

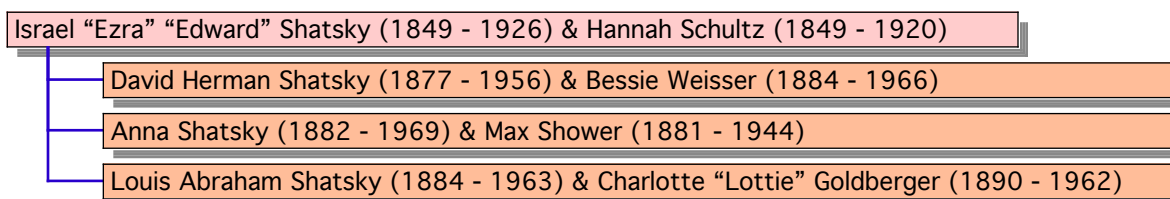
**The Shatsky and Allied Families of Terre Haute, Indiana**  
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## Overview

Israel and Hannah (Schultz) Shatsky were born, raised and married in Eastern Europe. They immigrated to the United States with their three children around 1885-1887 and came to St. Louis, Missouri. Around 1905 the Shatsky family moved to Terre Haute in Vigo County Indiana. Here Israel and Hannah spent the remainder of their lives.

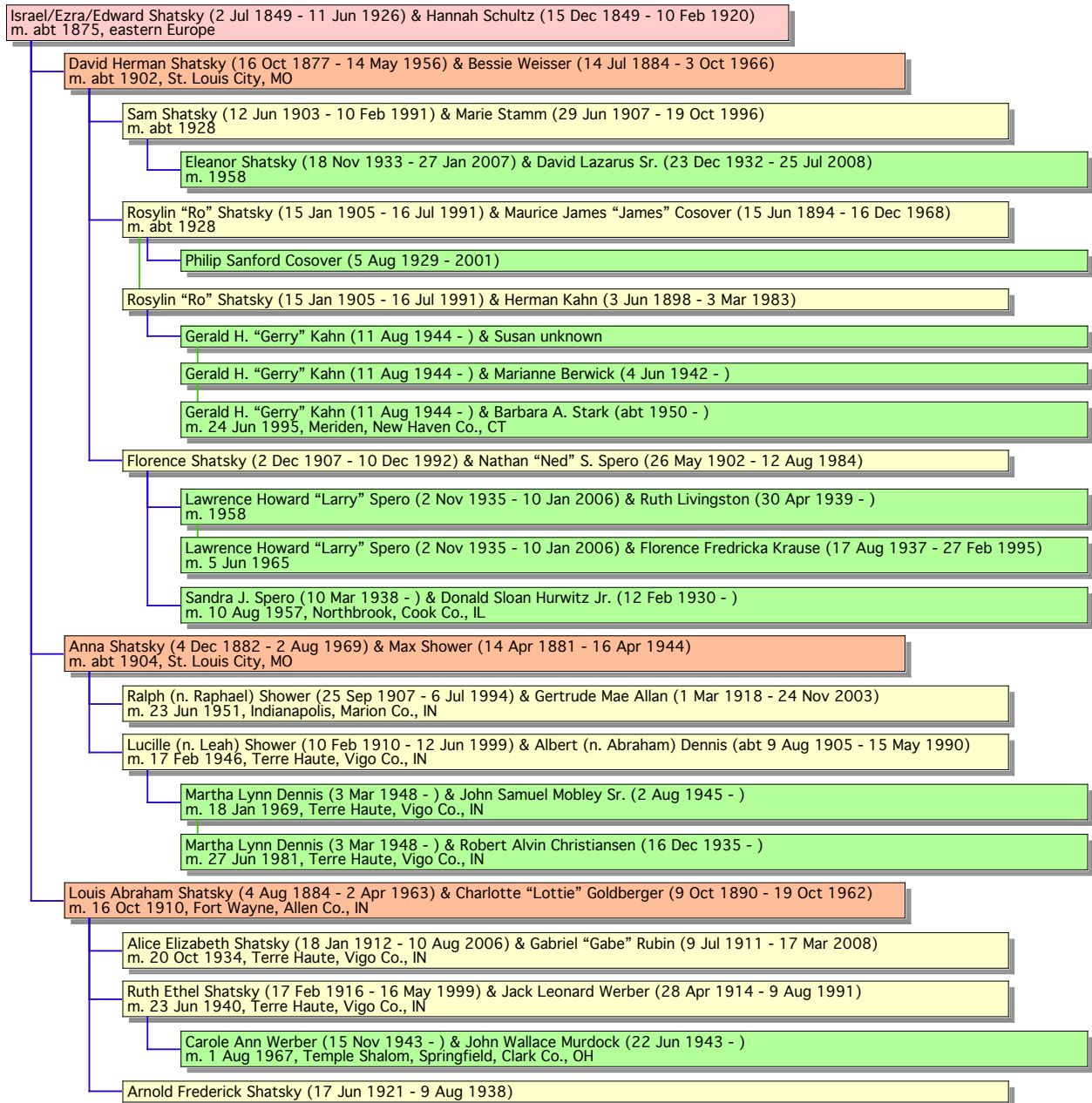
Public records show three given names for father Shatsky, namely Israel, Ezra and Edward. He used Israel during his latter years, but his gravestone says Ezra. For this draft I have chosen to use as the given name "Israel".

The following descendant chart shows Israel and Hannah, their three children, and the children's' spouses. You'll find two additional generations in the chart on the next page.



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## Older Members of the Shatsky Family



## Early History of the Shatsky Family

My current information about the Shatsky family's origins is sparse and sometimes contradictory. So far my only sources have been Shatsky and Schultz family members, along with what I have found on the Internet.

I don't know the European birthplace of the Shatskys listed on the above chart or how family members spelled their given names or their surname in the old country. The surname spelling was generally "Schatsky" in St. Louis and "Shatsky" in Terre Haute.

In census and other records, the Shatskys listed above generally gave their birthplace as Russia, but would sometimes say Austria or Austrian Poland. I suspect that Israel, Hannah and their children were born within the borders of the Russian Empire, but in what had been part of Poland before the partitions of the late 1700s.

The birth date for some older family members may be incorrect. Western Europe and the western hemisphere have used the Gregorian calendar for several centuries. However, Russia continued to use the Julian calendar until 1918. In addition, births in the old country recorded using the Hebrew calendar may have been translated imprecisely to our calendar.

Being stymied in my efforts to find the Shatsky roots in Eastern Europe, I cast my net wider in the hope that information about a relative of Israel Shatsky or of his wife, Hannah (Schultz) Shatsky, might be fruitful.

Unfortunately I know of no relatives of Israel Shatsky. However his wife, Hannah, was related to the Schultz family of Terre Haute. Thus later in this history I include a bit of Schultz family history.

