

# **A Brief Family History of Elias Horowitz and Tillie (Baer) Horowitz**

**By**

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**In collaboration with**

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**(Last Draft: 03/17/2022)**

The purpose of this document is to capture what little facts are known about the two young people who immigrated to the United States from Eastern Europe around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the family they left in Europe, and their first generation of children born in the U.S.A.



**Elias Horowitz, Simon (with ball), Florence (baby), Tillie, Joseph (seated), Irving  
taken sometime in 1921**

## **Tillie Baer**

Tillie Baer (nickname Toba), born in 1886 (though we have no record of the month and day) fled Poland to Canada when she was 18 years old in 1904. Her father had passed away, her mother re-married, and according to her “life in Jaroslaw, Poland offered her no future”. That, plus the stories of how wonderful things were in America, caused her to leave home at a very tender age. With relatives in Montreal she went to Canada first, and eventually made her way to the US and to Brooklyn. Her contact in the U.S. was a cousin named Rose Lemanowfsky, a widow, and Tillie lived with her for a time at 1350 43<sup>rd</sup> Street in Brooklyn. Tillie was very vague about her years in Poland, but she did recall that Franz Joseph was the ruler of Poland at that time.



**Tillie (Baer) Horowitz as a young girl and in 1952 at age 66 on the roof of her building at 762 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St, B'klyn**

In an "Application for Registry of an Alien" which Tillie filled out on March 15, 1933, when she was about 46 years old, she stated that she arrived in New York on March 1, 1906 at the age of 20. Her description says fair skin, grayish, brown hair, gray eyes and 5'2" tall. She had arrived in the U.S. by train from Montreal, and she lists her occupation as "finisher". The application lists several residences, all of which are in Brooklyn. It is known that Tillie worked as a maid on Shore Road in Brooklyn before she got married.



**The only known photo of Tillie's mother and sister; (sister's name unknown, year unknown)**



**Felicia Kochanska, Tillie's sister who lived in Ingolstadt, Germany**

Above on the left is the only known photo of Tillie's mother and sister. There is some reason to believe that Tillie had two sisters, but the evidence is sketchy. To the right is a photo of one of her sisters, Felicia Kochanska. Apparently she avoided being killed by the Nazis because she was married to a German officer. She had no children and no one knew she was Jewish. When she married the German soldier she was cast out of the family<sup>1</sup>. She was buried in a Catholic cemetery near Ingolstadt<sup>2</sup> Germany where she had lived.

Tillie also had a brother (or a step brother) named Heinrich Kelz, a tailor who had "done well" in Warsaw, Poland. He had two sons – Siegfried (Sygush) who became a dentist in Italy, and the younger one, Max Kelz who also lived in Warsaw. Siegfried's wife, Paula (or Pola) Kelz was also a dentist, and both had a very comfortable life in Italy. Their daughter was named Many (or Manny), and she was 4 years old when Mussolini came to power. Mussolini forbade Jews to practice their profession, so Siegfried arranged to send money, via a ship's captain to Tillie to save for him. They eventually fled to the U.S., Tillie returned the money, and they settled in Boston where he practiced dentistry in Brookline, Massachusetts with his wife Pola as his assistant. Sometime in the 1930s Tillie did make a trip back to Poland to see her mother, brother and his family, Sygush and his family, and Felicia. Unfortunately no details remain of her trip. Apparently Tillie had a disagreement with Siegfried Kelz and they did not keep in touch for many years until renewing contact sometime in 1961<sup>3</sup>.



**Heinrich Kelz,  
Tillie's brother**



**Max Kelz  
Tillie's nephew**



**Pola Kelz and Manny  
Sygush's wife and child**

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<sup>1</sup> A similar story to Chava who married the Russian Fyedka over Tevye's objection in *Fiddler on the Roof*

<sup>2</sup> **Ingolstadt** is a city in the Free State of Bavaria, in the Federal Republic of Germany. It is located along the banks of the Danube River and is part of the Munich Metropolitan Area.

<sup>3</sup> The Kelz' daughter Many was for a time a fellow at Tufts University in Boston. The Kelz' daughter Susan graduated from Barnard and obtained a Masters in English from Boston College. She is the author of several books that are available through amazon.com.

We don't know how Tillie met Elias, her future husband. In May, 1911 (exact date unknown) they were married, both were approximately 25 years old. Elias and Tillie had five children: Irving (born 01/26/1912, died 11/11/1981, age 69, blocked arteries), Joseph (born 03/25/1916, died 04/22/1983, age 67, a smoker), Simon (or Si, born 02/20/1918, died 03/19/2001, age 83, cancer), Florence (born 2/13/1921, died 03/14/2022, old age) and Ephraim(or Ephie, born 12/20/1924, died 12/26/94, age 70, brain tumor). During this time she lived at various residences in Brooklyn, NY. The final one was located at 762 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Brooklyn, on the fourth floor with no elevator. Tillie and Elias were married for 26 years before Elias died in 1937. Tillie died on April 23, 1973, (no specific cause) and both are buried in Mount Judah cemetery in Queens. She was approximately 87 years old when she passed away.



**Three photos of Tillie; the two on the left have no date; the one on the right was taken sometime in the 1950s.**

### **Elias Horowitz**

Elias was born on March 14, 1883 in the city of Gomel in what is now Belarus, but at that time was simply part of Russia. His parents were Hirsh Horowitz and Froome nee Rabinowitz. Elias Horowitz was approximately 16 years old when he left Russia. Several years before, in 1898 Czar Nicolas II had barred Jews from living in major Russian cities. This was the same Czar who earlier had issued an edict demanding that all Jews had to settle within the so-called Pale of Settlement, an area bounded by Poland on the west, Belarus on the South, and Ukraine in the East. It gave rise to the shtetls and, of course, pogroms. (*lacking confirmation*). Elias crossed into the US on October 21, 1906, on the S.S. Amerika<sup>4</sup> which had sailed from Hamburg, Germany. He was processed through Ellis Island. His original

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<sup>4</sup> There are several ships with the same name, though the one he took was likely the one that sailed between Hamburg and New York, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS\\_America\\_%281905%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_America_%281905%29), and the picture below which was taken around the same time and is likely the same ship.

home may have been Lemberg now Lviv, in western Ukraine, near the Polish border. The manifest from the ship included some basic facts about him.



