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### MY FAMILY BACKGROUND

My grandfather's great great grandfather lived in Suwalk, Poland near the border of E. Prussia about 1850. He was a landowner named Kleinfus. My grandfather's great grandfather's name was Abraham, and he had two children with his first wife, the oldest being my grandfather's grandfather Hymen Issaac. His sister, the other child, was named Fanny. Around 1880, Abraham's first wife died while Hymen Issaac prepared to marry Sophie Epstein, the daughter of a Rabbi. Their first meeting was arranged at the night of their engagement. So, Sophie Epstein became head of the household, being the only wife. . Living in the house now is Hymen Issaac and Sophie, sister Fanny, and the father Abraham.

My grandfather's great grandfather Abraham took a second wife who had children from a previous marriage. One was named Gertrude, she is the mother of George Alpert, who

founded Brandeis. Abraham adopted them both into his family. At Abraham's second marriage, Sophie gave the keys to the household to the new step-mother in law.

Soon after, Abraham was forced to sell his farm land, since in 1882, the Tzar made a bill that no Jews could own land. Hymen Issaac and Sophie Epstein had a baby boy named Max about the same time as the edict, March 17, 1882. Hymen Issaac was threatened by the draft into joining the Russian Army, so for that and other reasons, Abraham gave him enough money to send Hymen, Sophie, and Max to America to buy land. Abraham soon followed his family to America with his second wife and adopted children, and his daughter Fanny. They all lived in Holliston, Massachusetts. As Polish farm hands they did most the work, and the women cooked for the laborers. Abraham and Hymen did some peddling on the side in addition to managing the farms. Sophie Epstein and Abraham's second wife had babies year after year. Sophie in total had eight children, five who lived to adulthood. Abraham's new wife had several children, 1/2 uncles to Max, all younger than him.

In the meantime, Epstein's family came to Boston. Sophie's father became the Grand Rabbi of Boston, Herschel

Epstein. He was an Orthodox Jew, and not a Hassidic. Sophie wanted to move to Boston, so Hymen left the farm with his wife and family. Abraham remained on the farm, and died around 1915. He was buried in the Dedham Cemetery, and has one of the tallest stone pillars.

The Rabbi, Herschel Epstein had a long beard. He lived on Brunswick St., Roxbury- an all Jewish area then. He died at about 1919. Hymen Cline lived in the West end of Boston, around Leverett St. My grandfather's father Max, grew up there living in the same building with Harris Ellis, my grandmother's father. Harris knew Hymen the best, but Hymen was ten years older than Harris, about thirty years old. Max grew up, and graduated English High, a top school. From 1901-1905 he went to M.I.T., majoring in Chemistry. It was unusual for a Jewish boy to attend M.I.T. then. Max went on to Glens Falls, to get an internship with the Paper Company. He eventually rose to head chemist of the company. His father Hymen didn't die till 1933. My grandfather saw him last when he came to Boston. He remembers his wife Sophie as very neat, and she died in 1924.

Some of Max's siblings are Jack Cline, Ann Cline Herman, whose daughter lives in Los Angeles, and Sam Cline, who was

a surgeon that studied at Harvard Medical School. He died shortly after my grandfather's marriage reception. Nobody kept the Holliston farm, because mostly everyone went into business. Max met my grandfather's mother in Boston, at the Jewish college. Her name at birth was something like Hilda Matilda, but she picked up Elias as her real American name in school. She married Max in 1908. Her parents Mordecai Aronson, Born 1835, and mother Greta Seligman born about 1843, got married about 1861. They lived in the same province of Suvalk, Poland. At one point, they arranged business in Moscow, and received permission from the liberal Tzar to move to Moscow, 1861. Mordecai was a commission merchant, he bought things to sell to Jews in other areas. They enjoyed a good living, owned their own home, and had several servants. Greta never had to lift a finger, but she had six children who were all born in Moscow. In total, they had about twenty years of prosperity. In 1881 Ella was born, but Greta had to leave Moscow-edict revoked her passport to Moscow. This baby was born a year before Max was born in Suvalk. Mordecai had to give up his business and was exiled to Poland, but he waited till the police forced him to move, and then he marched to Poland. Mordecai died a few years after leaving Moscow. Greta died in 1919 at the age of seventy seven.

