

GERTRUDE BARBER, MINNIE COWEN, AND RAY SAWYER THE SISTERS WHO INDEXED NEW YORK

BY ROGER D. JOSLYN, CG, FASG, FGBS, FUGA*

(Continued from THE RECORD 142:20)

About 1900, Charles and Augusta Cohen's eldest son, Abraham Frank, known in the family as A. Frank (or A-Frank), went to New York City and established a law practice.¹¹⁹ The parents and their other children followed about two years later.¹²⁰ Abraham Frank Cohen of 457 West 123rd Street, Manhattan, age 23, successfully petitioned the Supreme Court 21 July 1902 "to assume the name of Cowen" so "pecuniary interests would thereby be considerable [*sic*] enhanced."¹²¹ Over time the rest of the family also became Cowen, but Charles signed his name as Cohen in 1915, when he and son Abraham F. Cowen witnessed the naturalization petition of Augusta's brother Phillip Barnard.¹²²

City dwellers who rented moved frequently, often every year.¹²³ Within the period 1906 to 1930, the Cowens lived at 71 East 108th Street, 426 East 58th Street, 125 East 86th Street, 59 East 86th Street, 102 West 119th Street, 25 Morningside Avenue East, 201 West 118th Street, and 674 West 161st Street. Charles frequently moved his office during this time, first to 229 Broadway (with son A-Frank's law office), then to 66 Broadway, 51 Chambers Street (where former son-in-law Fred Sawyer also worked), 111 Broadway (where sons Frank and Bernard had their law office), and finally 50 Union Square East. After the move to New York City, Charles Cohen worked briefly as a dry goods salesman, and then was a real estate agent for several years.¹²⁴ He was also remembered as "the office man" for his attorney sons

* In addition to those acknowledged at the beginning of the first installment I wish to recognize Tim Cooper, Christopher Gray, Karen Mauer Green, CG, Frederick C. Hart, Jr., CG, FASG, Andrej Radzimirski, and Stuart Stahl.

¹¹⁹ He was living, as Abe Cohen, in the household of his mother's brother William Barnard at 273 W. 138th St. in 1900 (William Barnard household, 1900 U.S. census, Manhattan Borough, New York City [NYC], New York Co., N.Y., Enumeration District [ED] 621, p. 9A, dw. 66, fam. 156 [NARA T623, roll 1108]).

¹²⁰ *Providence Directory* . . . (Providence, R.I.: Sampson, Davenport, and Company), (1901) 230, indicating Abraham Cohen had "moved to NY." Charles was last listed in the Providence directory for 1902, p. 222.

¹²¹ Abraham Frank Cohen name change petition, Supreme Court of the State of New York for New York Co., Miscellaneous Record Files #1902-1931.

¹²² Phillip Barnard naturalization petition, United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, 1916, #18046 (NARA M1972, roll 133).

¹²³ See Alana Erickson Coble, "Moving Day," in Kenneth T. Jackson, ed., *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, 2nd ed. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010), 861.

¹²⁴ Charles Cohen household, 1905 New York state [NYS] census, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New York Co., Assembly District [AD] 33, Election District [Elect. Dist.] 1, p. 13, county copy, New York County Clerk's Division of Old Records, N.Y., N.Y. [N.Y. Co. Clerk Old Records]. *Trow's General Directory of the Boroughs of Manhattan and Bronx, City of New York* . . . (New York: Trow Directory, Printing, and Bookbinding Co.), (1906) 258, (1907) 271, (1908) 296, (1909) 297, (1910) 300, (1911) 300, (1912) 314, (1913) 317, (1914) 226. Charles Cohen household, 1910 U.S. census, Ward 12, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New

A-Frank and Bernard.¹²⁵ He worked for Mercantile Agencies Association, a collection agency, after 1915, first as manager, then treasurer, president-treasurer, and president-secretary. His wife Augusta joined the company as treasurer in the early 1920s. Charles and Augusta also worked for son David's U.S. Leather Products Company, manufacturers of bands for wrist-watches. By 1930, Charles was retired and renting, for \$60 a month, at 674 West 161st Street.¹²⁶

Charles Cowen served on a federal grand jury investigating the Black Tom terminal explosion—the blowing up of a New Jersey factory by German agents in July 1916 to prevent the munitions made there from being shipped to the Allies in Europe.¹²⁷ Grandson Leslie Kramer remembered that “The Kaiser’s Washington Embassy staff was in it up to the eyeballs,” and the jury indicted numerous high-ranking individuals for their parts in the plot.¹²⁸

Little else is known of Charles and Augusta’s lives. While members of their family were married by rabbis and interred in Jewish cemeteries, grandson Henry Cowen said, “So far as I know nobody in the family was very religious, but I was kept home from school on the two biggest Jewish holidays. . . . I never heard the word Hanukkah when I was young. My brother and I received presents from Santa Claus, but there was no Christmas tree. Santa left the gifts on our kitchen table.”¹²⁹ However, about 1930 Augusta visited Palestine, sailing to Turkey, then by boat to Haifa where there were no landing facilities and she had to be taken ashore by rowboat.¹³⁰

Charles Cowen died of liver cancer at his 674 West 161st Street home on 14 December 1932,¹³¹ and Augusta died of thermal cerebral hemorrhage and old age on 15 June 1938, at her residence, 336 Fort Washington Avenue.¹³² They were buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Maspeth, Charles on 16 December 1932, Augusta on 16 June 1938.¹³³ There are no markers on their graves in

York Co., N.Y., ED 378, p. 2B, dw. 9, fam. 40 (NARA T624, roll 1016). The parents and daughters Gertrude and Nathalie were surnamed Cohen in the 1910 census, but the other children (A. Frank, Bernard, Minnie, and David F.) were Cowen. Chas Cohen household, 1915 NYS census, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New York Co., AD 19, Elect. Dist. 36, p. 17, county copy, N.Y. Co. Clerk, Old Records (note 124). R. L. Polk and Co.’s *Trow’s General Directory of New York City . . . Manhattan and the Bronx* (New York: R. L. Polk and Co.), (1916) 452, 1161; (1917) 574, 1380; (1918) 549, 1346, 2128; (1920–21) 516, 1262; (1922–23) 548, 1243; (1924–25) 645. R. L. Polk and Co.’s (*Trow’s*) *New York City Directory (Boroughs of Manhattan and Bronx)*. . . (New York: R. L. Polk and Co., Inc., 1933), 878. Charles Cowen household, 1920 U.S. census, AD 11, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New York Co., N.Y., ED 842, p. 18A, dw. 55, fam. 455 (NARA T625, roll 1205). The Cowens were at 25 Morningside in the 1924–25 directory, but not listed there in the 1925 census (1925 NYS census, Manhattan, AD 11, Elect. Dist. 35, NYC, state copy, pp. 17–18). Charles Cohen household, 1930 U.S. census, AD 22, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New York Co., N.Y., ED 31-1066, p. 11A, dw. 6, fam. 223 (NARA T626, roll 1578).

¹²⁵ Henry C. Cowen (Commack, N.Y.), and Robert M. Cowen (Rye, N.Y.), telephone conversations with author, 20 July 1994.

¹²⁶ Charles Cohen household, 1930 New York Co., N.Y. (note 124).