If you have any interest in understanding the part of Europe that the Shatskys lived in before emigrating, my two *historical digressions*, the first starting on page 4, may help.

## Historical Digression – Part 1

In the following map, showing the partitions of Poland in the late 1700s, Poland was initially much larger than it is now. Its eastern border was far to the east of its current boundaries.



**Footnote:** As of 2012 you can find a more-readable version of this map on Wikipedia at the web page [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Partitions\\_of\\_Poland.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Partitions_of_Poland.png).

In the late 1700s a series of three partitions divided Poland between its three powerful neighbors. Consequently there was no Polish state from 1795 to 1918. During the Polish partitions, the Russian Empire acquired the eastern half of Poland, with the southeastern portion becoming part of the Ukraine. The Austro-Hungarian Empire acquired south central Poland and the Kingdom of Prussia western Poland.

I think it more likely than not that Shatsky family roots lie somewhere between Lwow (now Lviv) and Zytomierz (now Zhytomyr) on the above map.

The core of the Pale of Settlement, established by Catherine the Great of Russia in 1791, was the portion of eastern Poland acquired by Russia during the Polish partitions. Generally Jews who lived in the Russian Empire were encouraged to settle in the Pale.

The Jewish population absorbed into the Austro-Hungarian Empire after the Polish partitions was encouraged to take on German sounding surnames. However, in general life was better on the Austro-Hungarian side of the border rather than the Russian side. On the Austro-Hungarian side, pogroms didn't happen, Jews were eventually given citizenship, conscription was less onerous, and there were opportunities to travel through central Europe doing seasonal work.

**Footnote:** The part of Poland incorporated into the Austro-Hungarian Empire during the Polish partitions was well to the northeast of present-day Austria, whose boundaries were set in 1919. Looking at the map on the previous page, it is over 300 miles from Vienna to Lwow.

The Shatskys were some of the approximately two million Jews who left the Pale of Settlement, the majority immigrating to the United States, between 1881 and 1914.

Nevertheless, because of high birth rates, the Pale's Jewish population tended to remain around five million during this period of mass emigration. Consequently when World War II began in 1939, the Holocaust was fueled by the many remaining Jews. Around 90% of the Jews who were still living in the former Pale in 1941 did not survive.

I've continued this historical digression later after the section *The Extended Schultz Family*.

## The Schatsky Family in St. Louis

### Before St. Louis:

I do not know Schatsky/Shatsky family origins in Eastern Europe and I know nothing of family immigration to the United States.

Lucille (Shower) Dennis, a granddaughter, thought that some of her grandparents might have entered the United States through Galveston, Texas. Andy Murdock, a great great grandson, interviewed his grandparents who thought that Houston might have been the entry point. If the family had immigrated through New York, they would have been processed at Castle Garden, since Ellis Island did not open until 1892.

Searching ships manifest is an impossible task since we don't know the surname the family used when immigrating.

### St. Louis:

The 1898 naturalization of David Schatsky in St. Louis is the oldest reference I have found for the Schatsky/Shatsky family.

In the 1900 St. Louis census and St. Louis city directories from 1899 through 1905, members of the Schatsky family are found at 821 Morgan and 821 or 822 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street. During this time, father Schatsky is sometimes called Edward and sometimes Ezra.

While living in St. Louis, the two older Schatsky children married, David around 1902 and Anna around 1904.

David Schatsky's bride, Bessie Weisser, was the daughter of Hyman Weisser and Zelda/Sarah/Mary Boxerman who had emigrated from the western Ukraine around 1890. Hyman Weisser and his wife were living in St. Louis in 1900, but by 1914 had moved to Peoria, Illinois, where they died.

Anna Schatsky married Max Shower, who had emigrated from Ananyev in the Ukraine north of Odessa. Max Shower's parents are currently unknown. Max lived in England for a time before coming to St. Louis. Later four siblings of Max settled in St. Louis, Terre Haute or Indianapolis, with a fifth living in the New York City area.

In December 1904 the St. Louis world fair, later celebrated in the Judy Garland movie, *Meet Me In St. Louis*, ended. In 1905 the Schatsky family, parents, their three children, the two older children's spouses, and two babies, began their move to Terre Haute.

## The Shatsky Family in Terre Haute

### Terre Haute in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century:

Terre Haute in 1905 bore little resemblance to contemporary Terre Haute. Then, as now, Terre Haute was a regional commercial center, being the largest city between Indianapolis and St. Louis. But in 1905 Terre Haute was also a major railroad center and possessed many mid-sized factories. Further, the countryside around Terre Haute contained a substantial number of coalmines. Tom Roznowski has eloquently imagined this lost city in his book *An American Hometown, Terre Haute, Indiana, 1927*:

Terre Haute, Indiana, was once one of America's shining jewels. Set along the banks of a legendary river, it was a thriving Midwestern city, surrounded by fertile farmlands, rich coalfields, and mature hardwood forests. In the early decades of the twentieth century, Terre Haute became known as "The Crossroads of America."

**Footnote:** Terre Haute's most famous citizen in 1905 was Eugene V. Debs, born in Terre Haute in 1855 and buried in 1926 in the sprawling Highland Lawn Cemetery, the same cemetery where most of the older members of the Shatsky family lie. Eugene Debs was a socialist politician and labor leader who ran for president five times, the last from a prison cell in 1920.

### The Shatsky Family Store:

Upon arriving in Terre Haute around 1905, the Shatsky family opened a men's clothing store. The initial store, Shatsky and Son, was located at 320 Wabash Avenue. (Wabash Avenue was the main shopping street in Terre Haute and historically was part of the National Road built in the 1830s.) The 1906 proprietors were father, Edward, and son, David, with the younger son, Louis, listed as manager. David and Louis's brother-in-law, Max Shower, worked as a clerk at the Shatsky store.

By 1908 the store name had become Shatsky Brothers. In the 1910 Terre Haute city directory, the store was listed as Shatsky Brother's Clothing, with David and Louis's father, Israel Shatsky, working as a clerk.

In 1910 Louis Shatsky married Charlotte "Lottie" Goldberger, the daughter of Morris Goldberger and Elizabeth Cohen. Lottie was born in Toledo, Ohio but as a child moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana with her family.

As reported in the *Indianapolis Star* and subsequently in *The Insurance Press*, on January 28, 1915 a fire caused by a flue problem caused \$20,000 of damage to the Shatsky Bros. Clothing Company store in Terre Haute.

By 1915 Shatsky Brother's Clothing was located at 426-428 Wabash Ave but in later Terre Haute directories I found other addresses in the 400 block of Wabash Avenue.