Out of the ten children that Greta and Mordecai had, only seven survived and three died in early childhood. Sam, born in 1869 and the oldest, when requested for the army escaped to S. Africa in 1889. The next two, Henry and Shepard went to America, to seek their rich uncle. Ella arrived in Boston about 1891. She married in June 1908, at 26 years old. She was blessed with a baby boy named Leo Emanuel, in October 1909. My grandfather, James Edward Cline was born November 13, 1913. He remembered when his father bought a Buick in 1916. Max didn't like horses because his eye was kicked out at the age of six. He was blinded, but he still looked alright. He was a great swimmer, and loved to boxing. He truly gave the impression that he was brought up in the slums.

In a surprise snowstorm on April Fool's Day 1915, in Dorchester, Massachusetts, my grandmother was welcomed into a family of three older brothers. Her parents were delighted, for they had been hoping for a daughter. My grandfather married my grandmother in 1937. Ethel Rhoda Ellis was her name, and they met at Kehillath Israel, late March 1935. Her mother's name was Minnie, father's name Harris- the old friend of Hymen.

My grandmother's mother came from Minsk, Russia, where she lived with her family of six sisters and a brother. Life was very hard for the Epstein family in Russia in 1882, with poverty, pogroms, and restrictions on Jewish people. For years they had heard of the amazing success of relatives who had gone to America. There was the Promised Land, flowing with milk and honey, where earning a living was easier, where there was religious freedom, and where all children had an opportunity for education.

Her family saved every kopec as they had planned for the realization of their great adventure. It was decided that grandfather Abraham would journey to America with one daughter Minnie (my grandmother's mother) who was then thirteen. When they were settled and could earn enough money for transporting the rest of the family, they would all be reunited in the United States of America. They were devoted Orthodox Jews, and prayed ardently that God who led Moses out of Egypt to the Holy Land, would also guide them to America, the land of promise for their future.

Crossing the Atlantic Ocean by ship in the 1880's took over a month. Immigrants were crowded together in the steerage, the lowest deck, and lived on not much more than

bread, herring and water. Her mother Minnie would often get extremely seasick because of the rough winter seas.

On the same ship was a young man of nineteen, named Harry, who was from Tzitimir, a town of northern Russia. Harry, the youngest child of seventeen children, was traveling with his father to seek their fortune in America, so they would be able to send for the rest of their large family.

What a happy coincidence, that this young man and this girl, who gazed together at the Statue of Liberty as they entered New York harbor, were to become my grandmother's parents. Harry was the son of Eli-Elison. At Ellis Island the clerk recorded the name with two "ll's", Ellis, like the island where they had landed, and that is how my grandmother's name came to be Ellis.

Minnie and Harry both settled in the crowded tenement district of the West End of Boston, where their fathers had relatives. Minnie worked twelve hours a day or more in a dressmaking sweat shop, and she awoke at dawn to deliver the orders from her father's butcher shop before she went to work. With several years of hard work and struggle to save

every extra penny, at last they had enough money to buy tickets for their family to be reunited again.

My grandmother's grandmother Mary and the five sisters and brother arrived at the dock, after several years of separation. While her grandparents and their older children worked and went to night school to learn English, the younger children went to public school to become Americans as quickly as possible. In Russia, boys went to Hedex, but girls did not go to school. My grandmother's aunt Celia told her about the thrill of her first school experience. She said, "The teacher was like a goddess, almost supernatural, as she revealed the magic of a new English language, and a new way of life, Democracy." Becoming a citizen was an important goal for my grandmother's ancestors, and the "Citizen Certificate" framed in gold and hung on the wall as a great achievement and the most precious of family treasures. Many other Jewish families came to America, as they escaped pogroms and hardships of Russia. They were often called "greenhorns" as they were newcomers, but gradually they settled in and established a community in the West End of Boston, of devoutly Orthodox Jews and ardent Americans.



Minnie Epstein continued her friendship with Harry Ellis and married him when she was eighteen. Together they opened a fruit store and struggled to make a living for their growing family of three sons who were born in four years. They lived in rooms behind the store, and Minnie sewed clothes for the children late into the night while she dreamed of her sons getting an education. My grandmother's oldest brother James was a lawyer, her other brother Edward became a radio operator and an electrician, and her youngest brother Elliot was a Sargent at Arms for our Epstein Association, and is a dedicated member of his synogogue and his community.

The bulk of this paper has concentrated mainly on my maturnal background. My father's family ancestors are small in numbers, and information about them and their lives was scarce. Even my father was puzzled over his background, and was upset that he couldn't tell me in greater detail, his own family history.