¹²⁷ Leslie Kramer to Henry C. Cowen, letter, 17 Oct. 1972; copy provided by Cowen. Grand jury proceedings are not publicly available. For Black Tom affair, see Jules Witcover, *Sabotage at Black Tom: Imperial Germany’s Secret War in America 1914–1917* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: Algonquin Books, 1989).

¹²⁸ Kramer to H. Cowen (note 127).

¹²⁹ Henry C. Cowen (Commack, N.Y.) to author, letter, 25 July 2002.

¹³⁰ Henry C. Cowen (Commack, N.Y.) to author, letter, 1 Aug. 1994. No record of Augusta Cowen’s arriving back in America on a ship has been found in this time period.

¹³¹ Charles Cowen death certificate [cert.], NYC, 1932, Manhattan Borough, #26637. Charles Cowen death notices, *The New York Times*, 15 Dec. 1932, p. 19, col. 6, and 16 Dec. 1932, p. 19, col. 6.

¹³² Augusta Golda Cowen death cert., NYC, 1938, Manhattan Borough, #12920. Augusta G. Cowen death notice, *The New York Times*, 16 June 1938, p. 23, col. 7.

¹³³ Charles Cowen and Augusta Golda Cowen death certs. (notes 131 and 132).

the Congregation Zichron Ephraim plot,¹³⁴ and no estate files for them in the New York County Surrogate's Court.

THE SISTERS' LEGACY

It may not seem odd today that daughters of nineteenth-century immigrant Jews from Poland would be involved in genealogical pursuits. But Gertrude, Minnie, and Ray were not tracing their own family history. In fact, aside from Gertrude's correspondence with a cousin of her late husband about the Barber family, there is no indication she and her sisters were interested in their own ancestry. Instead, they came to their genealogical work through training and experience as stenographers and within time developed abstracting and indexing skills—and for Gertrude, research skills as well—that became income-producing.

Good genealogical guidebooks and teachers advise that researchers not rely on abstracts and indexes, but instead seek out and examine the original material. This holds true regarding the work of the three sisters. They were human and their work has errors and omissions, made clear in one example. Gertrude Barber's [*Deaths and Marriages*] *Taken from the Otsego Herald and Western Advertiser and Freeman's Journal*,^[5] *Otsego County, N.Y., Newspapers from 1795–1849* at the New York State Historical Association was compared to the original newspapers by library cataloger Marjorie Wetzel in the 1960s. Ms. Wetzel found deficiencies and annotated Barber's work, adding omitted information and correcting erroneously abstracted details.¹³⁵

However, the advantages of the sisters' work outweigh the deficiencies. The indexes accompanying the sisters' abstracts are valuable. Although they only indexed surnames, they included all of the names. A typical will index at one of New York's Surrogate's courts names only testators, but the sisters' indexes include all names including legatees, executors, and witnesses. Their abstracts of tombstone inscriptions preserve details that may no longer be legible and, in some cases, from markers no longer extant. In addition, their abstracts of marriage and death notices provide access to newspapers that have not been digitized or scanned with character-recognition software.

Did Gertrude, Minnie, and Ray know they were leaving such a legacy for researchers through their abstracts and indexes? Perhaps. And maybe those

¹³⁴ Communication with Mt. Zion Cemetery, Maspeth, N.Y., Dec. 1994.

¹³⁵ Wayne Wright, now Head Librarian, Research Library, New York State Historical Association (NYSHA), Cooperstown, N.Y., to author, letter, 28 June 2010, said that in the 1990s volunteers began retyping the "worn and tattered" Barber volumes that are now retired from the open shelves. The typists incorporated Ms. Wetzel's additions and corrections, but did not distinguish the annotations.

RECORD co-editor Karen Mauer Green of Cooperstown reports that Barber tended to leave out events that did not take place in Otsego County. For marriages, she did not include (if given) the names of officiants, the bride's residence, parents, the groom's occupation, and the wedding location; for deaths she did not include (if given) names of spouse or parents, cause of death, age in years/months/days, exact place of death, residence of father, place of birth, former residences, full middle names, and so forth.

Two other examples of Barber's omissions and misreadings, from her abstracts of Schoharie Co., N.Y., wills, are discussed by Gordon L. Remington in *New York State Probate Records: A Genealogist's Guide to Testate and Intestate Records*, 2nd ed. (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2011), 208–9. B-Ann Moorehouse (B-Ann Moorehouse, CG, conversation with the author at NYG&B, 7 April 1993) also noted omissions in Barber's abstracts.

who were able to consult and benefit from their work in the sisters' lifetimes conveyed their gratitude. As a cousin of Gertrude's husband expressed it: "[W]hatever you ultimately publish about [Gertrude Barber and her sisters], . . . many of us are indebted for [their] dedication to the profession of genealogy."¹³⁶ Through this article, I would also like to thank them.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY—MONSZAJN/COHEN/COWEN

1. **ABRAM^A JOSKOWICZ MONSZAJN**, son of Josiel/Josek [Joseph]^B and Jenta (Herszkowicz) Monszajn,¹³⁷ was born in Augustów (marriage record) or Ciechanów (death record), Poland, about 1816, and died as a day laborer in Łomża, Poland, 14/26 October 1855, aged 38.¹³⁸ Augustów, on the Netta River, is about 55 miles north northwest of Białystok, and Ciechanów, on the Lydynia River, is about 47 miles northwest of Warsaw. The two communities are about 115 miles apart.

Abram was a twenty-nine-year-old day laborer of Augustów when on 5 December 1845, he was married in Łomża by Rabbi Osiey Leyba Beniamenowicz Dyskin to **LEJA/LEA/LEAH DAWIDOWNA LEW**, age 18.¹³⁹ She was born in Łomża 12 March 1827, daughter of Dawid Leybowicz Lew, baker of Łomża, and Rochle [Ruchele/Rachel] Herszkówna, both age 28.¹⁴⁰ She died as Lena Harris of broncho-pneumonia and exhaustion at her home at 1526 Madison Avenue in Manhattan, New York City, 21 January 1907, aged 82.¹⁴¹

Following Abram's death, Leah married second Sam/Samuel/Simon Harris, supposedly an army sergeant,¹⁴² born in "Russia Poland" about 1829–1830,¹⁴³ by whom she had more children.¹⁴⁴ He died of phthisis pulmonalis

¹³⁶ John W. Herrmann, (Mountainside, N.J.) to author, letter, 22 June 1993.

¹³⁷ Beginning in 1787, Jews in Poland were required to adopt family names, which had been rare in earlier times except among well-known rabbinical families. Monszajn (Mondszejn) is a variant of the German Mondschein, meaning moonlight. Polish patronymics—adding the father's name with the ending *owicz* for sons and *owna* for daughters—were common among Jews in the north provinces of Poland (Alexander Beider, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland* [Teaneck, N.J.: Avotaynu, 1996], 9–14, 59, 315. Alexander Beider, "Jewish Surnames in Russian, Poland, Galicia and Prussia," *Avotaynu* 19 [2003]: 28–31, at 28 and 29).

¹³⁸ Abram Joskowicz Monszajn death record, 1855, #229, Civil Registrations of Jewish births, marriages and deaths for Łomża, Białystok, Poland, 1852–1856 (Family History Library [FHL] #747,712). Abram Josielowicz Monszajn and Leja Dawidna Lew marriage record, 1845, #25, Civil Registrations of Jewish Marriages Łomża, Białystok, Poland, 1845–1853 (FHL #747,710). The two death dates denote the Julian and Gregorian calendars, twelve days apart, as found in some Polish records in this time period.