German emigrants boarding a Hamburg-Amerika Line ship at the port of Hamburg. Photo courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

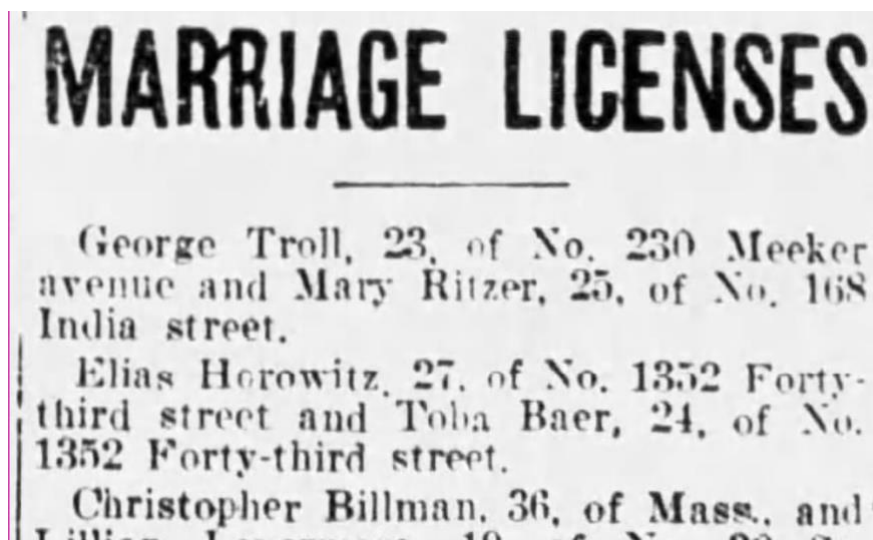


**Two pictures of Elias Horowitz, taken with his daughter Florence in 1935, two years before his death<sup>5</sup>**

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<sup>5</sup> Elias and Tille spoke Yiddish to each other, but by the 1920s they were capable of speaking English fluently. Elias earned a living selling fruit, first off of a cart with a horse and later off of a truck.

When Elias arrived he was 20 (or 22) years old. He listed his last residence as Warschau though this was likely a temporary address as he moved through Europe. The relative he cited was Joseph Rosenberg (see Appendix A) though we have no further information about him.



Above is the announcement of the marriage of Elias Horowitz to Toba (Tillie) Baer on Sunday, April 21, 1912; He was 27 and she was 24. Both spoke only Yiddish

Above is a copy of the 1930 US census. It shows seven people living together:

Elias, Tillie, Israel (my father), Joseph, (can't make out the name, but it is Simon?), Ephraim, and Florence, who would have been 7 years old. Elias is shown as coming from Russia in 1904, speaks Yiddish and is proprietor of a fruit business. Tillie comes from Austria in 1906 and speaks Yiddish. My father Israel is listed as a Manager of the fruit business. He would have been 18 years old.

Below is a snapshot recording the obtaining of a marriage license for Elias Horowitz, age 27 to Toba Baer, age 24, the latter living at 1352 Forty-third street



Elias' driver's license from 1934 indicates that he weighed 115 pounds, was 5 foot 4 inches tall with grey eyes and black hair. Elias became a citizen in January, 1937. The primary language spoken between Elias and Tillie was Yiddish in the early years, but once the children were born and started school, the children answered in English and eventually both Tillie and Elias learned to speak English.

Elias was a fruit vendor, waking up each morning and going to the fruit market somewhere in Brooklyn, first with horse and wagon and later with a truck, and then re-selling the fruit to food stores in the local neighborhood. The 1930s was the time of the depression in the United States and life was generally hard. But things took a turn for the worst when Elias became sick with lung cancer (he was a big time smoker). He suffered from lung cancer for several years, and had a lung removed several years before his death. The disease probably accounts for his dour expression in both of the pictures above. The pictures were taken at 580 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn in 1935. Elias' early passing was traumatic for everyone in the family, and put a burden on the older children to help support Tillie and their siblings. Elias died on July 30, 1937 at the age of 51 from the effects of lung cancer. As is Tillie, Elias is also buried in Mount Judah cemetery, nearby but not next to her.

The only known relative of Elias was George Garbe who lived in Canada, apparently at 711 Victoria Ave., West Mount, Quebec, Canada. Evidence indicates he was a cousin of Elias. There is a letter that Florence wrote to him in June, 1940, looking for jobs for Joe and Si. George Garbe replied using the letterhead GENERAL CIGAR COMPANY LIMITED, for which he was employed. He suggested they contact Abe Freedberg, a possible cousin, but unfortunately Garbe and Freedberg were unable to help. A recent Google search (Sept. 2020) turned up an article from the 1949 issue of the Canadian Jewish Review, which offered these two lines:

Mr. and Mrs. George Garbe, Victoria Avenue, are leaving for their country home at Big Cedar Point, Ont., for the season.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Guttman, Cote des Neiges Road, will visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Garbe, Victoria Avenue, at Big Cedar Point, Ont.

71	APR 35	Harris, Tillie B	Wife	E W 52 1/2 16 1/2	New York	Small Place	EX 10	2	2	11	40	Stenographer	PA 230 927	0	0	2
72		Florence	Daughter	E W 19 S 14 1/4	New York	Small Place	EX 10	2	2	8	40	Stenographer	PA 230 927	0	0	2
73		Clara	Son	M W 16 S 10 1/4	New York	Small Place	EX 10	2	2	8	40	Stenographer	PA 230 927	0	0	2
74		David	Son	M W 28 1/2 16 1/4	New York	Small Place	EX 10	2	2	8	40	Stenographer	PA 230 927	0	0	2

the 1940 census shows Elias, Joseph and Simon gone from the house. Israel is a radio mechanic and Florence a stenographer.



**Photo of the George Garbe Family, Date Unknown**

### **Tillie and Elias Children**

Between the years 1912 and 1924 Tillie and Elias had five children: Irving, Joseph, Simon, Florence and Ephraim. The following paragraphs discuss each in brief.