My father's grandfather was named Elias Horowitz. He was the son of a lumber seller, and died in 1938. He was born in Poland and eventually immigrated to the United States by boat. On the long journey, he met his future wife Tillie Baer. Together, they got married and made a living selling fruit on

the streets of New York. They had four sons and one daughter. Joe, Sy, Ephie, and Irving Horowitz were the four boys. Flo was the name of the daughter, and is my current great aunt. All four boys served the United States Army in World War II.

Irving Horowitz, my other grandfather, was born in 1912 and died in 1981, when I was six.. He is my father's father and he married my grandmother Ruth Diamond who lived from 1910-1967. Her father's name was Joseph Diamond, a tailor, and he died in 1953. His wife's name was Cecila, and she died in 1931. My grandmother Ruth had five brothers and two sisters. Harry, Sol, Moe, Irving, Al, Molly, and Sarah.

My grandmother Ruth Diamond suffered from multiple-sclerosis, a degenerative disease of the central nervous system, in which hardening of tissue occurs throughout the brain or spinal cord or both. My father Ellis Horowitz, was born in 1944, when his father Irving was serving the Army in World War II. My father's mother Ruth died when he was in college, at the age of 23.

Irving, Ellis, and my father's sister Ceil, grew up in Brooklyn, New York. My father attended Brooklyn College, and Wisconsin for graduate school, where he got his P.H.D. in

mathematics. At Wisconsin, my father met my mother Mary Anne Cline, who was studying to be a European Historian. My father is currently the Chairman of the Computer Science Department at the University of Southern California. My mother is now a professor of European history and the title nine coordinator at Occidental College.

Ellis and Maryanne Horowitz have had three children in their lives. My older sister Ruth Rachael Horowitz, born in Ithaca, New York in 1973. Edward J.G. Horowitz, the middle child followed after, the first of the family to be born in Los Angeles, California. Their newest born is named Ira Stevens Horowitz, and was born at Ceders Sinai Medical Hospital, Beverly Hills, California, in 1983.

In writing this unique paper, I've have learned and enjoyed hearing and reading the facts about my family history. I have learned so many intresting things, that I never knew before. It has triggered my interest in the past, and has especially given me a respect and dignity for my ancestors.