¹³⁹ Abram Josielowicz Monszajn and Leja Dawidna Lew marriage record (note 138). Bernard Cowen wrote that his grandfather "Abraham Mondschine...came from a family of cake bakers," who had a high standing in the community (Bernard Cowen, Family Reminiscences, ca. 1950s, copy provided by his grandson Norman Bernard Mandelbaum of Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 2005), perhaps confused with Abram's father-in-law, who was a baker. Great-grandson Leslie Kramer wrote that the father of his "Grandpa Cowen" was a winemaker (Kramer to H. Cowen, 17 Oct. 1972 [note 127]).

¹⁴⁰ Leia Lew birth record, 1827, #21, Civil Registrations of Jewish births, marriages and deaths for Łomża, Białystok, Poland, 1827–1838 (FHL #747,709). Leah's son Charles's death certificate shows her name as Lea Luft (Charles Cowen death cert. [note 131]). The name Lew when pronounced in Polish sounds like "lefth," which probably explains the discrepancy.

¹⁴¹ Lena Harris death cert., NYC, 1907, Manhattan, #2607; a widow, born in Russia, daughter of David and Racheal (Leob) Cohen [*sic*], both born in Russia. Her father's surname is Cohen here probably because one or more of her brothers used that name. See note 97 (Part 1). "Undoubtedly her European given name was Leah and she Americanized it to Lena. . . . [and] used them interchangeably. It is also possible that within her family they used her true given name, Leah, which caused her to use it for secular purposes from time to time" (Gary Mokotoff to author, email, 15 Feb. 2011).

¹⁴² Cowen, Family Reminiscences (note 139).

¹⁴³ Samuel Harris death cert., NYC, 1881, #393598.

[tuberculosis] and exhaustion at his home at 54 Orchard Street in New York City 18 August 1881, aged 51.¹⁴⁵ No marriage record has been found for Leah and Simon/Samuel, but their children's records show they were born in New York—some specifying New York City—starting in the 1860s.

Two of Leah's brothers, Moses and Louis, reputedly immigrated in the early 1860s, with Leah and her family following soon after. As discussed in Part 1, her son Charles went to Charleston.¹⁴⁶ No record of Leah's immigration has been found. The informant for her death certificate placed her arrival about 1852.¹⁴⁷ Samuel Harris's death certificate indicates he immigrated about 1862–63,¹⁴⁸ but he, too, has not been identified on a ship's passenger list. If he became an American citizen, there are not sufficient identifiers in the naturalization petitions of the time to positively differentiate him from others of the same name, at least not in the New York City area.¹⁴⁹

Similarly, Samuel cannot be distinguished from among the several New York city directory entries for Samuel and Simon Harris, and has not been found in the 1870 or 1880 censuses.¹⁵⁰ The family probably lived outside of New York City for a few years, since Lena's death certificate indicates she was 55 years in the United States and 35 in New York City,¹⁵¹ and Samuel's shows he was in this country 18 years and 11 in New York City. He was in the clothing business at the time of his death in 1881.¹⁵²

Following Sam's death, Leah—sometimes listed as Lena and usually designated in city directories as widow of Samuel—moved frequently in New York City. She lived at several addresses between 1881 and 1907, including 54 Orchard Street, 95 Hester Street, 67 Forsyth Street, 82 Norfolk Street, 124 Forsyth Street, 308 West 26th Street, 69 East 108th Street (one building west of where son Charles Cohen lived in 1905), 1727 Lexington Avenue, and 1526 Madison Avenue.¹⁵³ She has not been found in the 1890 "police" census, the 1900 census, or the 1905 New York state census.

¹⁴⁴ Henry C. Cowen (Commack, N.Y.), undocumented genealogical chart derived from an earlier one by his Uncle Bernard Cowen. Kramer to H. Cowen, 17 Oct. 1972 (note 127).

¹⁴⁵ Samuel Harris death cert. (note 143). There is no estate file for him and no notice of his death was published in *The New York Times*, *New York Herald*, or *New-York Tribune*.

¹⁴⁶ Cowen, Family Reminiscences (note 139). No attempt has been made to trace Moses and Louis, but see Part 1, note 97.

¹⁴⁷ Lena Harris death cert. (note 141), showing she had been living in the U.S. 55 years.

¹⁴⁸ Samuel Harris death cert. (note 143), indicating he had been in the U.S. 18 years.

¹⁴⁹ One clue to his naturalization is in son Ben Harris's 1920 application for passport, in which he said his father Samuel Harris, born in "Poland Russia," was naturalized in the Federal Court in New York City in 1876 (Ben Harris passport application, #170172, Passport Applications, Jan. 2, 1906–Mar. 31, 1925, [NARA M1490, roll 1090]). A possible candidate, Simen Harris, naturalized 11 Oct. 1876, was, however, a sailor who immigrated from Russia as a minor (Simen Harris naturalization petition, U.S. District Court, New York, N.Y., 8:158, NARA-Northeast Branch, New York, N.Y.).

¹⁵⁰ In 1880, the Harrises were definitely not at 54 Orchard St., where Samuel died a year later (1880 U.S. census, Ward 8, NYC, New York Co., N.Y., ED 198, pp. 43–45 [NARA T9, roll 875]).

¹⁵¹ Lena Harris death cert. (note 141).

¹⁵² Samuel Harris death cert. (note 143).

¹⁵³ *Trow's New York City Directory* (New York: Trow City Directory Co.), (1882) 683, (1883) 689, (1887) 814, (1888) 818, (1889) 828, (1890) 833, (1891) 543, (1892) 570, (1895) 581. *Trow's General Directory* (note 124), (1901) 554, (1903) 584, (1907) 630. Her husband may have been the Samuel Harris, "pedlar," at 54 Orchard in the 1882 directory. She was not the Lena Harris uptown at 438 E. 85th St. in 1889 nor the L. Harris at 439 E. 85th St. in 1891. She was not found in directories for 1900, 1902, 1904, and 1906; at 69 E. 108th St. in the 1900 census (1900 U.S. census, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New York Co., N.Y., ED 915, pp. 14A–14B [NARA T623, roll 1122]); or in the 1905 state census at 69 E. 108th St. or 1727 Lexington

Leah Harris's death notice called her the beloved mother of Charles, Samuel, Jacob, Louis, Ben, Jesse, and Rose Pinover. Her funeral was from her late residence, with interment in Bayside Cemetery.¹⁵⁴ Louis Harris, 1826 Bath Avenue, Bath Beach [Brooklyn], petitioned for administration of her estate, stating that she died at her residence 31 December 1906 [*sic*], leaving survivors: sons Louis Harris, 42; Samuel Harris, 1154 Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut, 40; Bennie Harris, Hotel Metropole, 42nd and Broadway, New York City, 38; Joseph Harris, 127 (or 126) East 106th Street, New York City, 32; and daughter, Rose Pinover, 111 29th Street, Bath Beach, 36. Administration was granted to Louis and his brother Joseph 19 December 1907. Son Jacob had predeceased his mother by a week, but curiously, there is no mention of his children or of Lena's son Charles Cohen in the estate file.¹⁵⁵