Max Shower left the Shatsky business around 1923, and Louis Shatsky left in 1926. Apparently David Shatsky continued to own and operate the store until he moved to Rantoul, Illinois not long after 1940.

## David and Bessie (Weisser) Shatsky Family History

Excerpted from *The Shatsky Family of Terre Haute, Indiana* by Robert A. Christiansen.  
Last revision Feb 2013.

David and Bessie Shatsky's older descendants are listed below.

David Herman Shatsky (1877 - 1956) & Bessie Weisser (1884 - 1966)  
| Sam Shatsky (1903 - 1991) & Marie Stamm (1907 - 1996)  
| | Eleanor Shatsky (1933 - 2007) & David Lazarus Sr. (1932 - 2008)  
| Rosylin "Ro" Shatsky\* (1905 - 1991) & Maurice James "James" Cosover (1894 - 1968)  
| | Philip Sanford Cosover (1929 - 2001)  
| Rosylin "Ro" Shatsky\* (1905 - 1991) & Herman Kahn (1898 - 1983)  
| | Gerald H. "Gerry" Kahn\* (1944 - ) & Susan unknown  
| | Gerald H. "Gerry" Kahn\* (1944 - ) & Marianne Berwick (1942 - )  
| | Gerald H. "Gerry" Kahn\* (1944 - ) & Barbara A. Stark (~1950 - )  
| Florence Shatsky (1907 - 1992) & Nathan "Ned" S. Spero (1902 - 1984)  
| | Lawrence Howard "Larry" Spero\* (1935 - 2006) & Ruth Livingston (1939 - )  
| | Lawrence Howard "Larry" Spero\* (1935 - 2006) & Florence Fredricka Krause (1937 - 1995)  
| | Sandra J. Spero (1938 - ) & Donald Sloan Hurwitz Jr. (1930 - )

As mentioned earlier in this history, David Shatsky and Bessie Weisser married in St. Louis around 1902 and moved to Terre Haute, Indiana around 1905 with their two oldest children and other Shatsky family members. Until 1926 David was in the clothing business with other family members.

### David Shatsky On His Own:

In 1926 David Shatsky became sole proprietor of what had been Shatsky Brother's Clothing in Terre Haute. Sometime between 1926 and 1931 David moved his men's and boy's clothing store to 403 Wabash Ave. In 1939 the address is given as 410 Wabash Ave.

Around 1940 David and Bessie Shatsky moved to Rantoul in east central Illinois, where David ran a jewelry business during World War II.

**Of interest:** Presumably David and Bessie Shatsky moved to Rantoul because of its proximity to Chanute Field, an air force base that opened way back in 1917 and finally closed in 1993. During World War II Chanute Field personnel mushroomed to around 25,000, most with discretionary income. A nearby jewelry business might have been an enticing business opportunity.

After the war, David and Bessie returned to Terre Haute, but by 1948 they were living in Waukegan, Illinois, near their daughter, Florence Spero. David and Bessie died in Waukegan and are interred in the Highland Lawn Cemetery in Terre Haute.

**The three children of David and Bessie Shatsky are listed below.**

- **Sam Shatsky** was born in St. Louis and raised in Terre Haute. Sam married Marie Stamm, the daughter of Morris Stamm and Sophie Weisser of Galesburg, Illinois. Sam and Marie were cousins, both being grandchildren of Hyman Weisser and Zelda/Sarah/Mary Boxerman.



Sam and Marie Shatsky lived in Galesburg, where Sam owned a retail shoe store. Late in life they moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where they died. Their place of interment is unknown.

Sam and Marie Shatsky had one daughter:

- ▲ **Eleanor Shatsky** was born in Chicago, raised in Galesburg and graduated from Vassar College in New York. Eleanor married David Lazarus Sr. of Cincinnati, the son of Jeffrey L. and Adelaide Lazarus. Eleanor and David Lazarus lived in Cincinnati where Eleanor worked in commercial real estate and was active in civil affairs.

Eleanor and David Lazarus had two sons. Both Eleanor and David are deceased.

**Of interest:** David Lazarus Sr.'s uncle, Fred Lazarus, Jr. played a key role in American retail business history on two occasions.

- 1 – In the late 1920s Fred Lazarus Jr. was president of F. R. Lazarus, a department store in Columbus, Ohio that had recently acquired a store in Cincinnati. In 1929, just before the Great Depression began, Fred Lazarus spearheaded the development of a national retail department store company, Federated Department Stores, which today, after numerous mergers and acquisitions, is known as Macys. Fred Lazarus subsequently served as Federated president until 1957.
- 2 – Ten years later, in 1939, the United States still hadn't recovered fully from the Great Depression. Thanksgiving at the time was traditionally on the last Thursday in November, which in 1939 happened to be on November 30. Fred Lazarus headed a group from the retail industry who approached President Roosevelt, asking that Thanksgiving be changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of November, which in 1939 was November 23. The intent was to lift consumer spending by allowing a longer pre-Christmas shopping period. Franklin Roosevelt agreed, and proclaimed the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday as official Thanksgiving Day. Two years later Congress went along and made the change permanent.

I am writing this early in November 2012, which happens to also have five Thursdays. When we overindulge on Thanksgiving Day on November 22, 2012, we can thank Fred Lazarus that we didn't have to wait until the 29<sup>th</sup> to enjoy our turkey.

- **Rosylin "Ro" Shatsky** was born in St. Louis, raised in Terre Haute, attended college, and became a schoolteacher.

Rosylin married Maurice James "James" Cosover, an insurance man in Waukegan, Illinois, around 1928.

**Of Interest:** James Cosover was born Moshe Kossower, the oldest of the nine surviving children of Pinchos Kossower and Gitel Beitchman, residents of Krasilov in the Volhynia area of the Ukraine.

In 1906 when he was 12, James and a brother were sent to the United States with the intent that eventually the rest of the family would follow.

Rabbi Pinchos Kossower was killed in November 1919 in the Ukraine, a victim of the wars and pogroms that afflicted areas of the Pale of Settlement during 1918-1921 just after World War I ended. In 1921 Gitel brought the remaining seven children to the United States where she lived a long life in the Bronx, dying in 1961 at the age of 86.

As of 2012, one can find more on the Kossower family by googling on "moshe kossower" to access his entry in findagrave.com, and then clicking on hotspots in the findagrave text.

Rosylin and James Cosover had one son:

▲ **Philip Cosover** never married and is deceased.

Rosylin Schatsky's marriage to James Cosover ended in divorce and James Cosover subsequently moved to Philadelphia.

After her divorce, Rosylin resumed work as a schoolteacher, living for a time with the family of her sister, Florence, in Waukegan.

Rosylin subsequently married Herman Kahn, the son of Isadore and Kate Kahn of Buffalo, New York.