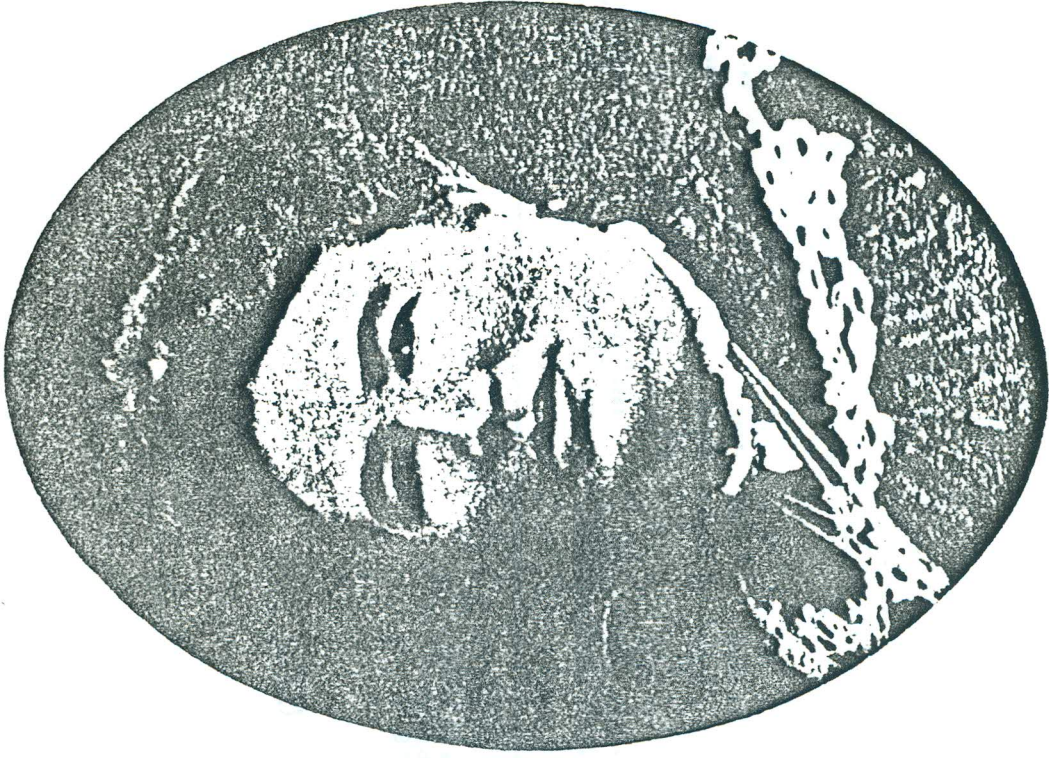
## APPENDIX

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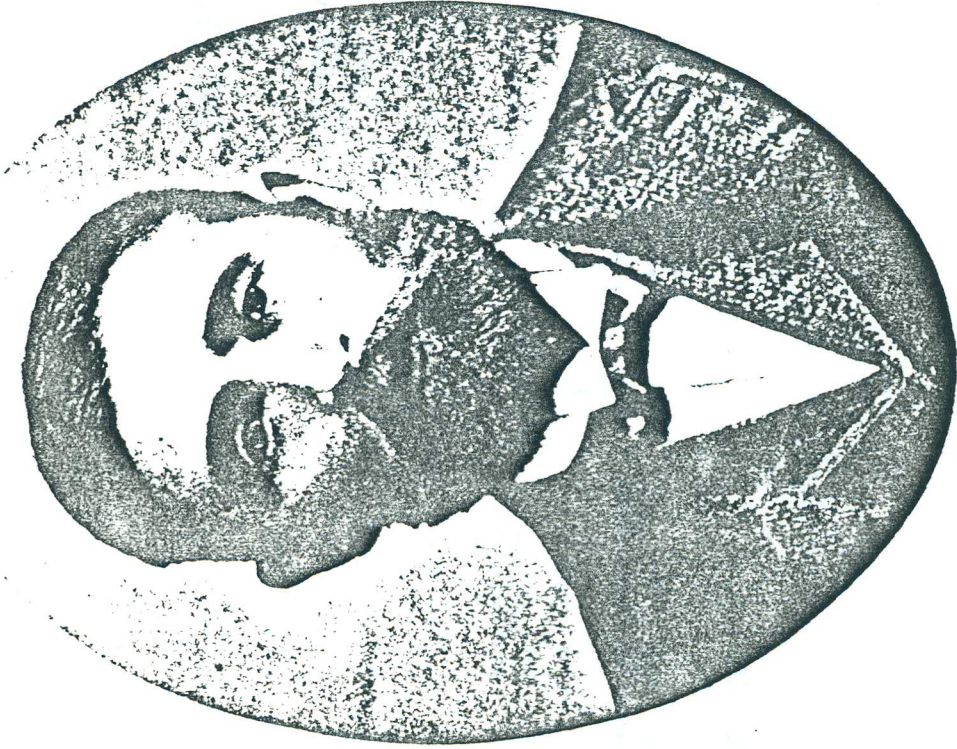
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## APPENDIX



