a family writ large. We were all related to each other.

But Harold wouldn't respond to my missives for nearly a year. Finally, after writing up an earlier version of this story, I caught Harold's attention. He understood that I didn't have just an idle interest in the Goldberg family, but that my passion for the Mlynov story made me deeply interested in what had become of his family too. When I remind Harold now about our DNA match and about how he initially ignored me, he writes:

Completely correct on both counts: on first contact I thought who is this "bloke" (although bloke is much nicer than the word I was thinking) and yes we are related (and I'm now glad we are). Feel free to include that information if you wish. I will read the latest version you sent soon and get back to you on that. Thanks so much. I love and appreciate your work on our saga.

I ponder now the fact that Harold and I have another deeper connection that I have uncovered. We both have a first cousin marriage from Mlynov descendants in our family trees. Harold's parents were first cousins, as were my grandparents. These Mlynov bonds of family and village, which were in essence the same thing, continued to hold their grip on the first generation in America. Now, a generation later, the Mlynov connection is a historical one that still bears some weight.

Once I got him engaged, Harold was not done with his memories of family spats. As it turned out, the marriage of first cousins did not put an end to the feuds between these two family lines. Harold recalls another dispute involving some of the same cast of characters. This dispute arose between his grandfather, the very same Sam Spector of the previous feud, and Moishe Goldberg's son-in-law, Lou Dishowitz, the husband of Moishe's oldest daughter Helen. This is the same Helen, by the way, who authored the memory of the WWI evacuation of Mlynov and who later became Helen Lederer. Harold writes:

Due to a subsequent argument between Sam Spector and Lou Dishowitz, Helen Dishowitz would not come to the wedding of her

brother Al with Frances Spector [Harold's parents]. This family dispute ended in 1942 when Helen and Lou's daughter, Shirley Dishowitz was going to be married to Irving Horowitz. Moishe's other daughter, Sarah (now Sarah Lubell) invited the feuding parties to dinner including Al and Fran Goldberg and Helen and Lou Dishowitz. Al asked for an apology from his older sister Helen for not attending his wedding and she gave it and then Al and Fran attended the wedding of Shirley Dishowitz.



Figure 26 An historic photo for the Mlynov Goldberg story: Sylvia (Barditch) Goldberg, one of the eight people who organized the Mlynov-Muravica Memorial book, handing a new copy of the memorial book to Edith (Spector) Geller.

Seated left to right: sisters Edith (Spector) Geller, Lillian (Spector) Rosenzweig, Frances (Spector, Goldberg) Rosen, with uncle Gershon / Joe Goldberg.

Middle row standing, left to right: Edith's husband Norman Geller, Irene Malar, David Malar, and Edith's father, Sam Spector. Last row standing (left to right), husbands Joe Rosen, Gerald Rosenzweig

Unidentified Simon and Idel Goldbergs from Mlynov

Before leaving the Goldberg story, it is worth mentioning that there were two other mysterious Goldberg young men from Mlynov who arrived in the US in 1907 and 1909 respectively. They both appear to have been named Simon, though the writing is somewhat illegible. I suspect they are first cousins of the Goldberg immigrants already discussed, though the exact relationship remains unclear.

The 1907 Arrival of Simon Goldberg #1

I accidentally discovered Simon Goldberg # 1 traveling on the same ship with one of my great uncles Moses (Morris) Schwartz (brother of my great-grandfather Chaim Schwartz). Moses was traveling with another Mlynov young man named Isak Gelbstein whose names appears several lines below that of Moses. I only discovered this Simon Goldberg on the same passenger manifest when I was hunting for still another Mlynov man who was supposed to be on the same ship. Chaim Yerukim Katz, the father of the Yiddish poet Aleph Katz from Mlynov, was supposedly on the same ship according to his later naturalization papers. I never found Katz’s name on the manifest but I did find this Simon Goldberg from Mlynov.

The three men from Mlynov arrived in NY on May 22, 1907 traveling from Rotterdam on the SS Neiuw Amsterdam. Moses, age 30, and Isak, age 25, appear on List 38 of the manifest, several lines apart, and almost certainly were traveling together.³⁶ Simon Goldberg from Mlynov appears on List 29, but was probably also a traveling companion. Simon is also next to a boy from Dubno named Yankel Rubinstein who may also have been his traveling companion.