### **Irving Horowitz**



**Irving (on right) and Joseph at a young age**



CITY OF NEW YORK. STATE OF NEW YORK.  
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF BIRTH 2648

Name of Child *Isidore Horowitz*  
 Sex *male*  
 Color *white*  
 Date of Birth *January 26, 1912*  
 Place of Birth *1352 43rd St. Brooklyn*  
 Father's Occupation *at Vegetable*  
 Mother's Name *Tillie*  
 Mother's Name before Marriage *Tillie Bear*  
 Mother's Residence *Same*  
 Mother's Birthplace *Austria*  
 Father's Birthplace *Russia*  
 Father's Age *30 years*  
 How many living in all *one*  
 Signature *Solomon Kermann M.D.*  
 Residence *4903 14 Ave. Brooklyn*  
 DATE OF REPORT *January 30, 1912*

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I attended professionally at the above birth and I am personally cognizant thereof; and that all the facts stated in said certificate and report of birth are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Irving, also called Irv, Izzy, or Isadore (born 01/26/1912, died 11/11/1981) grew up in Brooklyn and graduated from Erasmus Hall High School, probably around 1930. He attended one semester of college (school unknown), but dropped out to help his father support the family. In the 1930s, in addition to helping his father, he also had a bookstore and repaired radios. He was self taught. Prior to joining the Army Irving worked for the U.S. Army, Philadelphia Signal Corps as an Associate Inspector. His ID listed him at 5' 7", weight 190 lbs, hazel eyes, and brown hair. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943 and served overseas.



Irving as a young man around 1936

**CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE**  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

CITY OF Roanoke, Va. VOL. 5 PAGE 101 LINE 19 31147

FULL NAME OF GROOM Isidor Horowitz CLERK'S No. \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT NAME OF BRIDE Mey Davis

GROOM				BRIDE			
AGE	RACE	SINGLE, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED	NO. TIMES PREV. MARRIED	AGE	RACE	SINGLE, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED	NO. TIMES PREV. MARRIED
27	White	Single		24	White	Single	

OCCUPATION Radio Service MAIDEN NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHPLACE Brooklyn, N. Y. BIRTHPLACE New York City, N.Y.

FATHER'S FULL NAME Elias Horowitz FATHER'S FULL NAME David Davis

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Tillie Baer MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Ida Rosenberg

RESIDENCE Brooklyn, N. Y. RESIDENCE Brooklyn, N. Y.

P. O. ADDRESS 1429 - 48 Street P. O. ADDRESS 4701 - 15th Avenue

Date of Proposed Marriage Sept. 18, 1939 Place of Proposed Marriage Roanoke, Va.

Given under my hand this 18th day of September, 1939.

R. W. WALTON, Clerk of Huntington Court.

**CERTIFICATE OF TIME AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE**

I, W. J. Anstis, appointed by the Huntington Court of the City of Roanoke Church, or religious order of that name, do certify that on the 18 day of Sept, 1939 at Roanoke Virginia, under authority of this license, I joined together in the Holy State of Matrimony the persons named and described therein. I qualified and gave bond according to law authorizing me to celebrate the rites of marriage in the county (or city) of Roanoke Commonwealth of Virginia.

Given under my hand this 18 day of Sept, 1939.

Address of celebrant Roanoke W. J. Anstis (Name who performs ceremony sign here.)

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING. This certificate is to be kept in the office of the Clerk of the Court and shall be open to the inspection of any person who may desire to see it. It shall be returned to the Clerk of the Court when the license expires. This copy with the license shall be kept in the office of the Clerk of the Court.

V. S. 77

Apparently there was a very brief marriage and divorce



Irv in front of his radio repair store



Irving and Ruth Diamond courting in 1942

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION HONORABLE DISCHARGE									
1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL HOROWITZ ISIDORE		2. ARMY SERIAL NO. 42 029 745	3. GRADE SGT	4. JAN OF SERVICE CE	5. COMPONENT AUS				
6. ORGANIZATION HQ CO 1139 ENG CGP		7. DATE OF SEPARATION 2 NOV 45	8. PLACE OF SEPARATION SEP CEN FT DIX NJ						
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES 1701 E 16 ST BKLYN NY		10. DATE OF BIRTH 26 JAN 12	11. PLACE OF BIRTH BKLYN NY						
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SUSPENDED SEE 9		13. COLOR EYES BLUE	14. COLOR HAIR BR	15. HEIGHT 5-5	16. WEIGHT 175 lbs.				
17. RACE NA	18. MARITAL STATUS MARRIED	19. U.S. OTHER NO	20. OCCUPATION AND NO. RADIO REPAIRMAN 5-83,411						
MILITARY HISTORY									
21. DATE OF INDUCTION 16 SEP 43	22. DATE OF ENLISTMENT 7 OCT 43	23. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE	24. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE NYC						
25. SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA X	26. REGISTERED LOCAL S.A. BOARD NO. 187	27. COUNTY AND STATE KINGS CO NY	28. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE 762 E 3RD ST BKLYN NY						
29. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO. RADIO REPAIRMAN 174		30. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (I.e., industry, aviation and noncommissioned badges, etc.) CARBINE MKM 3 DEC 43							
31. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS ARDENNES CENTRAL EUROPE NORTHERN FRANCE RHINELAND- GO 33 WD 45 AS AMEN, ED									
32. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS EUROPEAN AFRICAN MIDDLE EASTERN SERVICE MEDAL									
33. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION NONE									
34. LATEST INSURIFICATION DATA			35. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND RETURN						
36. SHALLFOOT 14OCT44	37. TYPHOID 7SEP45	38. VETERANS 6APR45	39. OTHER (specify) NONE	40. DATE OF DEPARTURE 2 JUL 44	41. DESTINATION ETO USA				
32. TOTAL SERVICE OF SERVICE			33. HIGHEST GRADE HELD						
CONTINENTAL SERVICE YEARS MONTHS DAYS 0 9 0 1 3 26		FOREIGN SERVICE YEARS MONTHS DAYS 0 0 0 0 0 0		SGT					
34. PRIOR SERVICE NONE									
42. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION CONVENIENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT AR 615 365 15 DEC 44 AND RR 11 DEMOBILIZATION									
43. SERVICE SCHEDULE ATTENDED SIG CORPS COMMUNICATION CHIEF 17 WKS 1944				44. EDUCATION (Years) 8 4 2					
45. SERVICE FOR PAY PURPOSES									
46. MONTHS ON PAY 3 7 7		47. MONTHS PAYMENT 300 \$100		48. SOLDIER DEPOSIT NONE 4.05					
49. TRAVEL PAY \$143.77		50. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER J HARRIS COL							
51. INSURANCE NOTICE									
52. IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WITHIN THIRTY DAYS FOLLOWING SEPARATION, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO THE TREASURER OF THE U.S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS SUBDIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.									
53. KIND OF INSURANCE X		54. HOW PAID X		55. PREMIUM RISE EACH MONTH 7.30					
56. DATE OF SEPARATION 31 OCT 45		57. DATE OF NEXT PREMIUM DUE 30 NOV 45		58. INTENTION OF VETERAN Continue X					
59. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives) LAPEL BUTTON ISSUED ASR SCORE 2 SEP 45 70 INACTIVE ERC FROM 16 SEP 43 TO 6 OCT 43									
60. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED Isidore Horowitz		61. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization, signature) J E WHITE JR CAPTAIN							

Isidore Horowitz Army Discharge Form



**Irving and Ruth official wedding portrait, April, 1942**

Irv was a member of the 1139<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Group, Colonel Niles the Group Commander. In a letter dated February 9, 1945 from Chaplain Luther Fletcher to Irving's wife, Ruth, he assures her that Irving and his group are doing well,

“This Easter season in which we shall celebrate the Resurrection of a living and abiding Christ, although life has been accelerated, and the stress and strain accentuated, we are praying that in spite of the violence and strife incident to this war, you may have a deep and abiding peace which only a living Christ can give – the true meaning of Easter.”