In December 1907 sons Louis and Joseph Harris, administrators of the estate of Lena Harris, deceased, brought a wrongful death suit against Ludwig Traube Jr., owner of a bakery at 1518 Madison Avenue. They claimed Lena, while on her way to the bakery, fell into the establishment's unprotected sidewalk cellar opening on 31 December 1906, at 7:00 a.m., and "received mortal injuries from the result of which she died on January 21, 1907." They claimed "the defendant had been notified of the dangerous condition of said open cellarway, but had neglected or refused to protect or repair the same" and asked for \$5000 damages "and cost and disbursement of this action." Louis and Joseph also stated Lena died "leaving her surviving her sons, Louis Harris, Joseph Harris, Bennie Harris and Samuel Harris, and Rose Pinova [*sic*] (Harris, her daughter) her only next of kin and heirs at law, all of full age," with no mention of sons Charles and Jacob. Traube denied any knowledge or responsibility. The court dismissed the action 8 March 1910, for failure to appear, and the plaintiffs paid Traube's costs of \$189.88.¹⁵⁶

A grave marker "In memory of our dear Parents Leah and Samuel Harris," indicating they died 21 January 1907, aged 82, and 18 August 1881, aged 51, is in Mokom Sholom Cemetery, Ozone Park, New York.¹⁵⁷

Known children of Abram and Leah, possibly others, all born probably in Łomża:¹⁵⁸

- i. HERSZK MONSZAJN; not mentioned in mother's death notice or estate file.

Ave. (1905 NYS census, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New York Co., AD 33, Elect. Dist. 1, p. 14, and AD 32, Elect. Dist. 23, pp. 25, 27, county copy, N.Y. Co. Clerk, Old Records [note 124]).

¹⁵⁴ Leah Harris death notice, *The New York Herald*, 22 Jan. 1907, p. 1, col. 4.

¹⁵⁵ Lena Harris administration file, 19 Dec. 1907, 288:195, New York County Surrogate's Court, N.Y. See note 160 below for Jacob's death.

¹⁵⁶ Louis Harris and Joseph Harris v. Ludwig Traube, Jr., Supreme Court of the State of New York for New York County law judgments, 1910, H-433, N.Y. Co. Clerk, Old Records (note 124). There is no New York County coroner's report concerning Lena's death.

¹⁵⁷ Photograph of Harris marker, Mokom Sholom Cemetery, Ozone Park, N.Y., *Jewish Genealogical Society* (<http://www.jgsny.org>). Sam was buried in Bayside Cemetery 19 Aug. 1881, and Lena was buried there 22 Jan. 1907. Samuel Harris death cert. (note 143). Lena Harris death cert. (note 141). Both show burial in Bayside Cemetery, next to Mokom Sholom, the latter of which is "sometimes confused with Bayside Cemetery and Acacia Cemetery" (Carolee Inskoop, *The Graveyard Shift: A Family Historian's Guide to New York City Cemeteries* [Orem, Utah: Ancestry, 2000], 112).

¹⁵⁸ No births of children of Abram and Leah are found in Łomża records. The first two sons were named in their father's death record (note 138). In his genealogical chart (note 144), Henry C. Cowen indicates there was a son Abraham, b. 1849, d. 1865, but this could be incorrect since some Jews did not name a child after a close living relative (see Dan Rottenberg, *Finding Our Fathers: A Guide to Jewish Genealogy* [Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1986], 48–49).

- ii. SZLOMA MONSZAJN; not mentioned in mother's death notice or estate file.
- 2 iii. CHARLES¹ MONSZAJN, born Łomża, Poland, 11 October 1851; died New York, New York, 14 December 1932; married 11 October 1874 in New York City AUGUSTA GOLDA BARNARD.

Children of Sam and Leah, all apparently born in New York:¹⁵⁹

- iv. JACOB² HARRIS, born September 1865 (census) or about 1862–63 (marriage certificate); died of “exhaustion due to acute delirious mania” in Ossining, New York, 13 January 1907, aged 42;¹⁶⁰ married as a salesman of 67 Forsyth Street, New York City, by Alderman Cornelius Flynn in New York City 7 May 1887, SARAH MITTENTHAL,¹⁶¹ born in Germany or Russia (son Arthur's birth certificate)¹⁶² in May 1867 (1900 census), living in February 1927 (when her daughter Jeanette Welch died);¹⁶³ daughter of Emanuel and Rachael [–?] Mittenenthal.¹⁶⁴
- Jacob and Sarah made homes at 151 Madison Street, 39 Henry Street, 27 Jefferson Street, 315 West 32nd Street, 14 East 103rd Street, 25 East 111th Street, and 119 West 115th Street. Jacob worked as a clerk, then a tailor, and later owned a clothing business located at 313 Church Street, 124 Park Row, 88 Park Row, and then 23 Washington Place.¹⁶⁵ After Jacob's death, Sarah lived several places, including 17 East 105th Street (with her brother Harry Mittenenthal), 506–508 West 14th Street (where brother-in-law Jesse Harris lived with her), 145 West 111th Street, and 520 West 160th Street (again with her brother Harry).¹⁶⁶ She was not found in the 1930 census and may have died.
- v. LOUIS HARRIS, born about 1865 [perhaps a twin given Jacob's possible birth year]; living in 1914 (divorce file); married by Rabbi B. Silberman at the latter's residence on East Broadway 24 May 1893, FRANCES/FANNIE AMSTERDAM, born [Ruesckow?], Austria, about 1872–73, daughter of Velvel/Thomas and

¹⁵⁹ On Henry C. Cowen's genealogical chart (note 144) are listed Leah's second husband, Sam Harris, died 1881, and their children Ben, Louis, Sam, Jacob (daughter Jennie married Ben Welch), Jessie [*sic*], and Rose married Arthur Pinover. No children of a Sam[uel]/Simon and Leah/Lena Harris were found in indexes to New York City births 1862–1873.

¹⁶⁰ Jacob Harris New York State death cert., 1907, #2072; he was a “real estate agent or clerk,” of Orchard St., New York City, son of Samuel and Leah [–?] Harris (both born in Russia), buried in Mt. “Sini,” Brooklyn, 15 Jan. 1907. Photograph of Jacob Harris grave marker, Washington Cemetery, Brooklyn, *Jewish Genealogical Society* (<http://www.jgsny.org>), showing he died 14 Jan. 1907 (“In memory of my beloved Husband and our dear Father”). No notice of his death was published in *The New York Times* or *The New York Herald*.

¹⁶¹ Jacob Harris and Sarah Mittenenthal marriage cert., NYC, 1887, #70710, showing he was age 24, born in New York City, son of Samuel and Leah (Cohen) Harris. Witnesses were Louis and Dora Harris, Jacob's brother and sister-in-law.

¹⁶² Arthur Harris birth cert., NYC, 1901, Manhattan, #6635.

¹⁶³ Jeanette (Harris) Welch death notice, *The New York Times*, 13 Feb. 1927, p. E11, col. 8. Jeanette/Jennie married Jewish comedian Ben Welch, son of Louis and Pauline (Blumberg) Wolinski and brother of Dora who married Jacob Harris's brother Simon/Samuel (Ben Welch and Jeanette Harris NYC marriage license, 1908, Manhattan, #8859. Anthony Slide, *The Encyclopedia of Vaudeville* [Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1994], 542–43).

¹⁶⁴ Jacob Harris and Sarah Mittenenthal marriage cert. (note 161).