Rosylin and Herman Kahn lived in Buffalo, New York. Herman owned a retail furniture store in nearby Lockport. In their retirement Rosylin and Herman moved to Florida, dying in Broward County.

Rosylin and Herman Kahn had one son:

▲ **Gerald "Gerry" Kahn** was an attorney in New Haven, Connecticut.

Gerald had a stepdaughter and two sons from his second marriage.

- **Florence Shatsky** was born and raised in Terre Haute. Florence studied at the University of Illinois and became a schoolteacher.

Florence married Nathan "Ned" Spero of Waukegan, Illinois, an automobile dealer. Ned Spero was the son of H. L. and Gertrude Spero. Ned's father died early, and Gertrude then married Jacob Blumberg, a Waukegan businessman.

The two children of Florence and Ned Spero are listed below. Both were born at Lying In Hospital in Chicago.

▲ **Lawrence Howard "Larry" Spero** worked in automobile sales until the family business closed. Subsequently Larry was a financial advisor in Waukegan before retiring to the Phoenix area.

Larry Spero was married twice. Larry and his first wife, Ruth Livingston, had a son. Larry and Ruth later divorced and Larry married Florence Fredricka Krause while Ruth married Ralph Dady. Larry and Florence had a daughter and a son.

Larry Spero died in the Phoenix, Arizona area.

▲ **Sandra Spero** was visiting her Aunt Ro in Buffalo, New York when she met Donald Sloan Hurwitz, the son of Donald Sloan Hurwitz and Fay Oppenheimer of Buffalo. Sandra and Don married in 1957 and lived in Buffalo where Don ran the Hurwitz family scrap metal business.

Sandra and Don Hurwitz had a son and a daughter. Sandra and Don retired to Phoenix, where they were living as of 2012.

## Max and Anna (Shatsky) Shower Family History

Excerpted from *The Shatsky Family of Terre Haute, Indiana* by Robert A. Christiansen.  
Last revision Jul 2013.

Max and Anna Shower's older descendants are listed below.

Max Shower (1881 - 1944) & Anna Shatsky (1882 - 1969)

| Ralph (n. Raphael) Shower (1907 - 1994) & Gertrude Mae Allan (1918 - 2003)

| Lucille (n. Leah) Shower (1910 - 1999) & Albert (n. Abraham) Dennis (~1905 - 1990)

| | Martha Lynn Dennis\* (1948 - ) & John Samuel Mobley Sr. (1945 - )

| | Martha Lynn Dennis\* (1948 - ) & Robert Alvin Christiansen (1935 - )

As mentioned earlier in this history, Max Shower and Anna Shatsky married in St. Louis around 1905 and moved to Terre Haute, Indiana around 1905 with the other members of the Shatsky family. Until 1923, Max worked in the Shatsky clothing business with his brothers-in-law.

### Max Shower On His Own:

Around 1923 Max Shower left Shatsky Brother's Clothing and went into business for himself in Terre Haute. He appears to have used various store names and have been located at several locations in the 400 and 500 blocks of Wabash Avenue, but by 1939 the Max Shower Department Store was located at 417 Wabash Ave., where it remained until closing a generation later.

**Of Interest:** For some years Julius Friedman, a young man from Linton, Indiana, managed one of Max's stores, which for unknown reasons was called "The Truth Store". While Julius Friedman was selling dry goods in Terre Haute, his brother, Isadore, was working as a professional musician. As of 2013 you can listen to Isadore Friedman playing jazz in the late 1920s with the immortal Bix Beiderbecke by going to YouTube and searching for Izzy Friedman.

After reaching adulthood, Max Shower's son, Ralph, assisted in store operation. Max died in April 1944 when Ralph was in the army. When Ralph returned late in 1945, he took over management of the Max Shower Department Store at 417 Wabash Avenue.

After Max Shower died, his widow, Anna, remained in the Shower family home at 710 South Eighth Street for the remainder of her life. She shared her home with her son-in-law and daughter, Albert and Lucille Dennis and with her granddaughter, Martha Lynn Dennis. Until 1965 Anna's son, Ralph, also remained in the Shower family home.

Max and Anna (Shatsky) Shower, along with their children, and their children's spouses are all interred in the Highland Lawn Cemetery in Terre Haute.

**The two children of Max and Anna Shower are listed on subsequent pages.**

- **Ralph Shower** (25 Sep 1907 – 6 Jul 1994), the oldest child of Max Shower and Anna Shatsky, was born and raised in Terre Haute, Indiana. After reaching adulthood, Ralph remained at home while he worked in his father's retail clothing business.

As a young adult, Ralph attended Indiana State Teacher's College (now Indiana State University), was the scoutmaster of the Jewish Boy Scout troop in Terre Haute, and was active in Community Theater.

Ralph met Gertrude Allan of Terre Haute in the fall of 1938.

**About Gertrude Allan:** Gertrude Mae Allan (1 Mar 1918 – 24 Nov 2003) was born in Sullivan County, Indiana to Claud Vern Allan and Lucy Leona Stanley and moved with her parents to Terre Haute as a baby. Gertrude was the oldest of the seven Allan children who survived infancy.

Gertrude's family was typical of the many midwestern blue-collar families in the 1920s who had recently arrived in cities from rural areas. Claud Allan worked as a teamster for Hulman and Company, a wholesale grocery distributor. The Allan family had a large garden and lived frugally. By 1930 they owned their own home. They lived the American Dream until the Great Depression shattered their lives.

Claud Allan lost his job at Hulman and Company, and in the ensuing stresses the marriage of Claud and Lucy Allan deteriorated. One day around 1931, without foreknowledge of the Allan children, a large sedan arrived and the older Allan children were driven to the Rose Orphans Home, a foreboding structure on Wabash Avenue two miles east of downtown Terre Haute. Gertrude was a ward of the Rose Home until she graduated from high school in 1936.

For her senior year in high school, the Rose Orphanage sent Gertrude to Wabash, Indiana to help in the household of Eugenia (Hubbard) Nixon, a former Terre Haute resident. As a footnote, in 1942, Eugenia married Mark Honeywell, the industrialist.

Gertrude was a naïve but earnest and bright young woman and was a clerical worker at Indiana State Teachers College when she met Ralph.

When the United States entered World War I late in 1941, Ralph Shower was living at home with his parents, and working in the family dry goods business.

**Ralph Shower During World War II** (from WWIIFamilyNotes.doc 28 Nov 2013):

Ralph Shower joined the United States Army in Indianapolis, Indiana on June 20, 1942. I know nothing of Ralph's whereabouts for the next months. I believe that late in 1942 he was assigned to the 685<sup>th</sup> Port Company (sometimes called "Company B") of the 389<sup>th</sup> Port Battalion (sometimes called the 389<sup>th</sup> Transportation Port Battalion), perhaps when the battalion returned from Churchill, Manitoba. Ralph remained with this unit until after World War II ended.