Irving's military papers listed him at 1781 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn and said “Better known as Izzy and the operator of that wonderful machine the Odograph<sup>6</sup> – always insisting riding in the ditches after dark.”

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<sup>6</sup> A machine for registering the distance traversed by a vehicle



**1943, Sgt. Irving Horowitz at Camp Beale<sup>7</sup>**

Irving and the 1139<sup>th</sup> landed at Utah Beach in Normandy, France, and went on to Le Mans, Chartres, Fontainebleau, and then into Germany at Reims, Verdun Mainz, Frankfort, Weimar, Regensberg, and finally into Austria Passau and Lambach (which is just outside Vienna). Their primary task was bridge building.

Below is one of the few pictures of some of the family members from 1944. In the front row, from left to right, are: Tillie, Ruth Horowitz, Ellis Horowitz probably about 1 year old. In the back row are Florence Horowitz, Jack and Sarah Weitz (Ruth's sister and brother-in-law), Joe Horowitz and his girlfriend (named Rose). The picture is taken in front of 1781 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street in Brooklyn, where Irv and Ruth lived in the early years of their marriage.



**1944, top row are Florence Horowitz, Jack Weitz, Sarah Weitz (Ruth's older sister), Joe Horowitz, Rose**

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<sup>7</sup> Camp Beale is located in northern California, 10 miles east of Marysville and Yuba City, 40 miles north of Sacramento.

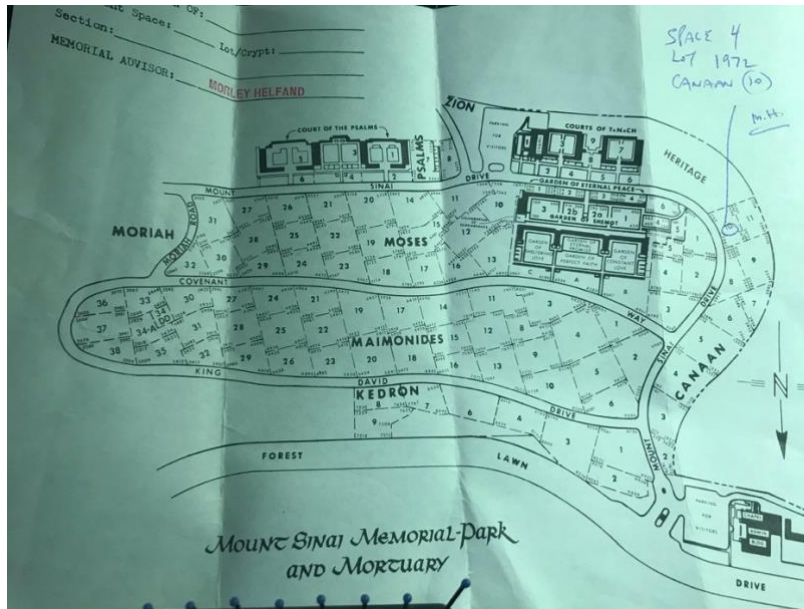
**Bottom Row, Tillie Horowitz, Ruth Horowitz (my mother), Ellis Horowitz (me, less than 1 year old)**



**Si, Tillie, Irving, Florence, Ephie probably taken in 1943 or 1944**

Ruth went as far as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and then stopped. She had a few clerical jobs but was eventually encouraged to get married. The marriage was brief and there are no details about the divorce. Irving graduated Erasmus Hall High School and apparently went to college for one semester. But he was needed to help his father and did not continue his formal schooling. Irving had an early marriage which, as with Ruth, did not last very long. Divorce was based upon adultery, the only basis for a divorce in New York State at the time. Irving met Ruth Diamond in the Catskills and they married on April 21, 1942 and lived at 1781 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn. Ellis was born on 02/11/1944 and Cecile on 10/13/1947. After the war Irv supported himself by repairing televisions. He occasionally had a small store, but more typically worked out of his apartment at 1775 East 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY. The apartment was over a grocery store. The building has since been torn down and is now a set of condominiums.

Life for Irving and family was difficult and compounded by the fact that Ruth contracted multiple sclerosis around 1954. Irving was committed to caring for her at home, and after a long decline Ruth eventually passed away on 11/31/1967 at age 57. Irving stayed on in Brooklyn after both Ellis and Cecile left home. After retiring in 1976, Irv moved out to Los Angeles to live with his son Ellis and daughter-in-law Maryanne. After suffering several heart attacks, the first one around the age of 60, he died of a heart attack due to arteriosclerosis, a stiffening or hardening of the arteries, on 11/11/1981. An angiogram before his death showed general blockage throughout and hence there was no opportunity for a bypass operation. Irving is buried in Mount Sinai Cemetery in Los Angeles. Ruth is buried in Mount Lebanon cemetery in Iselin, New Jersey, B#9445, Planted Grove, Section 1, Block 10, Lot 38-41, S/D "H", Grave #11



Irving Horowitz Burial Plot Location at Mt. Sinai Cemetery

### Joseph Horowitz

Joseph was born on March 25, 1916 and died on April 22, 1983 at the age of 67. The cause of death came from multiple sources including emphysema and diabetes. He was a serious smoker. As did his siblings he attended Erasmus Hall High School, but he did not graduate as he needed to work and contribute income to the family. He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) an agency set up by President Roosevelt in the 1930s. It offered a job with a minimum monthly payment, an attractive offer since there were millions of men without jobs at the time. The CCC was an opportunity for young men who were living in cities to experience life in Western towns. Eventually he was drafted into the Army, and served for 3 ½ years. He was an airplane armament gunner at various American Air Force installations and participated in anti-submarine campaigns.