¹⁶⁵ Jacob Harris household, 1890 “Police” Census, NYC, AD 4, Elect. Dist. 12, Police Pct. 7, Book 90, not paginated, including David “Mitthal,” 19, probably Sarah's brother. *Trow's New York City Directory* (note 153), (1891) 542, (1892) 570, (1893) 593, (1894) 583, 1895 (581), (1896) 598, (1897) 604, (1898) 542. *Trow's General Directory* (note 124), (1899) 548, (1900) 431, (1901) 554, (1902) 563, (1903) 584, (1906) 596, (1907) 630. Jacob has not been identified in earlier directories. Louis Harris birth cert., NYC, 1895, #30381. Jacob Harris household, 1900 U.S. census, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New York Co., N.Y., ED 899, p. 2B, dw. 4, fam. 34 (NARA T623, roll 1121), showing him born N.Y. to Russian natives; Sarah born Russia, to the U.S. in 1875. Jacob Harris household, 1905 NYS census, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New York Co., AD 31, Elect. Dist. 13, p. 4, county copy, N.Y. Co. Clerk, Old Records (note 124), curiously showing that, although age 40 and born in the U.S., Jacob had lived in this country 30 years.

¹⁶⁶ *Polk's Trow's General Directory* (note 124), (1915) 874, (1916) 783. Sarah Harris household, 1915 NYS census, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New York Co., AD 23, Elect. Dist. 29, p. 6, county copy, N.Y. Co. Clerk, Old Records (note 124). Sarah Harris household, 1920 U.S. census, AD 22, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New York Co., N.Y., ED 1482, p. 37B, dw. 44, fam. 372 (NARA T625, roll 1226).

Belle/Bella (Wachtel) Amsterdam;¹⁶⁷ divorced New York County 14 October 1903;¹⁶⁸ she married second at the Hotel Ansonia in Manhattan, 8 January 1914, by Rabbi Joseph Silverman, Frank Isreal [*sic*] Cohen.¹⁶⁹

Louis and Frances lived at 183 Eldridge Street in New York City 1893–97; Louis was a clerk and agent. When Frances filed for divorce in April 1903, she and their two sons (Sidney, 8, and Walter, 7) had been living the last six months with her sister at 981 Freeman Street in the Bronx; Louis was then a waiter for Sharkey's, "the prize fighters' saloon," at 144 East 14th Street.¹⁷⁰ Louis was not found listed in the 1900 census, but in 1905 was working as a waiter and boarding at 149 Washington Street in Brooklyn.¹⁷¹ In 1907 he was living at 1826 Bath Avenue Beach, Brooklyn, age 42, and in 1910 was a clothing salesman, living with his brother Jesse at 17 West 115th Street in Manhattan.¹⁷² His subsequent whereabouts have not been determined.

- vi. SIMON/SAMUEL G. HARRIS, born 5 August 1863 (grave marker), August 1862 (1900 census), or about 1866–67 (mother's administration); died of uraemia and chronic interstitial nephritis in Tannersville, New York, 14 July 1909, aged 46;¹⁷³ married as Simon Harris, salesman of 54 Orchard Street, New York, 4 January 1885, by the Rev. H. Weinchel, DORA WOLINSKI, born July 1865 (grave marker) or about 1863–64 in Russia/Poland (marriage certificate) or in New York City (death certificate) in August 1863 (1900 census), daughter of Leon and Pascha (Blumberg) Wolinski,¹⁷⁴ died of pneumonia, asthenia, and coma at the family home at 780 Iranistan Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut, 2 May 1904, aged 40.¹⁷⁵

In the early 1890s Samuel and Dora lived at 183 Eldridge Street,¹⁷⁶ where his brother Louis later lived. They moved to Bridgeport and Samuel had a clothing store on Main Street, where he advertised himself as "The Popular Price Clothier."¹⁷⁷ Curiously, their 1900 census entry shows Samuel's parents were

¹⁶⁷ Louis Harris and Fannie Amsterdam marriage cert., NYC, 1893, #6295, showing he was of 58 Canal St., 27, born N.Y., son of Samuel and Leah (Cohen), and her parents as Thomas and Bella. Witnesses were Morris Simon and Abraham Adler.

¹⁶⁸ Frances A. Harris v. Louis Harris, Supreme Court of the State of New York for New York County, GA-1903-858. Frances sued Louis for adultery and had separated from him 14 Feb. 1900.

¹⁶⁹ Frank Isreal [*sic*] Cohen and Frances A. Harris marriage license, NYC, 1914, Manhattan, #850, showing her age as 37 and parents as Vevel and Belle; Frank Cohen was 37, born in Glasgow, Scot., a "Literary (Municipal)," and witnesses were Maurice A. Steerne and Esperanza Garrigue. There was a moment of panic when the couple applied for their marriage license and discovered Frances's attorney had never entered her divorce with the court...wedding invitations already sent, all arrangements made (see file GA-513-1914, filed with GA-1903-858, cited in note 168).

¹⁷⁰ Frances A. Harris v. Louis Harris (note 168), which includes a photograph of Louis and the two sons. *Trow's New York City Directory* (note 124), (1895) 581, (1896) 599, (1897) 604.

¹⁷¹ Louis Harris listing, 1905 NYS census, Brooklyn Borough, NYC, Kings Co., AD 2, Elect. Dist. 17, p. 21, county copy at Kings County Clerk's Office, Brooklyn, N.Y., showing his age as 38.

¹⁷² Jesse Harris household, 1910 U.S. census, Ward 12, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New York Co., N.Y., ED 489, p. 17A, dw. 34, fam. 362 (NARA T624, roll 1020), showing Louis was 42, divorced, born in N.Y. to Polish/Germans.

¹⁷³ Samuel Harris New York State death cert., 1909, #30888, showing he was a clothing merchant of Tannersville, formerly of Bridgeport, Conn., married, buried in Brooklyn 16 July 1909, but with his age, birthplace, parents' names, and parents' birthplaces all listed as unknown. Samuel Harris death notices, *The New York Herald*, 16 July 1909, p. 1, col. 3, and *The New York Times*, 17 July 1909, p. 7, col. 7, the latter showing he died 15 July. "Sam' Harris Dies Suddenly in Catskills," *Bridgeport Evening Farmer*, 14 July 1909, p. 8, col. 3, giving his place of death as "Tattersville."

¹⁷⁴ Simon (also listed as Samuel) Harris and Dora Wolinski marriage cert., NYC, 1885, #41138, showing he was age 24, born in N.Y. to Simon and Lizzie (Cohen) Harris; witnesses were Julius Simon and Baal Seluitt.

¹⁷⁵ Dora Harris death cert., Bridgeport, Conn., 1904, showing she was born in New York City in 1864, daughter of Louis Harris and "unknown." Mrs. Samuel Harris death notice, *Bridgeport Evening Post*, 3 May 1904, p. 3, col. 4, indicating she was to be interred in Bayside, Long Island.

¹⁷⁶ Samuel and Dora Harris entries, 1890 "Police" Census, NYC, AD 8, Elect. Dist. 17, Police Pct. 11, book 225, not paged, showing Samuel age 30 and Dora age 23 (Louis was not with them). *Trow's New York City Directory* (note 153), (1892) 571.