Mary Epstein

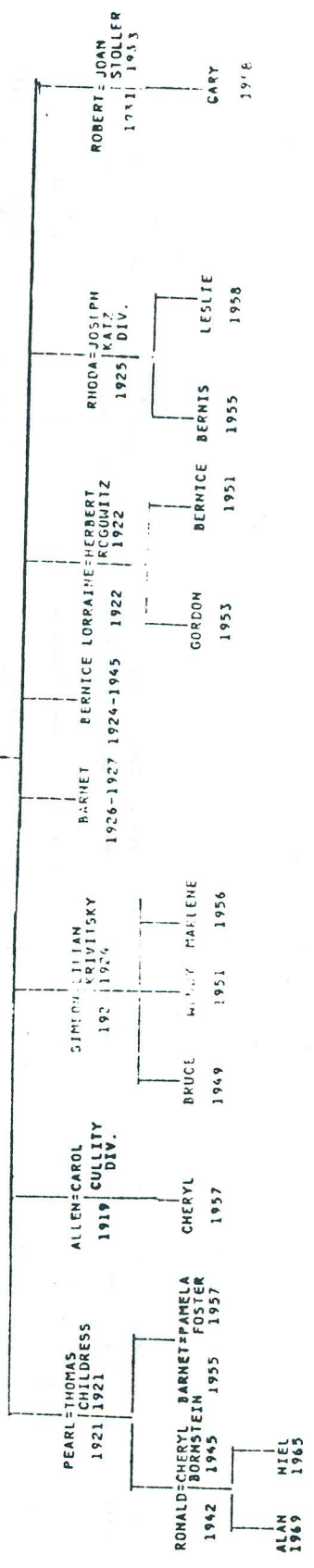


Abraham Epstein

THE ALBERT FAMILY

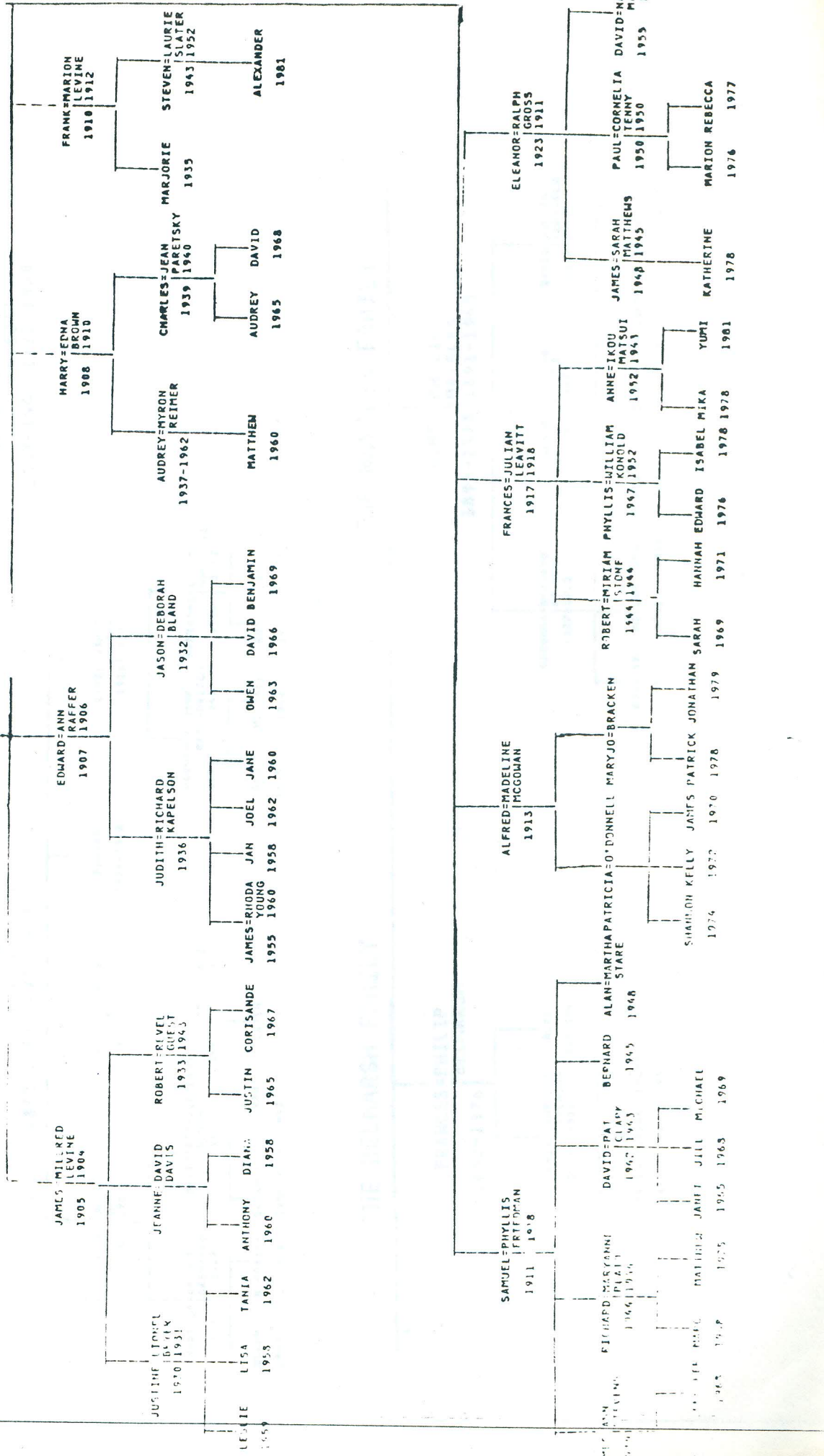
### THE EPSTEIN FAMILY

FREDA=HARRY=ANNIE  
GORDON  
ALTMAN 1891-1968  
1900 1889-1963