**Joseph Horowitz at Harlingen Army Air Field<sup>8</sup>, Harlingen, Texas, 1943**



After the war he settled in Richmond, Virginia with his partner named Rose (shown before). Though they had no children of their own, they raised her niece's two children: Harry Watts and Roseanne Canterbury. A long time smoker he was constantly coughing and had a very hoarse voice. He suffered

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<sup>8</sup> With the outbreak of World War II in Europe in September 1940, the U.S. Government created a military airfield in Harlingen. The mission of Harlingen Army Airfield was to train aerial gunners. See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harlingen\\_Air\\_Force\\_Base](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harlingen_Air_Force_Base)



from diabetes and emphysema. He made a living as an air conditioner and refrigerator repair man. He also had some acreage in Montpelier, Virginia where he grew soybeans.

### **Simon Hurwit**

Simon was born on 02/20/1918 and died 05/19/2001 at the age of 83. The cause of death was colon cancer. He never graduated High School, though like his siblings he attended Erasmus in Brooklyn. He enlisted in the New York National Guard on April 21, 1937 and was honorably discharged at the rank of Private on April 20, 1940. At some point afterwards he joined the US Military. Si's Honorable Discharge from the US Military lists several facts about his military service

- His rank was PFC, private first class
- His address was 762 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Brooklyn NY (which was where his mother Tillie was living)
- Blue eyes, black hair, 5' 7" and 162 lbs.
- Occupation was heavy truck driver
- Battles and Campaigns included: Algeria-French Morocco, Ardennes, Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Sicily, Tunisia
- Educational background indicated 3 ½ years of high school; apparently he did not graduate
- He was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for "heroic or meritorious achievement in connection with military operations" in Normandy, France on June 6, 1944.

Perhaps the most important battle Si participated in was the landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He was a member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Hq Co., 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, whose nickname was the "Big Red One"<sup>9</sup>.

After returning from the war, Si took up work in Gladys' father shoe store, located in Dorchester, Massachusetts. After some years Gladys joined him as a saleslady and worked with him for many years. He bought a house in Brockton, Massachusetts and raised his family there. After retiring he moved to Cape Cod and lived at 296 Scargo Hill Road, East Dennis, Massachusetts. Gladys and Si retired to Florida and still continued to sell shoes part-time in a shopping mall. Si died of cancer at the age of 83 and Gladys died at age 84 (or so) on 05/12/2007.

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<sup>9</sup> The Big Red One is a nickname for the 1st Infantry Division of the US Army that served heroically in World War II. The name derives from the red numeral "1" on the Division's shoulder patch. Some of their exploits were recounted in a film made in 1980 of the same name starring Lee Marvin and Mark Hamill, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Big\\_Red\\_One](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Big_Red_One) or <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0080437/>



**1941, Si and Gladys Hurwit**

Si married Gladys (nee: Tattlebaum) and had two children: Ellen born on 02/04/1947, (died of pancreatic cancer on 08/2018), and Jonathan born on 08/26/1950. Ellen produced two children: Jennifer and Chris. Jonathan produced three sons: Joshua, Aaron, and ?

**Recent Note:** Joshua Hurwit, son of Jonathan married Alyson (Lifshitz) Hurwit on 11/13/2010 and as of 04/2015 they have two daughters: Alexa Hurwit, born 06/06/2012 and Emily Hurwit, born 05/24/2014. Joshua is a lawyer, currently working for Littler in New York.



**Simon Hurwit (in the middle) with Russian troops in Eger, Czechoslovakia, May 8, 1945**



Si, Gladys, Ellis & Maryanne in Las Vegas to Celebrate US Army Reunion

HEADQUARTERS U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MASS  
 1215 PENTAGON DRIVE  
 ARLINGTON, VA 22204  
 30 April 1965  
 RECEIVED  
 III. AREA OF HONOR DUAL SERVICE  
 Under the provisions of AR 600-4-39 September 1962, as amended, and in accordance with authority provided by paragraph 7, Article 31, Republic of Vietnam G.I. Bill, Army G. Temporary 1962, as amended, the following-named military service officers and enlisted men have received the Bronze Star Medal for heroic or meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy.  
 NAME: Simon S. Horowitz, 1st Lieutenant, Private First Class (Main Profile), Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 10th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division (Airmobile) with Military Appreciation Medal (1964), 4th Infantry Division, 1st Force Group, Vietnam  
 AT COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL: JOHN B. JONES, Colonel, USA, Chief of Staff  
 OFFICIALS:  
 J. L. J. Baker  
 S. A. Baker  
 M. D. Baker  
 M. D. Baker



ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF REPARATION  
 RECONSTRUCTION DIVISION  
 Form 100-1 (Rev. 1-1-64)

NAME	SIMON S. HOROWITZ
UNIT	4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 1ST FORCE GROUP, VIETNAM
DATE OF SERVICE	1962-1964
REASON FOR REPARATION	RETIRED
DATE OF RETIREMENT	1964
REASON FOR REPARATION (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)	RETIRED
DATE OF REPARATION	1964
REASON FOR REPARATION (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)	RETIRED
DATE OF REPARATION	1964
REASON FOR REPARATION (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)	RETIRED

Ephraim (Ephie) Horowitz

The last of Tillie's five children, Ephie was born on December 20, 1924. He went to Erasmus Hall High School, but dropped out at age 17 and then went to N.Y. School of Printing<sup>10</sup>. He met Gloria Cohen when they were teenagers and after being drafted during World War II into the American Air Force, they were married on May, 10, 1944. He served in the United States, but was not sent overseas.



**Gloria , Mrs. Cohen and Ephie**



**Tillie and Ephie**



**Ephie in military uniform**

After World War II he worked as a salesman for stores selling infants and children's clothing. He had a keen sense of style and eventually became a partner in a large children's and menswear store located on Fifth Avenue in an area called Sunset Park, Brooklyn. While living in Brooklyn Ephie and Gloria had two children, Louise, born on 11/07/1947 and Michael on born 06/11/1950. Later they bought a home in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Ephie died on December 26, 1994 at 70 of a brain tumor (unknown if it was benign or cancerous) and Gloria passed away at age 85 on 06/06/2008.