¹⁷⁷ *Bridgeport City Directory* . . . (Bridgeport, Conn.: Price and Lee Co.), (1892) 264; (1894) 153 ("rem to New York"); (1895) 164, 740 (advertisement); (1896) 171; (1899) 185; (1902) 193; (1904) not listed; (1905) 214; (1906) 226; (1907) 243; (1908) 215; (1909) 209.

born in Scotland and that Dora was the mother of three children, two of whom were living, although no children were enumerated with them.¹⁷⁸ They moved back to New York briefly, returning about 1904 to Bridgeport, “whose people he liked best,” and opened another store that was “wonderfully successful.” After Dora’s death their three children lived in Hartford with her sister Blanche and her husband, Louis A. Cowen.¹⁷⁹ Samuel lived at 1154 Main Street, Bridgeport, age 40, when his mother’s estate was settled in 1907.¹⁸⁰

In his will of 23 April 1909, Samuel G. Harris of the City of Bridgeport named his brother Jesse Harris of New York City (\$250), and his children Sylvia, Le Roy, and Delmore, all under 21. He made provisions for his clothing business at 1154 Main Street in Bridgeport and appointed Louis A. Cowen of Hartford executor, trustee, and guardian of the children.¹⁸¹ Louis moved to Bridgeport to settle the estate, and in 1910 the three Harris children (Sylvia, 15, LeRoy, 11, and Delmore, 7) were there with him and Blanche at 691 Maplewood Avenue.¹⁸²

Samuel Harris was “prominent in fraternal circles, and a keen lover of good sport.” He was survived by a sister, Mrs. Arthur “Penover” of Bensonhurst, New York, and brothers Ben, of Atlantic City, and Louis and Jesse of New York City.¹⁸³ A marker for Samuel and Dora, “In memory of our dear and loving Parents,” is in Washington Cemetery in Brooklyn.¹⁸⁴

- vii. BENJAMIN HARRIS, born 3 July 1866 at 12 Orchard Street (passport application) or about 1868–69 (mother’s estate); died following a paralytic stroke at Wilshire Rest Home in Los Angeles, California, 8 September 1934, aged 68.¹⁸⁵

Benjamin was not found in the 1900 census and not distinguished in New York city directories until 1904, when he was a manager, living at the Hotel Metropole, 1453 Broadway.¹⁸⁶ He was actually a theatrical agent, with his office then at 1440 Broadway and shortly thereafter at 646 8th Avenue.¹⁸⁷ When his brother Samuel died in 1909 Ben was a theatrical manger in Atlantic City, New Jersey.¹⁸⁸ He lived at 142 West 44th Street in 1910 and at 923 Fox Street in the Bronx a year later.¹⁸⁹ In Atlantic City he ran successful Sunday night vaudeville concerts and managed Young’s Pier and Apollo theatres, the latter the “break-in” house for shows produced by Al Woods and Charles B. Dillingham.¹⁹⁰

¹⁷⁸ Samuel G. Harris household, 1900 U.S. census, Ward 4, Bridgeport City, Fairfield Co., Conn., ED 18, p. 3B, dw. 51, fam. 59 (NARA T623, roll 131), showing Samuel G., born in N.Y. Aug. 1862, married 15 years to his wife, Dora. The Harris children have not been found in the 1900 census.

¹⁷⁹ “Sam’ Harris Dies Suddenly in Catskills” (note 173), in which Mrs. Cowen is incorrectly identified as Samuel’s “sister” “Louise.” Louis A. Cohn and Blanche Wolinski marriage cert., NYC, 1886, #60860, showing she was born in Germany, daughter of Louis and [blank] (Blumberg) Wolinski.

¹⁸⁰ *Bridgeport City Directory* . . . (note 177), (1910) 224, 610, (1911) 230, 635, (1912) 244, 665, the last three directories referring to his estate. Lena Harris administration file (note 155).

¹⁸¹ Samuel G. Harris will, Bridgeport, Conn., District Probate, 132:109–11. Original will and estate file not examined.

¹⁸² Louis A. Cowen household, 1910 U.S. census, Ward 5, Bridgeport, Fairfield Co., Conn., ED 21, p. 3A, dw. 49, fam. 50 (NARA T624, roll 128). Louis A. Cowen of 1660 Park Ave. was identified as the manager of the Samuel Harris estate of 1154 Main St. in the 1912 Bridgeport directory *Bridgeport City Directory* . . . (note 177), (1912) 135.

¹⁸³ “Sam’ Harris Dies Suddenly in Catskills” (note 173).

¹⁸⁴ Photograph of Harris marker, Washington Cemetery, Brooklyn, N.Y., *Jewish Genealogical Society* (note 160).

¹⁸⁵ Ben Harris obituary, *Variety*, 11 Sept. 1934, p. 62, col. 4. His death certificate has been ordered but has not yet been received.

¹⁸⁶ *Trow’s General Directory* (note 124), (1904) 534.

¹⁸⁷ Benj Harris listing, 1905 NYS census, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New York Co., AD 27, Elect. Dist. 12, p. 2, county copy, N.Y. Co. Clerk, Old Records (note 124), showing he was 35, born in the U.S. *Trow’s General Directory* (note 124), (1905) 566, (1906) 595, (1907) 629.

¹⁸⁸ “Sam’ Harris Dies Suddenly in Catskills” (note 173).

¹⁸⁹ Benjamin Harris listing, 1910 U.S. census, Ward 22, Manhattan Borough, NYC, New York Co., N.Y., ED 1276, p. 8A, dw. 1, fam. 42 (NARA T624, roll 1045), indicating he was 38, single, born in N.Y. to German parents. *Trow’s General Directory* (note 124), (1912) 651, “agent.”

¹⁹⁰ Ben Harris obituary (note 185). *Julius Cahn’s Official Theatrical Guide*, vol. 13 (New York: n.pub., 1908), 817. “Sea-going Washington Ripples,” *The Washington Post*, 10 July 1910, p. S3, cols. 3–4.

Harris travelled to Europe to seek talent for vaudeville acts. He was in London in June 1911¹⁹¹ and again in May 1912, when after several days, he reported he was “not meeting with much success. [H]e had never found artists in such an unreceptive mood as now, but he expects to get Maud Allen [dancer] to make the trip.”¹⁹² His residence was listed as 302 West 79th Street when he sailed back from European trips in 1913 and 1914.¹⁹³ His arrival from the first of these trips was noted in the newspaper: Ben Harris, “Vaudeville man and former manager of Young’s Pier Theatre in Atlantic City,” said “he had crossed the water a score of times,” and was recently seven weeks visiting Italy, Spain, Paris, and Monte Carlo, searching around for novel vaudeville acts “with a view to bringing them to this country, but I found none that suited me.”¹⁹⁴ In the mid-1910s, a resident of Atlantic City, he managed the Cort Theatre, 1321 Boardwalk.¹⁹⁵

Ben Harris, theatrical manager, was living at the Woodstock Hotel at 127 West 43rd Street, Manhattan, in March 1920 when Freeman Bernstein Theatrical Company of New York City sent him to England, Belgium, and France to book theatrical attractions for America. Ben was described as 5' 8", medium high forehead, blue eyes, large nose, medium mouth with moustache, broad chin, black hair, ruddy complexion, round face.¹⁹⁶ He missed the 1920 census, returning in August.¹⁹⁷ He made at least one more trip that same year, returning in December.¹⁹⁸

In the 1920s he went to Los Angeles, living first at 1311¼ North Western Avenue, and working as a theatrical producer.¹⁹⁹ He lost most of his life savings in the 1929 crash of Guaranty Trust Company of Hollywood.²⁰⁰ He was retired and living at Shelton Apartments at 412 North Wilcox Street in Los Angeles by 1930.²⁰¹ Evidently he knew the producer George M. Cohan who, after Ben’s death, was “asked to locate [Harris’s] brother in the metropolis.”²⁰²

- viii. ROSE HARRIS, born 25 December 1870 in New York City,²⁰³ died of arteriosclerosis and hypertension at her home, 516 North Arden B, Los Angeles, California, May 1928, aged 58y 6m [*sic*];²⁰⁴ married by Alderman Frederick A. Ware in New York City 23 September 1896, and by the Rev. Dr. Stephen S. Wise in New York City 1 June 1897, ARTHUR A. PINOVER, born in Bensonhurst, New

¹⁹¹ “Vaudeville Offer for Patti,” *The New York Times*, 25 June 1911, p. C4, col. 2. Benjamin Harris entry, *SS Mauretania*, 30 June 1911, vol. 3760, p. 42, line 4, Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, N.Y., 1897–1957 (NARA T715, roll 1702).