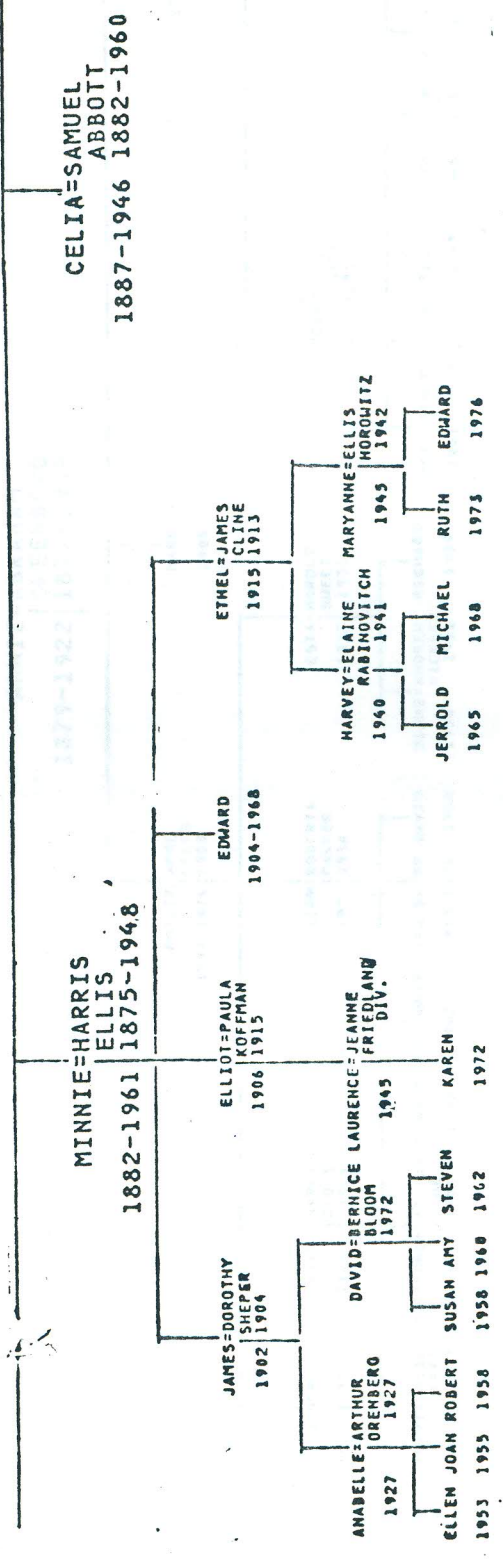
# THE ALBERT FAMILY

SARAH=M.B. ALBERT  
1884-1967 1882-1967

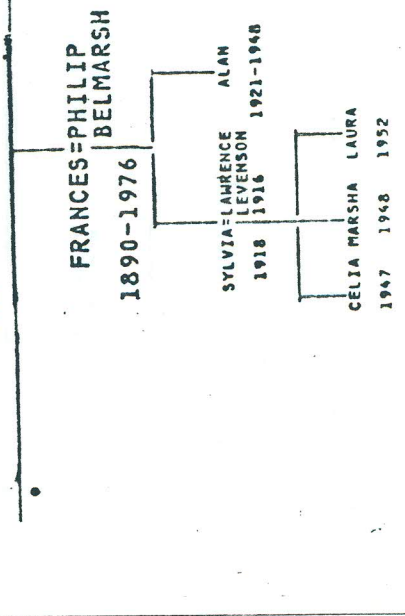


THE GREENBERG FAMILY

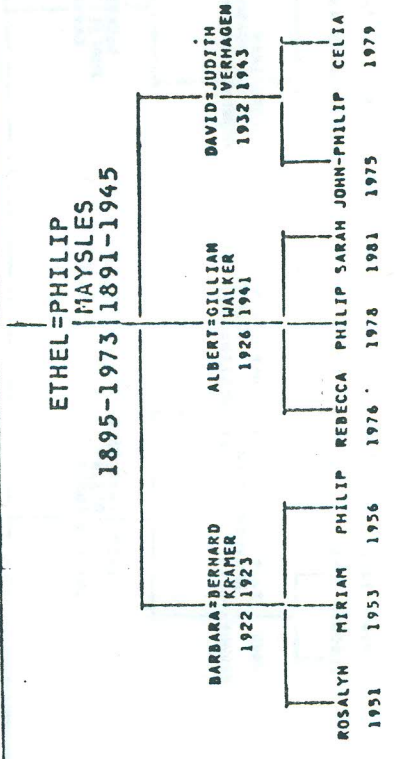
THE ELLIS FAMILY