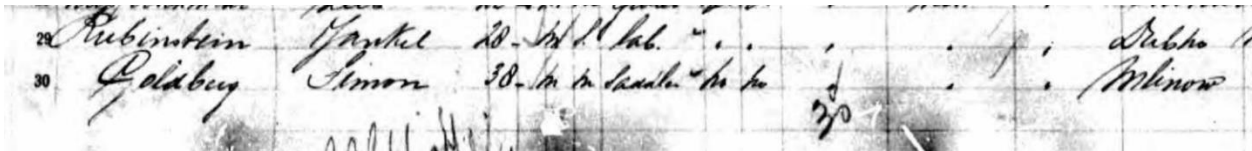


Figure 27 Simon Goldberg, 38, from “Mlynov” arriving in New York on May 22, 1907 on the SS Neiuw Amsterdam, the same ship taken by other Mlynov immigrants

Moses Schwartz, my great uncle I only learned about in the last few years, was headed to a Schwartz relative in Baltimore on Pratt Street where other Mlynov immigrants had settled. Isak Gelbstein, age 25, was headed to a stepbrother F. Finkelstein at 364-366 E 10th Street in New York. I have not yet begun to track down story of the Gelbstein family who were also from Mlynov.

Simon Goldberg, for his part, is age 38 at the time and is headed to a “brother-in-law” whose name is illegible and looks like “F.Kanfed” at 229 Second Street in New York,

³⁶ List 38 of the Neiuw Amsterdam. Moses is on line 11 and Isak on line 17
https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7488/NYT715_901-0463/4013724240?
 List 29 of the Neiuw Amsterdam. Simon is on line 30.
https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7488/NYT715_901-0489/4013724523?

likely the Second Street in the Lower East Side, not far from Orchard Street where Moshe Goldberg was later headed. The destination to a brother-in-law suggests that this Simon may have already had a sister in New York by this time, though I have sometimes found the term “brother-in-law” to be elastic and used for more distant relationships.

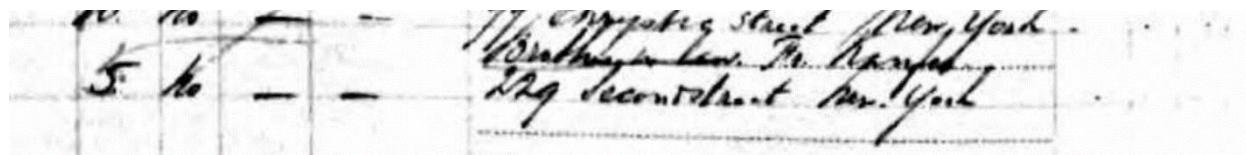


Figure 28 Simon Goldberg #1 headed to 229 Second Street and a brother-in-law F or T Kanfed?

The 1909 Arrival of Simon Goldberg #2

Our second mysterious Simon Goldberg from Mlynov appeared as a traveling companion of another Mlynov immigrant named “Meier Fischman”. The Fishman family is a large well-documented family from Mlynov and Meier is the first of many Fishmans to make their way to America.³⁷

Meier, age 28, was traveling with this Simon Goldberg #2, age 35, on the SS Alice from Trieste to New York and arrived April 9, 1909. They were not the first Mlynov immigrants to travel to the US via Trieste, a new port that was growing in popularity at that time and trying to compete with the very popular North German lines. Only a few months earlier, in January 1909, Bessie (Demb) Hurwitz and several of her children come to the US along the same way to join her husband David in Baltimore.³⁸

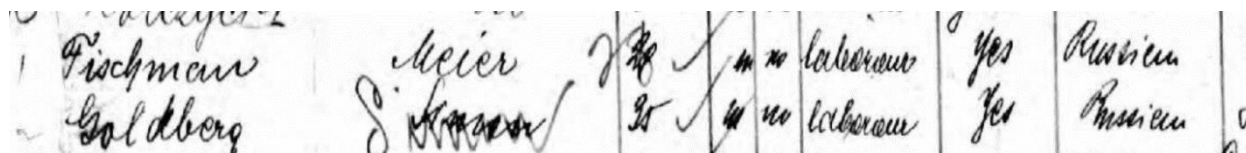


Figure 29 Meier Fischman, age 28, and Simon? Goldberg, age 35, from Mlynov

³⁷ See <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/families.html#Fishmans>

³⁸ In late 1908, Bessie (Demb) Hurwitz and several of her children followed her husband David to Baltimore and arrived in early 1909 traveling across Europe from Mlynov to Trieste and from Trieste to New York. <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/Mlyniv/families.html#Demb>