¹⁹² “Theatrical Men Move on London,” *The New York Times*, 26 May 1912, p. C4, cols. 1–2.

¹⁹³ Benjamin Harris entry, *SS Mauretania*, 19 Jan. 1913, vol. 4510, p. 3, line 27, Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, N.Y., 1897–1957 (NARA T715, roll 2004), showing he was born in New York 3 July 1872. Ben Harris entry, *SS Olympic*, 16 June 1914, vol. 5348, p. 8, line 25, Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, N.Y., 1897–1957 (NARA T715, roll 2335), giving his birth as New York [date is unclear but appears to be 14] July 1871.

¹⁹⁴ “Ben Harris Home from Trip Abroad,” *The Morning Telegraph* (New York), 21 Jan. 1913, p. 10, col. 4.

¹⁹⁵ *Boyd’s Atlantic City Directory* . . . (Philadelphia: C. W. Howe Company), (1915) 445, (1916) 450, (1917) 444. He was not listed in the directories for 1906–14 or 1918–22.

¹⁹⁶ Ben Harris passport application (note 149), which includes his photograph.

¹⁹⁷ Ben Harris entry, *SS Kaiserin Auguste Victoria*, 9 Aug. 1920, vol. 6508, p. 9, line 28, Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, N.Y., 1897–1957 (NARA T715, roll 2811), showing he was born in New York 3 July 1866 and a resident of the Woodstock Hotel.

¹⁹⁸ Ben Harris entry, *SS Aquitania*, 13 Dec. 1920, vol. 6645, p. 29, line 23, Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, N.Y., 1897–1957 (NARA T715, roll 2890), indicating he was born in N.Y. 3 July 1865, and lived at the “Wardsock” Hotel.

¹⁹⁹ *Los Angeles City Directory* . . . (Los Angeles: Los Angeles Directory Co.), (1925) 995, (1926) 1031, (1929) 1054. He was not identified in the directories for 1927 and 1928, or those from 1930 forward.

²⁰⁰ Ben Harris obituary (note 185).

²⁰¹ Ben House entry, 1930 U.S. census, AD 55, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., Calif., ED 91-64, p. 47B, dw. 237, fam. 997 (NARA T626, roll 134); age 63, born in New York to Russian natives.

²⁰² Ben Harris obituary (note 185).

²⁰³ Arthur and Rose Pinover entries, *SS Leviathan*, 19 July 1926, vol. 8777, p. 92, lines 12, 13, Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, N.Y., 1897–1957 (NARA T715, roll 3888).

²⁰⁴ Rose Pinover death cert., Los Angeles Co., Calif., 1928, #5758, showing she was born in N.Y., N.Y., 25 Dec. 1869, daughter of Samuel Harris and Leah [*blank*], birthplaces unknown. Rose Pinover death notice, *The New York Times*, 27 May 1928, p. 35, col. 5.

York,²⁰⁵ 9 March 1875, died in Los Angeles 3 September 1944, aged 69,²⁰⁶ son of Alexander and Janette/Jennie (Rosenberg) Pinover.²⁰⁷

The Pinovers spent their earliest married years in Brooklyn with Arthur's parents on Bay 22nd Street near 86th (Bensonhurst area), then moved to Manhattan at 203 West 117th Street, followed by 118 West 111th Street. By 1900 they were back in Brooklyn at 1930 85th Street, then 1938 85th Street, 111 29th Street (Bath Beach), 16 Bay 31st Street, and 7625 6th Avenue, before moving back to Manhattan at 210 West 70th Street by 1925. Arthur worked variously as a jewelry manufacturer, publisher, bicycle maker (operating Pinover Cycle Manufacturing Company, 449 Boulevard, with his father), silver salesman, builder/contractor (Pinover Construction Company), realtor, clothing manufacturer, chairman of Bond Stores, Inc., and vice president of Automotive Specialty Corporation, Manhattan.²⁰⁸

Moving to Los Angeles in the late 1920s, the Pinovers first lived at 1775 North Orange Drive, then 516 North Arden. After Rose's death, Arthur bought a home at 180 South Las Palmas Avenue, where he and divorced daughter, Muriel, lived the next several years. In the 1930s Arthur worked for Peerless Water Filter Company, then owned his own auto finance company, Arthur Finance Company, at 1449 Vine Street.²⁰⁹ About 1941 he and Muriel moved to 840 South Sarrano Avenue, and when he died in 1944 they were at 2870 Francis Avenue.²¹⁰

- ix. JOSEPH/JESSE J. HARRIS, born 1 April 1872 (death certificate) or about 1874–75 (mother's estate); died of coronary sclerosis and chronic myocarditis at Hotel Langwell at 123 West 44th Street, Manhattan, 29 April 1941, aged 69 years 28 days, buried Ocean View Cemetery, Staten Island, 1 May,²¹¹ married first, as a resident of 338 East 13th Street, by Alderman Charles Wines in New York City 11 May 1896, ANNIE ROSENBLOOM, born in Germany about 1872–73, death not

²⁰⁵ Arthur Pinover and Rose Harris marriage certs., NYC, 1896, #14477 (witnesses Benjamin Bernstein and William S. Bogert), and 1897, #8472 (witnesses [?] and Joseph Rosenberg), indicating she was age 23 in 1896 and 24 in 1897, born in New York City, daughter of Samuel and Leah/Lina (Loeb/Cohen) Harris. In reporting the second marriage, *The New York Times* ("Pinover—Harris," 2 June 1897, p. 7, col. 3) indicated that Miss Rose Harris, daughter of Mrs. Lillian [sic] Harris, married at her mother's home in The Hampton, St. Nicholas Ave. and 117th St., Alexander N. [sic] Pinover. Two marriage ceremonies were not uncommon—the first a civil, the second a religious one.

²⁰⁶ Arthur Pinover obituary, *Los Angeles Times*, 6 Sept. 1944, p. A8, col. 8. His death certificate has been ordered but has not yet been received.

²⁰⁷ Arthur Pinover and Rose Harris marriage certs. (note 205).