### **Florence (nee Horowitz) Daks<sup>11</sup>**

Born in 1921, in Brooklyn, Florence (Flo) was delivered at home, the fourth child of Tillie and Elias Horowitz. Florence graduated from Erasmus Hall High School in 1938 when she was 17. Below is her graduation picture. She dreamed of going to college and being a teacher, but the US was in the middle of a depression, with long lines of people looking for work, and with no father she needed to earn

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<sup>10</sup> Founded in 1925, it is now called the High School of Graphic Communication Arts, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High\\_School\\_of\\_Graphic\\_Communication\\_Arts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_School_of_Graphic_Communication_Arts)

<sup>11</sup> Florence died on 03/14/2022 at the age of 101. She is buried at Montefiore Cemetery, Block 81, Row 10R Grave 7R on Montefiore Ave, gate 255/N. Her husband Seymour who died on 07/13/1994 at the age of 73 is also buried there in Block 81, Row 10R, Grave 6R.

money for herself and the family. Instead she went to Secretarial school and got a job for \$5/week. Her first job was working for the theatrical manager at the Nora Bayes Theater on 216 w. 44th Street. Her second job was at the Office of Price Administration, a New Deal agency created by President Roosevelt. It was located in the Empire State Bldg. Her third job was working for attorneys. After WWII, she got a job working for B'nai B'rith.



**Florence's Graduation Picture from Erasmus Hall High School**

Around 1952 to gain some independence Flo moved out of her mother's apartment into her own place. The apartment was located at 4455 Broadway and 192<sup>nd</sup> Street in Washington Heights on the island of Manhattan. Below are some photos of her as a single young lady.



### Flo as a Young Girl

In 1953 Flo decided to take a vacation alone and she headed up to the Adirondacks in New York State and there she met a young man, Seymour Daks. Seymour immediately struck her as a warm and trustworthy person. As they were both attracted to each other they decided to continue to date once they returned to NY. By this time all of her brothers were married. After a year of courtship they were married on August 22, 1954, in a Syrian temple Ahi Ezer Congregation, in Brooklyn where Gloria Horowitz (Ephie's wife) father, Basil Cohen was instrumental in arranging the details for the wedding. Their only child, Martin, was born on October 13, 1956.

Seymour was brought up in the Bronx and had one older, married brother Joseph (see the photo below). Seymour graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School and went to Pace College for a while, though he did not earn a degree. He worked as an accountant, and when he met Flo he was working at the Gimbels department store<sup>12</sup> and living with his widowed mother. In addition to being a warm and friendly person, Seymour had several hobbies, one of which was collecting Lionel train sets. Later on he developed an interest in photography and immediately became the family photographer. Unfortunately, Seymour was a smoker and at age 73 he died of esophageal cancer. Quoting Florence "the two of them had a wonderful relationship for 40 years".

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<sup>12</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gimbels>



Brothers with a strong bond, Joseph and Seymour Daks (photo taken in 1985)

Flo had worked for B'nai Brith prior to getting married, but once married and becoming pregnant she didn't work again until Marty was 4 or 5. Below are two photos of their wedding that took place on August 22, 1954.



**Florence and Seymour, 1954**



**Florence, the Bride**

As Marty grew older Flo resumed her working life. She started out at the Bronx Veterans Hospital, working part-time while Marty was in kindergarten. They were living in Washington Heights in upper NYC, but the neighborhood was not a good one, and they decided to move farther north to Yonkers

around 1968. It was too far for Flo to commute to a job in Manhattan so instead she took a job working for Feuer Trucking in Yonkers. After working there for about five years she went to work for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Reform Synagogues, which was located on 65<sup>th</sup> street and Fifth Avenue, going back to Manhattan. She worked there for 8 years until retiring in 1986 at the age of 65.



Above Florence and Seymour in 1954, 1955, and then with Marty in 1958

For fifteen years thereafter, Flo worked one or two days per week as an executive secretary for a Jewish philanthropic couple until she finally retired (for good) at age 80. In her later years she continued to volunteer at Montessori school, PS 27, where she worked with pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten children helping to teach them to read. Mrs. Berger is the teacher she worked with, as Flo says, “a very religious woman, one of the most devoted teachers I ever came across.” The kids would read to Flo out of their readers, and Flo would correct them if necessary or tell them the definition of a word.

Flo was a devoted family person. She had fine relationships with her brothers (Irv, Joe, Si and Ephie) and her sister-in-laws: Ruth (my mother), Gladys (Si's wife) and Gloria (Ephie's wife) and with her nieces and nephews.



**Florence with the Daks side of the family, left-to-right seated: Flo, Seymour, Marty, Jonny; standing Herb and Esther Klein (parents of Karen Daks), Karen Daks, Mitchell Daks, Joseph Daks (photo: 1985)**



In Flo's later years she moved out of her Yonkers apartment and into Country Meadows Retirement Community, located in Bethlehem, PA. This put her very close to her son Marty, who was now also living in Bethlehem (at 3840 Lehigh St). Marty was able to visit regularly, making sure that Flo had whatever she needed.

In 1976 Flo was taking classes at a local college. One of her assignments was to write her autobiography. Though she was only 55 at the time, she did her assignment writing eight chapters and earning a A grade. The document provides an interesting view of a poor Jewish family living in the depression, as well as Flo's very positive personality. The autobiography can be downloaded at <https://horowitzfamily.com/familywebsite/Flo/FlorenceAutobiography.pdf>

Finally, one of the traits we all very much adored about Flo was her efforts to stay in touch with family. To that end she kept an address book that kept track of birth dates, marriages and (even) deaths. I convinced her to make a "clean" copy so we might have it for posterity. As this is a historical document I haven't tried to keep track of the current generation of cousins as they grow, get married and have children. However, a lot of them are mentioned in Flo's address book. I have uploaded it to the website, so if you are curious you can download it at <https://horowitzfamily.com/familywebsite/Flo/FlosAddressBook.pdf>

### The War Years

The US entered World War II on December 7, 1941 after the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. The four sons of Tillie Horowitz, Pfc. Ephie, Sgt. Irving, Pfc. Joseph and Pfc. Simon all served during World War II. For many of them it was an important lifetime event that they spoke about for many years afterwards. Si (Simon) was especially proud of his service, having landed on Normandy Beach on D-Day and earning a Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in the Normandy invasion.



Article that appeared in the Daily Forward, a Jewish Newspaper

## Epilog

This document is a work in progress. Many of the dates provided may not be accurate because so many of the people have passed away. I have intentionally restricted my focus to the first generation born in the United States, to their parents and whatever I could learn about the families in Europe. The uneven coverage is primarily due to my lack of information. Additional facts are welcome and can be sent to horowitz@usc.edu.