THE BELMARSH FAMILY



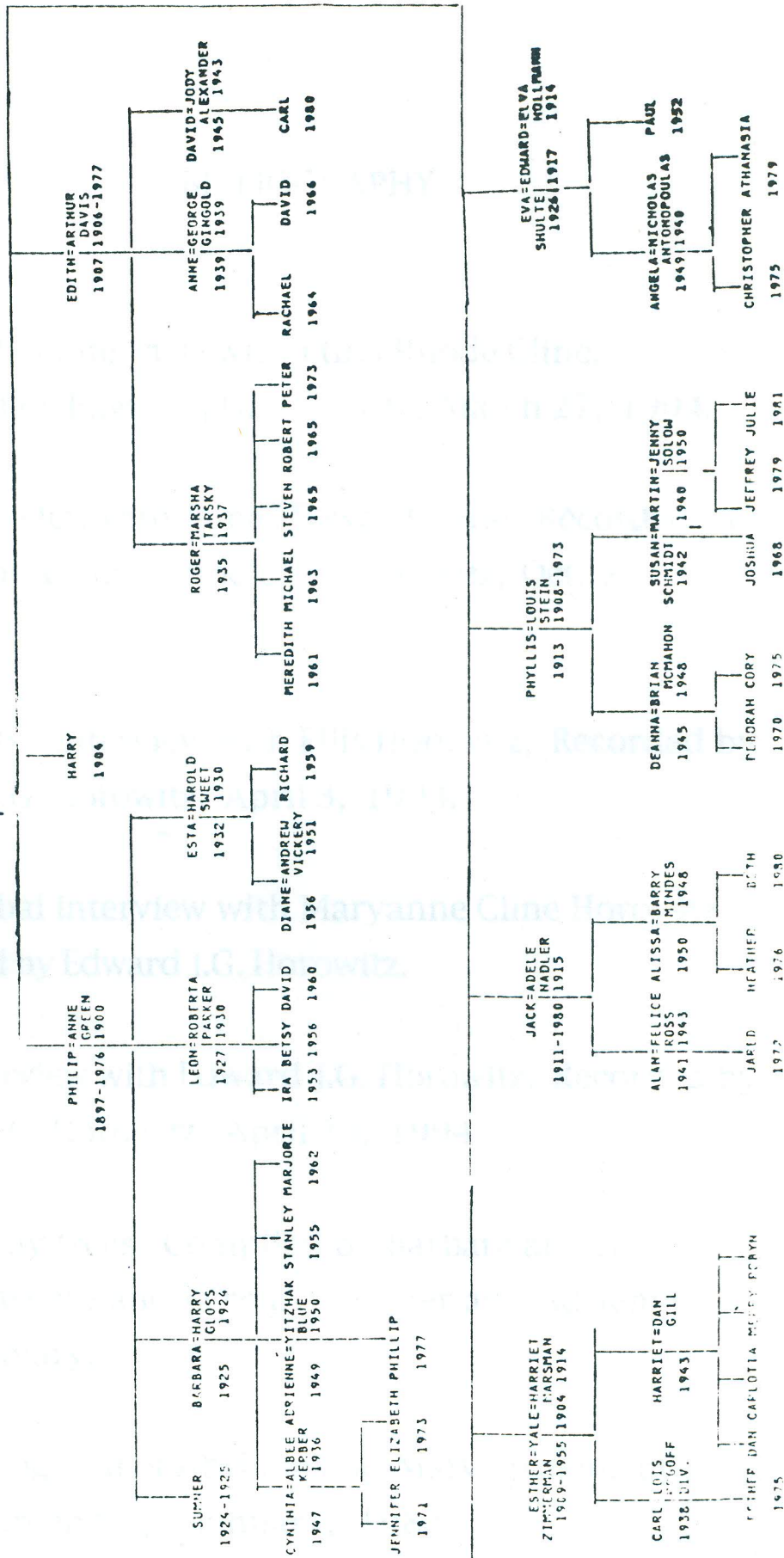
THE MAYSLES FAMILY





# THE GREENBERG FAMILY

ANNIE=ABRAHAM  
GREENBERG  
1879-1922 | 1877-1949



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