²⁰⁸ *Lain and Healy's Brooklyn Directory . . .* (Brooklyn: Lain and Healy), (1897) 1170. *Trow's New York City Directory* (note 124), (1896) 1061, (1898) 1027. *Trow's General Directory* (note 124), (1899) 1037. Alexander Pinover household, 1900 U.S. census, Ward 30, Brooklyn Borough, NYC, Kings Co., N.Y., ED 560, p. 24B, dw. 381, fam. 444 (NARA T623, roll 1069), showing Rose was born in Jan. 1875 in N.Y. to German parents. Arthur Pinover household, 1905 NYS census, Brooklyn Borough, NYC, Kings Co., AD 7, Elect. Dist. 32, p. 43, county copy at Kings County Clerk's Office, Brooklyn, N.Y., with Rose listed as age 30. *Upington's General Directory of the Borough of Brooklyn City of New York . . .* (Brooklyn: George Upington), (1903) 753, 1904 (797), 1906 (860). Arthur was not listed in the directories for 1900, 1901, and 1902. John R. [sic] Pinover household, 1910 U.S. census, Ward 30, Brooklyn Borough, NYC, Kings Co., N.Y., ED 1051, pp. 4A–4B, dw. 45, fam. 76 (NARA T624, roll 984), indicating Rose's parents were born in England. *The Brooklyn City Directory . . .* (Brooklyn: Brooklyn Directory Co.), (1910) 899, (1912), 1103, (1913) 1186. Arthur was not listed in the directories for 1907, 1908, and 1909. Arthur Pinover household, 1920 U.S. census, Ward 30, Brooklyn Borough, NYC, Kings Co., N.Y., ED 503, p. 16A, dw. 330, fam. 333 (NARA T625, roll 1157), showing Rose was 46, born in N.Y. to German parents. *Polk's Trow's General Directory of New York City* (note 124), (1920–21) 1443, (1922–23) 1412, (1924–25) 1806. Arthur and Rose Pinover entries, 1925 NYS census, Manhattan, AD 7, Elect. Dist. 17, NYC, New York Co., p. 12, state copy, ages 50 and 54 respectively.

²⁰⁹ *Los Angeles City Directory . . .* (note 199), (1928) 1695, (1929) 1731, (1930) 1812, (1931) 1650, (1932) 1684, (1933) 1460, (1934) 1336, (1935) 1387, (1936) 1449, (1937) 1556, (1938) 1639, (1939) 1659, (1940) 1559, (1941) 1797. Arthur Penover [sic] household, 1930 U.S. census, AD 57, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., Calif., ED 91-97, p. 9A, dw. 135, fam. 135 (NARA T626, roll 136).

²¹⁰ *Los Angeles City Directory . . .* (note 199), (1942) 1913. No Los Angeles directories were published again until 1960. Arthur Pinover obituary (note 206).

²¹¹ Jesse J. Harris death cert., NYC, 1941, Manhattan, #9709, showing he was living at 124 W. 44th St., born in N.Y., son of Sam [Harris] born N.Y. and Leah Cohen born Russia, and divorced from Anna Harris. Jesse J. Harris obituary, *New York Herald Tribune*, 30 April 1941, p. 18, col. 5; age 70.

found, daughter of Jacob and Rosie ([Solofsky?]) Rosenbloom;²¹² second, as a theatrical manager, by Rabbi [–?] Greenfield of Congregation Mt. Zion at 161 East 103 Street, Manhattan, 25 June 1905, ANNA KASKEL, born in New York City (marriage certificate) or Maryland (1910 census) about 1877, daughter of Charles and Fannie (Bornbaum) Kaskel.²¹³ Although no wife was with him in the 1930 census, Joseph was listed as married; his death certificate gives his marital status as divorced.²¹⁴

His formal name was probably Joseph, perhaps the J. when his name was recorded as Jesse J. Listed as Jesse in most records after 1910, he may have been Jesse Harris, clerk, living at 244 West 116th Street, Manhattan, in 1903. He was not found in the 1900 federal or 1905 state censuses. He lived at 126 or 127 East 106th Street in 1907, and was probably Joseph Harris, salesman, at 52 West 115th Street at the end of the decade.²¹⁵ In 1910 he was in commercial clothing, renting at 17 West 115th Street; his second wife, Anna, son Stanley Irving, and brother Louis were also in the household.²¹⁶ None of the Jesse Harris directory entries in the next decade can be identified as this man until 1920, when he was a secretary, living at 305 West 149th Street. For the census of that same year, he was Jess Harris, gents' store salesman, renting at 305–307 West 149th Street with wife Anna and sons Stanley and Charles.²¹⁷ He was *Joseph* Harris, dance hall manager, in 1930, then renting at 280 West 155th Street; son Stanley, dance hall clerk, was with him.²¹⁸ At the time of his death Jesse J. Harris was described as a show business playwright and a former advance man for theatrical enterprises, active many years as an advance booking agent and publicity director for various theatrical enterprises, working for a time for producers Cohan and Harris (George M. Cohan and Sam Harris).²¹⁹

Grandnephew Leslie Kramer knew Jesse Harris: “He moved in on Aunt Ray [Sawyer] and lived off her for the last few years of his life. Before that he'd been a gambler and a promoter of all kinds of dubious projects. One of them was the Harlem Casino, a gigantic block-long dancehall at 155th St. and 8th Ave. in Manhattan, which he rented out to organizations. Every three weeks, after schmearing the authorities, he ran a Pansey Ball,” attended by gay men “in drag” and observed by “hordes of square sightseers.” Kramer went to several of the balls where he “met some of the chorus boys I'd worked with in Broadway productions.”²²⁰

(To be continued)

²¹² Jesse Harris and Annie Rosenbloom marriage cert., NYC, 1896, #7546; he was 24, single, born New York City, son of Samuel and Lena (Cohen), his first marriage. Witnesses were David Silverman and John Healy.

²¹³ Jesse Harris and Anna Kaskel marriage cert., NYC, 1905, Manhattan, #14410; he was 33, single, born New York City, son of Samuel and Lillian (Cohen), his first [*sic*] marriage. Witnesses were [–?] and Max [Geas?].

²¹⁴ Joseph Harris household, 1930 U.S. census, AD 22, Manhattan, NYC, New York Co., N.Y., ED 31-1049, p. 17A, dw. 26, fam. 421 (NARA T626, roll 1578). Jesse J. Harris death cert. (note 211). No record of his divorce was found in the Supreme Court of the State of New York for New York County through 1940.

²¹⁵ *Trow's General Directory* (note 124), (1903), 584, (1909), 609.

²¹⁶ Jesse Harris household, 1910 U.S. census (note 172); he was 37, married twice, born N.Y. to Polish/German parents.

²¹⁷ *Polk's Trow's General Directory* (note 124), (1920–21) 865. Jess Harris household, 1920 U.S. census, AD 22, Manhattan, NYC, New York Co., N.Y., ED 1462, p. 16A, dw. 21, fam. 363 (NARA T625, roll 1225), showing he was 49, born to German parents, but incorrectly in Maryland.

²¹⁸ Joseph Harris household, 1930 U.S. census (note 214); he was 59, born in N.Y., father born England, mother born Poland.

²¹⁹ Jesse J. Harris death cert. and obituary (note 211). There is no estate file for him in the New York County Surrogate's Court.

²²⁰ Kramer to H. Cowen, 17 Oct. 1972 (note 127). The dance hall was actually the Manhattan Casino, a large, elaborate structure built about 1910 and later known as Rockland Palace. In the 1920s and early 1930s it was famous for its annual drag costume balls (Marvie Brooks, “Manhattan Casino,” *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance*, ed. Cary D. Wintz and Paul Finkelman, 2 vols. [New York: Routledge, 2004], 767–68).