In February 1943 the 389<sup>th</sup> Port Battalion was sent from Camp Myles Standish, about forty miles south of Boston, Massachusetts to North Africa, probably to Oran, Algeria. Oran was a major port supporting the North African Campaign, which ended in May 1943.

Ralph once said that the Germans sank a ship that was carrying his extra clothing and personal effects, but I have been unable to document this incident. After Oran, Ralph was stationed in Naples, Italy for around two years. Starting in October 1943, Naples was the main supply port for the Italian Campaign.

**The Italian Campaign and Naples:** Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily in July 1943, preceded the September invasion of the Italian mainland. The allied ground troops on the Italian Peninsula later in 1943-1945 were organized into the U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> Army and the British 8<sup>th</sup> Army. These armies included French Colonial and Free French forces, forces from the British Commonwealth and Empire, and Polish troops. The 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force, stationed at airfields near Foggia on the Adriatic east of Naples, provided most of the air power during the last 18 months of the Italian Campaign.

**Salerno and Operation Avalanche:** Salerno is a historic Italian city of around 150,000 south of Naples. It lies between the scenic Amalfi Coast to the north and the Salerno beaches to the south. **Operation Avalanche** was the Allies' September 9<sup>th</sup> invasion of the Italian mainland in the Salerno area.

In September 1943 the 389<sup>th</sup> Port Battalion left Oran for southern Italy to participate in Operation Avalanche. For the invasion the 389<sup>th</sup> was split into about twelve work parties, each traveling on one of the combat-loaded ships that were carrying the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the first American division to land at Salerno. The 36<sup>th</sup> landed near Paestum, a historical site south of Salerno.

The 389<sup>th</sup> unloaded the 36<sup>th</sup> Division's supplies onto smaller craft, which ferried the supplies to the beach. Once these initial ships were unloaded, the 389<sup>th</sup> transferred to a bivouac on shore, and then unloaded subsequent convoys. Evidently the 389<sup>th</sup> was the only port battalion for the first week of the Salerno operation, and was then reinforced by a colored port battalion.

On October 2, after several weeks in the Salerno area, part of the 389<sup>th</sup> Port Battalion was transferred to the newly-liberated port of Naples, which the Germans had destroyed before withdrawing. I don't know when Ralph moved from Salerno to Naples.

The 389<sup>th</sup> and the other port battalions stationed in Naples supported the Anzio Beachhead near Rome during the beachhead's existence from January to May 1944. Initially port units bivouaced on the beachhead, which was subject to shelling and bombing by the Germans. Subsequently these port units were withdrawn to Naples and a port company would accompany each ship from Naples to Anzio to handle the unloading at Anzio. However, Ralph, as company orderly, may have remained in Naples during most of the Anzio beachhead period.

After Anzio, the next major stressor for the six or so port battalions stationed in Naples was the loading of ships before the allied invasion of southern France on August 15, 1944. In September 1944 the Tuscan port of Livorno (Leghorn) was cleared. However, Ralph's battalion remained in Naples rather than being sent to southern France or Livorno.

Ralph's military records show him being transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Replacement Depot at an unspecified date, leaving Europe on October 24, 1945, arriving in the United

States on November 6 and being discharged at Camp Atterbury, about 50 miles south of Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 11.

Ralph then returned to Terre Haute, where he lived the remainder of his life.

### **Ralph and Gertrude Shower:**

In November 1945 Ralph returned to Terre Haute and took over management of the Max Shower Department Store. (Ralph's father had died in April 1944 while Ralph was in Italy.) After the Max Shower Department Store closed in the 1960s, Ralph worked at The Shoe Box, owned by his brother-in-law, Albert Dennis. Ralph also briefly worked at the Schultz Department Store, owned by relatives of the Shatskys.

During World War II Ralph's friend, Gertrude Allan, worked in quality control for Allison, a defense industry, in Indianapolis. Later Gertrude worked until retirement in technical support at the telephone company in Terre Haute.

Ralph Shower and Gertrude Allan reconnected in Terre Haute in 1946 and married in Indianapolis in 1951. However, because of perceived objections on religious grounds from Ralph's mother, Ralph continued to live in the Shower family home at 710 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street during the week and Gertrude kept her own residence. In 1965 Gertrude converted to Judaism, Ralph and Gertrude had a second wedding at the Shower family home, and Ralph and Gertrude finally could live together on a regular basis.

Ralph and Gertrude Shower did not have children. They remained in Terre Haute, spending their last years in Westminster Village, a retirement home. They died in Terre Haute, Ralph at the age of 86 and Gertrude 85, and are interred in the Jewish section of the Highland Lawn Cemetery on the eastern edge of Terre Haute.

- **Lucille Shower** (10 Feb 1910 – 12 Jun 1999) was born and raised in Terre Haute. Lucille studied art at the University of Chicago and remained in Chicago working in fabric design after graduating in 1931.

**Of Interest:** While a student at the University of Chicago, Lucille became romantically involved with George Bowers, a native of rural Nebraska and a graduate student in political science. George was not Jewish and Lucille eventually terminated the relationship because her mother would not have accepted a marriage due to religious differences.

George Bowers and his wife, Dorothea Bell, eventually moved to rural Valparaiso in northwestern Indiana. In 1958 George ran for Congress as a political novice against the House Minority Leader, Charles Halleck. Charles Halleck did win, but it was his closest race since entering the House of Representatives over twenty years earlier in 1935.

Early on the bitterly cold morning of January 8, 1962, George and Dorothea Bowers died in a fire at their farmhouse.

While working in Chicago, Lucille met Albert "Al" Dennis, a Maine native who was a manager in the women's shoe department at the Carson Pirie Scott department store in the downtown Chicago loop.

**About Albert Dennis:** Albert "Al" Dennis (9 Aug 1905? – 15 May 1990) was born in or near Bangor, Maine to Jennie Goldman and an unknown father. Hyman and Hanna / Annie (Paliakov) Dennis of Bangor adopted Albert when he was a toddler. (Hyman Dennis's brother, Samuel, was married to Jennie Goldman's sister.) Albert's adoptive mother, Annie, died when Albert was about ten, and Albert subsequently lived in the homes of several members of the Dennis and Goldman extended families. Sam Lipsky, the husband of Albert's cousin, Rae Dennis, introduced Albert to the shoe business.

Albert was a charming, handsome and lively young man and in the late 1920s left Bangor with a friend, allegedly headed for Hollywood. Albert got only as far as Chicago, where he resumed working in the retail shoe business.