**Appendix A:** A copy of the manifest from the ship taken by Elias Horowitz to the United States. It shows him as 20 years old (therefore born in 1886), single, a tailor by profession, of Russian nationality, and his last residence was Warsaw (Poland), 5 foot 8 inches in stature (though we believe this is incorrect, he was shorter). Apparently he had only \$18 in his pocket, and he was going to meet his Uncle Josef Rosenberg. Unfortunately we have no information on Uncle Rosenberg.

1906\_EliasArrivesInUS.pdf - Adobe Reader

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Comment Share

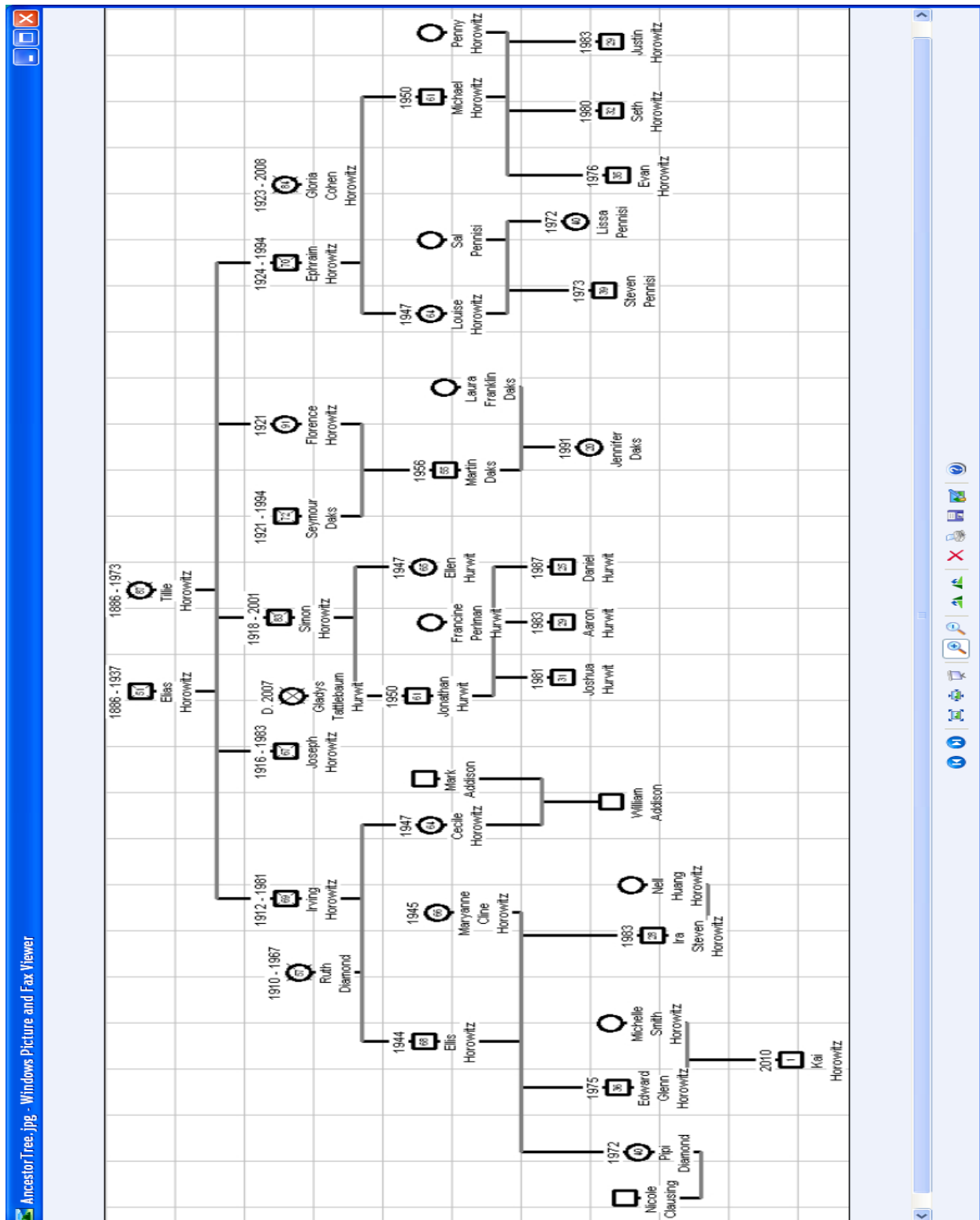
SALOON, CABIN AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE Completely Manifested  
 THIS SHEET IS FOR STEERAGE PASSENGERS  
 LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS for the U.S.  
 IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL  
 S.S. AMERIKA SAILING FROM HAMBURG OCT. 10, 1906  
 ARRIVING AT PORT OF NEW YORK OCT. 21, 1906

No. on list	NAME IN FULL	Age Year/Mos.	Sex	Married or SINGLE	Calling or Occupation	Able to read or write	Nationality country of which citizen or subject	Race or people	Resid LAST Residen country or town
15.	ELIAS HOROWITZ	20 ✓	M	✓(No)	tailor	" "	RUSSIA "	Hebraew	WARSAW

Final destination State, City, town	Whether Having a ticket to Destination	By whom was PASSAGE PAID?	Whether in possession of \$5, and if less, how much	Whether going to join a Relative or friend - if so, name and address Under what bond, etc.	Height Foot-Inches	HAIR	PLACE OF BIRTH
N.Y.	NO	Self	18 (indistinct)	Under \$100 bond, etc.	5' 8"	black	WARSAW

Appendix B: Family Tree for Elias & Tillie Horowitz, taken as of May 27, 2012

(updates/corrections can be sent to horowitz@usc.edu)



## **Appendix: Ellis' thoughts about growing up in Brooklyn**

At today's (Jan 19<sup>th</sup>) meeting the assignment was to "tell a brief story about a place significant to your life, how that place impacted your life, and whether that place still has significance in your life".

Here is my response.

The most significant place I can think of is 1775 East 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, NY where I spent the first 20 years of my life. I lived there with my father, mother, and sister. The apartment was located over a grocery store and my father would often say that it was "close to the food". What he didn't mention was that the apartment also came with cockroaches. As a teenager when I came home in the evening my job was to throw on the kitchen lights, run in and kill as many cockroaches as I could. They run very fast.

Once we had an attempted break-in, so my father rigged up two metal clamps on either ends of the door. Every night my job was to insert a steel rod between the two clamps so that the door couldn't be breached. My father slept with a Nazi sword by his bed, one he had brought home during his service in WWII.

My bedroom was at the end of the apartment with two walls to the outside and a non-working radiator. In the winter I could lie in bed and see my breath. In the morning I would wake up, grab my clothes and run into the kitchen. There I could hold my clothes over the gas stove so they would warm up before I put them on.