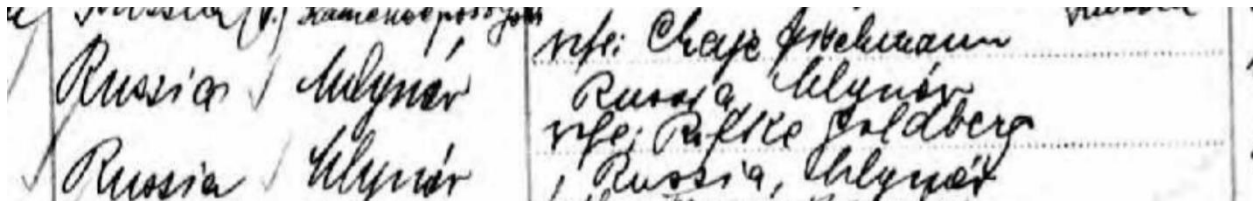


Figure 30 Meier indicates his wife Chaya (Goldseker) Fischman is still back in Mlynov. Simon Goldberg indicates he has a wife Rivke Goldberg back in Mlynov

Both men list wives they left behind in Mlynov. Meier left his wife Chaye (Goldseker) Fishman, who also happened to be his niece.³⁹ Simon left behind Rifke Goldberg.

Both men were headed to relatives in New York. Meier Fishman indicates he is headed to a cousin whose name might be “Ganer” at 20 Canal St. in New York.⁴⁰ Meier did not stay long in New York. By 1911 he is living in Baltimore with the Faxes, at 836 E Pratt Street, the most important landing place of the early Mlynov immigrants in Baltimore.

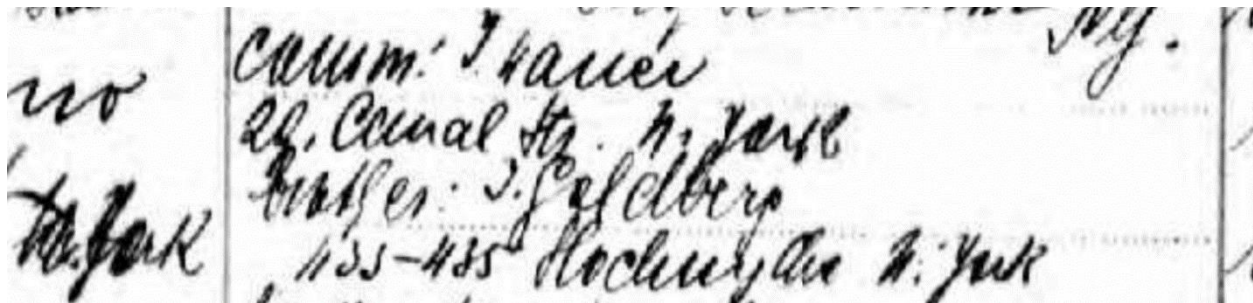


Figure 31 Meier is going to a cousin J? Ganer? (possibly Gaynor later) at 20 Canal Street and Simon is going to a brother I? S? Goldberg at 1135 [street name illegible] N. York

Meier’s mysterious companion, Simon Goldberg #2, is headed to a brother, possibly (I. J. or S.) Goldberg who is living in New York on a street that is pretty illegible but looks something like 1135 Holchuy Ave. Is this perhaps the cousin “Idel” Goldberg to whom Moishe Goldberg was also headed in 1911 when he arrived? It seems very possible.

I have not yet been able to locate any more information about either of these Simon Goldbergs or the Idel Goldberg to whom Moishe had been headed. The fact that none of the Goldberg descendants know anything about these Simon Goldbergs from Mlynov suggests that indeed some of these village family relationships were indeed forgotten in New York. That is not really surprising really, given that Moishe and Sarah, the first to

³⁹ Chaya Fishman was the daughter of Simon Goldseker and Anna Fishman (Meier’s sister).

⁴⁰ I have been unable to identify this cousin of Meier Fishman. It is possible his name was “Ganer” and could be a cousin perhaps of Carl Gaynor who arrived in NY later. We know from oral traditions in the Goldseker family that the mother of Carl Gaynor was a Goldseker and he was thus a relative of both Meier Fishman and Meier’s wife, Ida. I suspect therefore that Meier was headed to relative in the Gaynor family.

arrive, had their hands full trying to get their lives up and running. It would make sense that more distant relations might fall by the wayside.