Shortly before the United States entered World War II in 1941, Al Dennis and Lucille Shower left Chicago and moved to the Shower family home at 710 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Terre Haute, where they opened a retail business, The Shoe Box, at 508 Wabash Avenue. Al joined the United States Navy early in 1942, leaving Lucille to manage The Shoe Box during his absence.

**Albert Dennis During World War II** (from WWIIFamilyNotes.doc 30 Nov 2013):

Albert Dennis enlisted in the United States Navy in Indianapolis on March 13, 1942. He was first stationed in New Orleans and by November 1942 was at the navy base in Corpus Christi, Texas. In November 1943 Albert joined the crew of the U.S.S. Oyster Bay, a PT boat tender, as a storekeeper first class (SK1C, the equivalent of an army corporal).

Albert served on the Oyster Bay for nearly a year. During Albert's service in the Southwest Pacific, the Oyster Bay was assigned to Task Group 70.1, the Motor Torpedo Boat (PT boat) unit of the 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet, which was the navy component of General Douglas MacArthur's forces in the Southwest Pacific Theatre.



After February 1944 the Oyster Bay was usually in the war zone. Except for the captain, Albert was the oldest man on the Oyster Bay. During General Quarters, Albert's station was next to the captain on the bridge communicating between the captain and other stations on the ship. Consequently Albert wasn't able to wear ear protection, which he attributed to some of his hearing loss late in life.

In November 1944 Albert was transferred to the Hospital Ship U.S.S. Mercy and sent to the navy hospital in Hollandia, New Guinea. We believe that Albert was burned in a fire on the Oyster Bay and nearly lost his leg due to a subsequent fungal infection. While navy doctors in Hollandia were contemplating an amputation, a visiting French doctor with experience in the tropical French colonies suggested a treatment that turned out to be effective.

Albert was transferred to the U.S.S. Mizar on November 25, 1944 and returned to Oakland, California, where he entered the Oakland, California Navy Hospital on December 15. I believe that Albert subsequently spent time in the Portsmouth, Virginia Navy Hospital and a veteran's hospital in the New York City area.

After Albert was released from the hospital, he returned to Terre Haute where he married Lucille and lived for the remainder of his life.

Albert's World War II travels took him nearly halfway around the world from his Maine birthplace.

**Here is a timeline of the U.S.S. Oyster Bay's (AGP-6) known movements during Albert Dennis' service.** I have added the italicized entries to provide some context. Most locations are shown on the map that follows.

**Preliminaries:**

- 17 Nov '43 Oyster Bay commissioned in Washington; Albert Dennis joins crew.
- 7 Dec '43 Left Seattle, Washington.
- 2 Jan '44 Left San Diego, California for Brisbane, Australia.
- 10 Jan Crossed the Equator.
- ? Feb Arrived at Milne Bay, on eastern tip of New Guinea.

**New Guinea and the Admiralty Islands:**

- 28 Feb Began servicing two squadrons of PT boats at Dreger Harbor, Finschhafen, on northeast coast of New Guinea.
- 29 Feb *U.S. forces invade Admiralty Islands about 400 miles north of eastern New Guinea.***
- 9 Mar Left Dreger Harbor w/ 15 PT boats for Seeadler Harbor, Manus, Admiralty Islands.
- 14 Mar Shore bombardment of Pityilu Island near Seeadler Harbor.
- 20 Mar Carried wounded soldiers to hospital in Finschhafen, New Guinea.
- 31 Mar Shore bombardment of Ndrilo Island near Seeadler Harbor.
- 19 Apr Returned to Dreger Harbor, Finschhafen.
- 22 Apr ***U.S. forces invade Aitape, 100 miles east of Hollandia.***
- 26 Apr Arrived Aitape w/ 15 PT boats from Squadrons 7 and 18.

2 May Arrived Hollandia, capital of western New Guinea, on north central coast of New Guinea w/ Squadron 18.

**27 May** *U.S. forces invade Biak Island, north of western New Guinea.*

5 Jun To Wadke Island w/ two squadrons of PT boats.

Jun Shore bombardment in Wicki River and Samar Village area.

9 Jul Arrived Mios Woendi Island, just south of Biak Island.

12 Jul Left Mios Woendi for maintenance at Brisbane docks.

22 Jul Damaged in Brisbane when allied plane struck mast.

16 Aug Left Brisbane to return to Mios Woendi Island.

**The Philippines Campaign** (Morotai near Halmahera and Peleliu in the Palau Islands were first invaded to provide advances bases.)

15 Aug *U.S. forces invade Morotai northwest of New Guinea.*

16 Sep Arrived Morotai w/ Mobjack and Squadrons 9, 10, 18 & 33.

6 Oct Back to Mios Woendi; Mobjack, hit by Japanese, remained behind.

13 Oct Left Mios Woendi for Palau Islands.

18 Oct Left Palau Islands for Leyte Gulf with Task Group 30.1.

20 Oct *U.S. forces invade Leyte as first step in reconquest of Philippines.*

21 Oct Arrived San Pedro Bay in Leyte Gulf, near Tacloban.

25 Oct *Oyster Bay's PT boats participate in Battle of Surigao Strait.*

25 Oct *Battle off Samar about 100 miles northeast of San Pedro Bay ends in unexpected Japanese withdrawal.*

5 Nov MTB 320 destroyed by Japanese plane two miles from Oyster Bay.

13 Nov Albert Dennis transferred from Oyster Bay to Hospital Ship Mercy.



The Southwestern Pacific

The one child of Lucille Shower and Albert Dennis is listed below.

- ▲ **Martha Lynn Dennis** was born and raised in Terre Haute. Martha graduated from Wiley High School, attended Indiana State University and initially taught English in the public schools. She then studied for an advanced degree and became a counseling psychologist at the University of Iowa, eventually working in university management at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia and at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.

In 1969 Martha married John Samuel Mobley Sr., the son of Archie and Pauline (Arnold) Mobley of Terre Haute. Martha had two sons by this marriage, which ended in divorce in 1978.

In 1981 Martha married Robert Alvin Christiansen, the son of Alvin and Leona (Larson) Christiansen who farmed near Avoca, Iowa, and the author of this history. Martha had three stepdaughters by her second marriage.

Albert Dennis continued to operate The Shoe Box until selling it and retiring in the 1970s.

While working in Chicago in the 1930s, Lucille Shower had studied at the Chicago Art Institute. After her marriage Lucille (Shower) Dennis resumed an active pursuit of her artistic interests, producing about 200 paintings. Most of the art hanging on our walls in Arizona in 2013 is the work of my dear mother-in-law, Lucille.

After Albert Dennis died in 1990, Lucille continued to live at the Shower family home at 710 South Eighth Street in Terre Haute. In 1996 Lucille left her home of seventy years and joined our household in Iowa City, Iowa and then in Williamsburg, Virginia. Lucille died in Williamsburg at the age of 89.