Since my mother couldn't walk, she had MS, my father rigged up a chair and some ropes so if there was a fire we could presumably lower her down to the street two floors below. There were no fire escapes so I am not sure what the plan was for us getting out. For years I had a recurring dream of hanging out my bedroom window and dropping to the ground. I didn't always land safely.

The apartment below us was occupied by a family of alcoholics, so one could never be sure of safely getting to our apartment without an encounter. The two flights of stairs were dark and creepy, and of course I was too embarrassed to bring friends home.

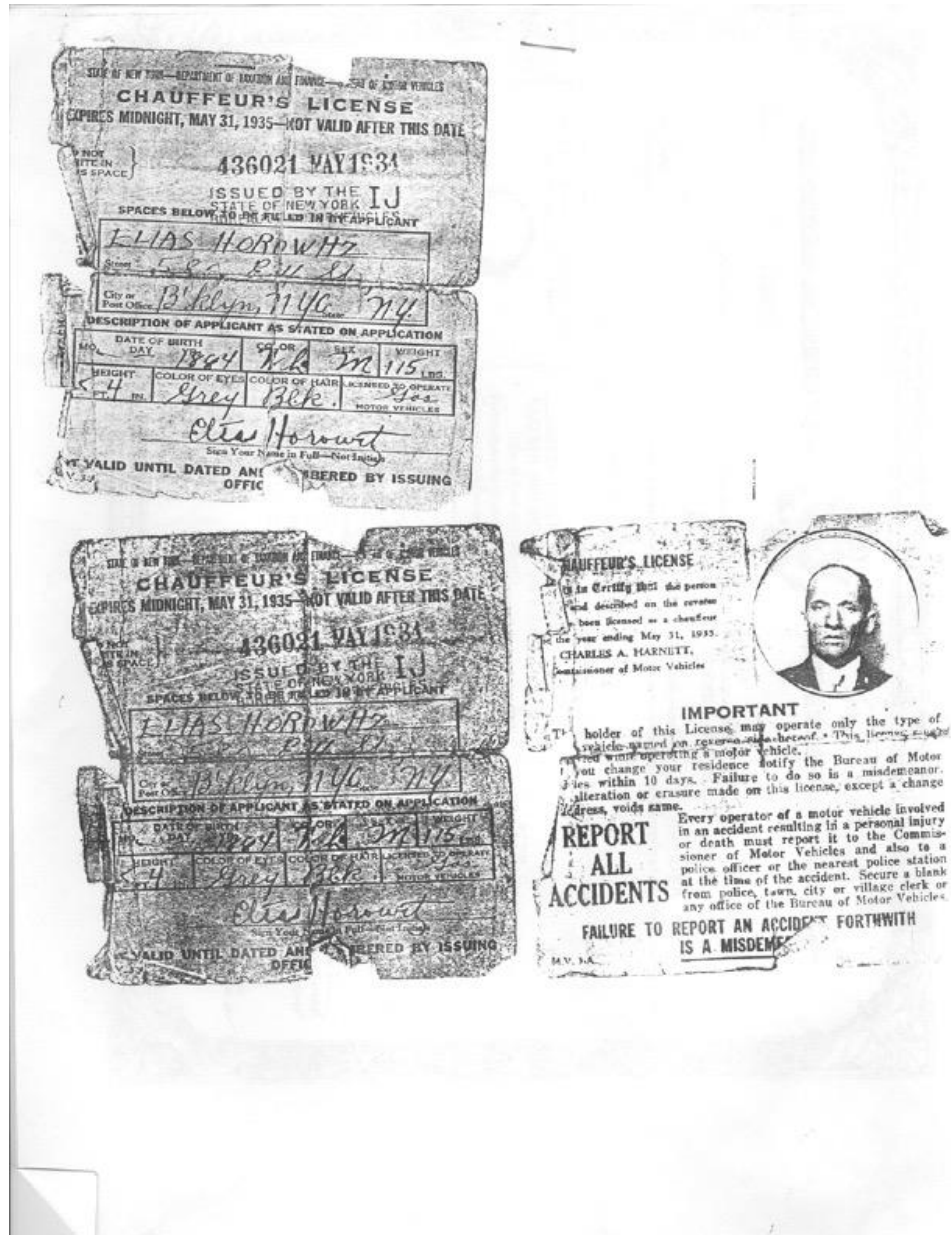
On a lighter side, my father's job was to repair TVs, so at any given time we might have two or three stacked up in our living room. At least one would be working.

All of this is many years ago. My father tried his best to take care of my mother and raise two children, all of which he did. I am grateful to have gotten through it.

Ellis Jan 2021

**Appendix: Elias Horowitz' Chauffeur's License and Citizenship Certificate**

There is some confusion as the license says he was born in 1884, not 1896. Also, I never heard that he was a chauffeur. The license was issued in May, 1934, though he died a few years after in 1937.



One thing we can say for sure, he was a naturalized citizen, as below is his certificate of citizenship

TO BE GIVEN TO  
THE PERSON NATURALIZED

**CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP**

No. 4144325

**CERTIFICATE OF CITIZENSHIP**

Address No. 218927

Personal description of holder as of date of naturalization: Age 53 years, sex Male, color White, complexion Fair, color of eyes Brown, color of hair Brown, height 5 feet 2 inches, weight 124 pounds, build slender, marks None, former nationality Russian, marital status Married.

I certify that the description above given is true, and that the photograph affixed hereto is a likeness of me.

**ELIAS HOROWITZ**  
(to be signed by true signature of holder)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, S.S.

ELIAS HOROWITZ  
Age of holder that he now residing at 580 East Fourth Street, Brooklyn, N.Y., having previously resided at \_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_ The United States.


\_\_\_\_\_ on January 19th 1937 held baptismal to him at \_\_\_\_\_

the exact time and place that the petitioner intended to reside permanently in the United States, and that he had in all respects complied with the requirements of law of the United States in becoming a citizen, and was entitled to be naturalized, the court therefore ordered that the petitioner be admitted as a citizen of the United States, that he receive citizenship on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1937 on the spot of our Court, western hundred and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ first.

By Ray B. Bickel  
Clerk of the U. S. District Court

By James H. Lee  
Deputy Clerk

IT  
50  
LOOK UP THE FINGERPRINTS



*Seal*

(SECURITY AND PERMANENTLY  
ACTIVE DURING PEACE)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Appendix: Tillie Horowitz taking English Classes