The Goldbergs listed in the Mlynov Memorial Book

Before passing in Part II to the story of Gelberg line from Mlynov, it is worth noting that the Mlynov Memorial Book (p. 433) lists the names of some Goldberg/Gelbergs who were “martyred” during the Holocaust.⁴¹ We can assume that Sylvia who was on the editorial committee of the book had read through these names one of which may connect the Goldberg and Gelberg lines. That she didn’t enforce a distinction between Goldberg and Gelbergs in the book may suggest that they were understood as one family line.

Gelberg/Goldberg, Yitzchak, Chava his wife, from the Koshuk (Kazak?) family line from Meyutz, their children Meir and Tova
--

Gelberg/Goldberg, Gershon, Bailah his wife, from the line of Moshe Nachmanis Holtzeker; [children] Yitzchak, Pinhas, Abraham, Esther
--

Gelberg/ Goldberg, Yosef, Sarah Devorah his wife, her sister Leah, their grandson Meir (a branch of this family is in Israel: grandson Yitchak son of Abraham Gelberg).

It is of interest that the second of these relationships was between another Gershon Goldberg and a Bailah Holtzeker (Goldseker in the US). There seems to be one or more Goldseker and Goldberg relationship that is now lost to memory. Edith has a vague memory that she is related to Carl Gaynor, whose family they visited when she was growing up, and whose mother we know was also a Goldseker.⁴²

I also see evidence that the last of these names, Yosef Gelberg, is related to the Gelberg family line described in Part II of this narrative. There we see that one of the Gelberg immigrants to the US indicated she had a brother-in-law named Yosel Gelberg back in Mlynov. I suspect that that Yossel Gelberg and the Yosef Gelberg listed here is the very same “Joseph” Gelberg described in an essay by Ashur Teitelman in the Mlynov Memorial book (pp. 38-41) as the person who owned the only mill in town and was considered very wealthy.

The fact that the Mlynov Memorial book blends what look like Gelberg and Goldberg relatives, and that Sylvia Goldberg presumably approved that section, seems to confirm my suspicion that these two lines were really one line back in Mlynov. It is to the story of the Gelberg line that our attention now turns.

⁴¹ From the Mlynov-Muravica Memorial Book, p. 433. An alternative translation of these lists can be found here. <https://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/Mlyniv/mly431.html>

⁴² I know from Audrey (Goldseker) Polt that Carl Gaynor was a first cousin of her father Sam Goldseker. Carl didn’t arrive in the US until 1913 under the name Kalmén Giner.

Part II The Three Gelberg Brothers from Mlynov

The Gelberg story continues in another separate document.

Appendices

Appendix I: Generations of Labish and Eta Leah (Schuchman) Goldberg

Their Children	Their Grandchildren	Their Great-Great Grandchildren
<p>Pinchus Gelberg (1874–1935) married Chaia Rive in Klevan killed in the Shoah</p>	<p>Two Sons (perished in the Shoah)</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Morris (Moishe) Goldberg (1875–1967) married Gitel (Weitzer) (1880-1939)</p>	<p>Helen (Chultzie) Goldberg (1904–1989) married Louis Dishowitz and later Jack Lederer and became Helen Lederer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shirley (Dishowitz) Horowitz (1923-2019) m. Irving Horowitz and had 3 children Dennis, Jill and Laurie, later m. Irving Dwork • Jerald Dishowitz (1929–1979) no children
	<p>Sarah (Goldberg) (1906–1987) married Herbert Lewbel (1903–1986)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alvin Leon Lewbel (1932–2014) m. Evelyn Bernstein and had three children • Walter Lewbel (1936-2019) m. multiple times and had a daughter Virginia Westrack
	<p>Avrum/Abraham (“Al”) Goldberg (1908–1954) married first cousin Frances Spector (later Rosen) (1920-2008)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leonard Goldberg (1941–) (named for Labish) m. Claire Fogel, two children, Gregg and Rob • Sondra (Goldberg) Elsea (1947–2019) m. Mac Elsea (deceased), no children • Harold Goldberg (1945–) m. Nancy Sloan, and has two sons, Alex and Zack
	<p>Jack (Gershon) Goldberg (1910–1970) married</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Goldberg • Gloria Goldberg