## **Louis and Charlotte (Goldberger) Shatsky Family History**

Excerpted from *The Shatsky Family of Terre Haute, Indiana* by Robert A. Christiansen.  
Last revision Feb 2013.

Louis and Charlotte Shatsky's older descendants are listed below.

- Louis Abraham Shatsky (1884 - 1963) & Charlotte "Lottie" Goldberger (1890 - 1962)
  - | Alice Elizabeth Shatsky (1912 - 2006) & Gabriel "Gabe" Rubin (1911 - 2008)
  - | Ruth Ethel Shatsky (1916 - 1999) & Jack Leonard Werber (1914 - 1991)
  - | | Carole Ann Werber (1943 - ) & John Wallace Murdock (1943 - )
  - | Arnold Frederick Shatsky (1921 - 1938)

As mentioned earlier in this history, Louis Shatsky moved from St. Louis to Terre Haute, Indiana as a young man around 1905 with other Shatsky family members. Louise married Charlotte "Lottie" Goldberger of Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1910. Until 1926 Louis was in the clothing business with his brother, David.

### **Louis Shatsky On His Own:**

After leaving the Shatsky Brother's Clothing in 1926, Louis Shatsky managed a window cleaning business in Indianapolis from 1926 to 1929. Louis and Lottie lived briefly in Indianapolis during this time. In 1929 Louis began operating the Terre Haute Window Cleaning Company, a company that he continued to operate until around 1955.

Louis and Lottie remained in Terre Haute until Lottie died in 1962 and Louis subsequently moved to Springfield, Ohio to be near his daughters, Ruth Werber and Alice Rubin. Louis died in Springfield in 1963.

### **The three children of Louis and Lottie Shatsky are listed below.**

- **Alice Elizabeth Shatsky** was born and raised in Terre Haute and attended the University of Illinois for two years. In 1934 Alice married Gabriel "Gabe" Rubin, the youngest child of Hyman and Fannie Rubin of Terre Haute.

Alice and Gabe lived in Terre Haute until around 1937 and then Springfield, Ohio until around 1974. Then they retired to Clearwater, Florida where Alice died at the age of 94 and Gabe 96.

Gabe Rubin was an enterprising man who did well in life. Gabe had a special connection with the Blumberg family of Terre Haute and worked in the Blumberg family's loan business.

Alice and Gabe Rubin did not have children.

- **Ruth Ethel Shatsky** was born and raised in Terre Haute, attended Indiana State Teacher's College in Terre Haute and worked as a teacher in Ohio before marrying.

Ruth married Leonard Werber of Springfield, Ohio, the son of Oscar Werber and Pearl Ebner. Except for some time living with her parents in Terre Haute while Leonard was in the Army during World War II, Ruth remained in Springfield until her death.

Ruth and Leonard Werber had one child:

- ▲ **Carole Ann Werber** was born and raised in Springfield, Ohio and attended Ohio State University where she met a fellow student, John Wallace Murdock, the son of John Wallace Murdock Sr. and Helen Caroline Berisford of Columbus, Ohio.

Carole and John married in 1967 and then moved to Arvada, Colorado where they have since lived. Carole and John were both teachers, although Carole left the teaching profession to pursue business interests.

Carole and John Murdock had two sons.

**Of Interest:** In the United States during World War II, many young married couples became separated during the wife's pregnancy. Under these circumstances it was common for the wife to then return to her parent's home for support. This happened with both Carole's parents and John's parents. Thus Carole was born in Terre Haute where her grandparents lived and John in Barboursville, West Virginia where his grandparents lived.

**Of Interest:** Ruth Ethel (Shatsky) Werber's mother-in-law was born Pearl Ebner, the daughter of Nathan Ebner and Fannie Kempler, both immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire who settled in Springfield, Ohio.

Appendix 4, *The Ebner Family of Springfield, Ohio*, contains more information.

- **Arnold Frederick Shatsky** was a bright and promising young man who died at the age of 17.

**Of Interest:** Louis Shatsky's wife, Lottie (Goldberger) Shatsky was the oldest of eight children of Morris and Elizabeth Goldberger of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Lottie's next older sibling, Cecelia, lived near Pittsburgh in Braddock, Pennsylvania, where she died in October 1918 during the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919. Cecelia's husband, Edward Bolson, died soon thereafter. Cecelia and Edward left three children, the oldest only four years old. The Goldberger grandparents, aunts, and Uncle Alex in Fort Wayne raised the Bolson children.

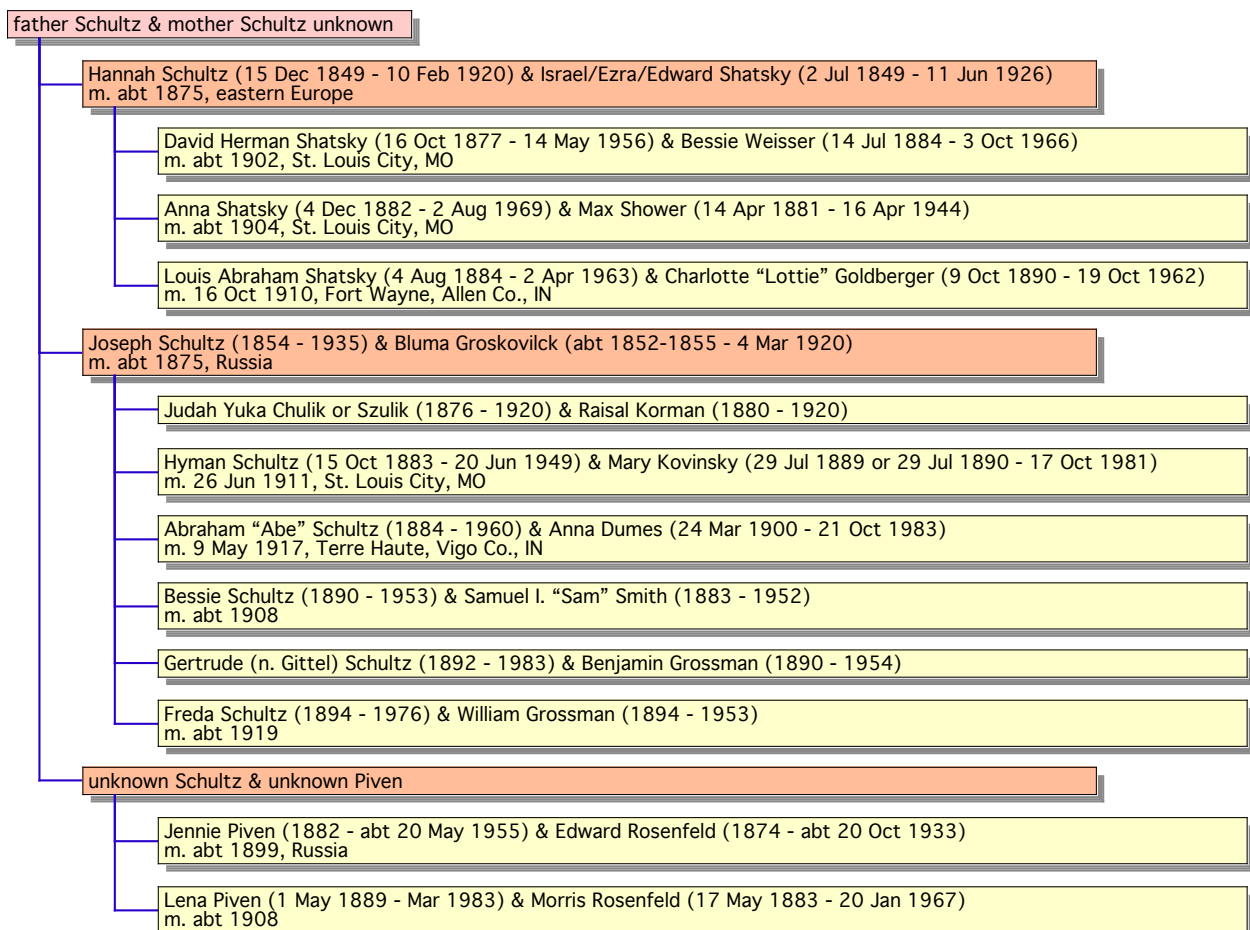
The oldest Bolson child, Harry, enrolled in ROTC while attending Purdue University and joined the army early in 1941. During World War II, Harry Bolson served in the Field Artillery in France and Germany. After the German surrender in May 1945, Harry Bolson served as military governor of a small city in Austria. Subsequently Harry Bolson retired from the Army Reserves with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