	Helen Rothstein (? -1997)	
Esther Gelberg (1888--1942) married Yussel Malar (1883-1942)	David Malar (1910-2004) (survived Shoah and came to US). Gissie Malar (?--1942) (perished in the Shoah)	NA
Chana Gittel Gelberg (~1890--1942) married Yankel Preziment (?-1942)	3 children (perished in the Shoah)	NA
Sarah (Sura or Sorke) Goldberg (1894-1941) married Samuel Spector (1894-1973)	Frances Spector (later Rosen) (1920-2008) married first cousin Avrum/Abraham ("Al") Goldberg (1908-1954) and later Joe Rosen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leonard Goldberg (1941-) (named for Labish) m. Claire Fogel, two children, Gregg and Rob • Sondra (Goldberg) Elsea (1947-2019) m. Mac Elsea (deceased), no children • Harold Goldberg (1945-) m. Nancy Sloan, two Alec and Zach
	Edith Spector (1923-) married Norman R. Geller (1921-2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric Geller (1947-) three daughters Jamie Ayers (Dustin); Liz (Nathan) Walsh and Julia. • Doug Geller (1951-) m. Sandi-Jo Scott; 2 children, Jessalyn (Ray) Piacentini; Lucas (Zoey)
	Lillian Spector (1927-) married Gerald Rosensweig (1924-2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheryl Rosenzweig Harris m. Greg, 1 daughter Sari Nicole Graber (1976-1996) • Howard Rosenzweig m. Jenny, no children • Alan Rosenzweig m. Linda, 1 daughter Shoshanna Rosenzweig, m. Sharon, 1 daughter, Jolie, m. Tamara no children.

	<p>Lawrence Spector (1929-1987) married Shirley Ellman ()d</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nancie Caruso-Spector m. David, three children • David Spector m. Karen, two daughters
<p>Ida (Chaya) Goldberg (1893-1949) married Benjamin Gevantman (1895-1965)</p>	<p>Lewis (Hyman) Gevantman (named for Labish Goldberg) (1921-2016) married Leatrice Black</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra (Gevantman) Zylberman m. and had two children, Benjamin and Rebecca • Janice Jason m. Paul Jason and had two children, David and Mark
	<p>Joseph Gevantman</p>	<p>never married</p>
	<p>Jerome Gevantman</p>	<p>Appears in obituary. No trace of him in the records or family memories. May have died young</p>
<p>George Goldberg (Gershon Joe) (1896-1984) married Sylvia Barditch (1902-1984)</p>	<p>Edith Kerker (1928-2009) married William Kerker (1926-2005)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harris Kerker m. June Geffner, one daughter Jeri • Andrea Kerker Zanzuri m. / d. Clement Zanzuri, one daughter Michelle and two grandchildren

Appendix II: Speculations about the Genealogy of Carl Gaynor



“צום אנדענק מיין טייערן זון קלמן — פון מיר דיין מוטער לאה גענער.”

Figure 32 This photo appears on page 504 of the Mlynov-Muravica Memorial Book. The caption reads: "In memory of my dear son Kalmen--from me your mother Leye Gener"

When her father was dying, Edith Geller had a conversation with him and jotted down some notes on a piece of paper. Given the situation, it is not surprising that the notes were understandably not entirely clear. Still they offer some potential clues which may be useful at some point and for that reason are worth documenting.

According to those handwritten notes, Carl Gaynor was a descendant of Labish Gelberg's sister, first name unknown. Labish's sister married a man named "Shemin de Satnick" [presumably last name Gainer]. They had a son Elia Aron [Gainer] who married a woman named Leah and Carl Gaynor was their son. We can also conclude that Leah's family name was Goldseker because the Goldseker family recalls that Carl was a first cousin of Sam Goldseker.

Based on these notes, Carl Gaynor's family tree thus looks like this:

- Shemin de Satnick married Labish Gelberg's sister.
- Their son Elia Aron married Leah [Goldseker].
- Carl Gaynor was their son

We can also verify two of these names in Edith's notes. On his Sept 1913 passenger manifest, Carl gave the name of his father as "Elle Aron" and as living back in Mlynov. We can also verify the name of Carl's mother to be Leah from a postcard sent to Carl by his mother which is published in the Mlynov Memorial Book. The caption indicates the postcard was sent from Carl's mother, "Leye Gener."

According to this reconstruction, Carl's father would thus have been a first cousin of Edith's mother, Sara [Gelberg] Spector, which is consistent with Edith's memory that the family visited often with the Gaynors in NY.