## The Extended Schultz Family

I believe that Hannah (Schultz) Shatsky is related to the extended Schultz family of Terre Haute as indicated in the following chart. Most of the older members listed on this chart were born in Eastern Europe, lived in St. Louis, and then came to Terre Haute in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. They were small businessmen on or near Wabash Avenue, and took an active part in the vibrant Jewish life in Terre Haute at that time.

Two sisters on the following chart, Gertrude and Freda Schultz, married Grossman brothers. Their cousins, the sisters Jennie and Lena Piven, married Rosenfeld brothers.

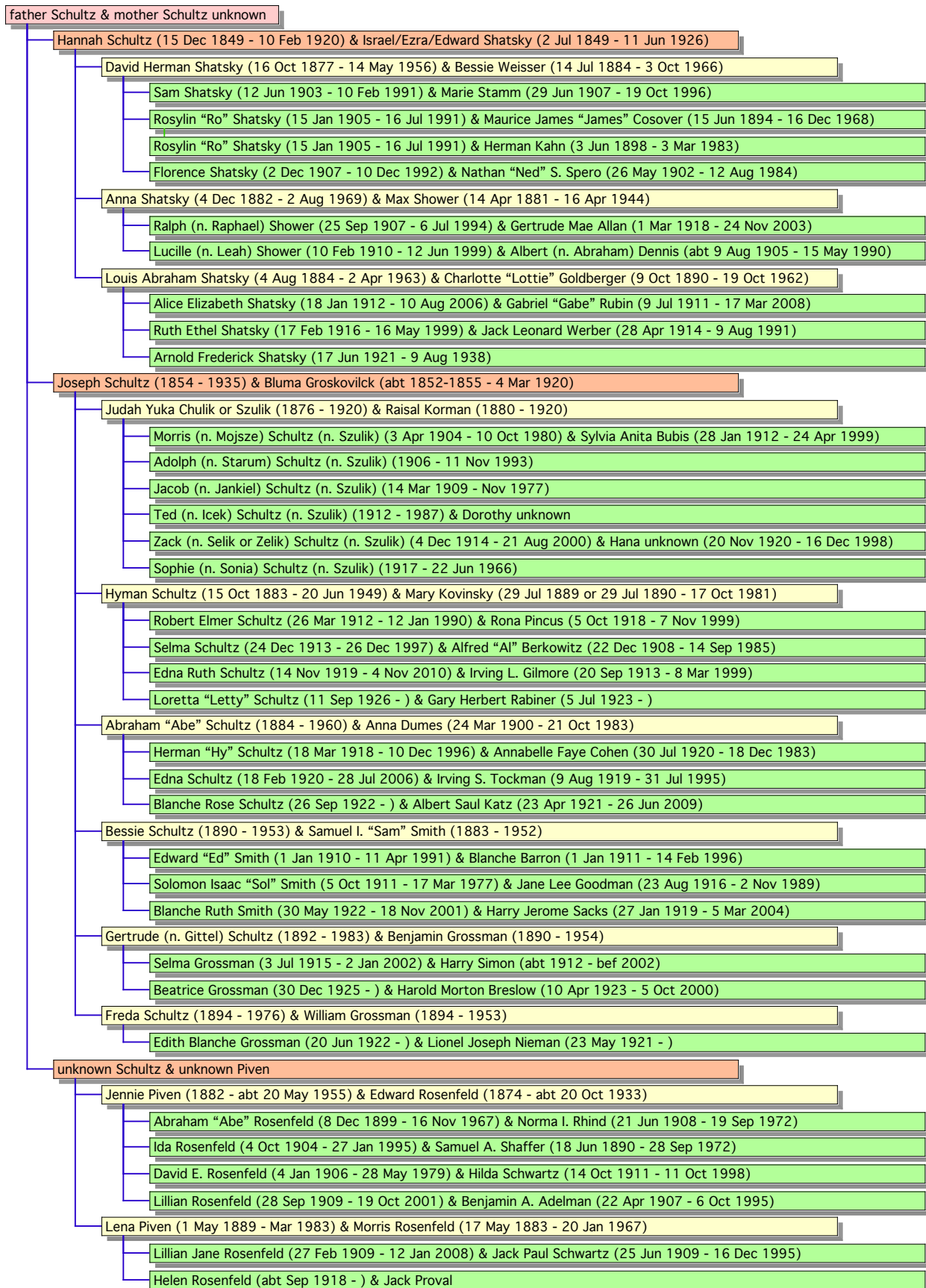
### Older Members of the Schultz Family:



On the following page you will find a long chart of older Schultz family members that omits marriage information but includes an additional generation.

**Footnote:** Bessie (Weisser) Shatsky, daughter-in-law of Israel and Hannah Shatsky, had first cousins, David and Ike Silverstein and Ben Becker, who also lived in Terre Haute. Their common grandparents were Abraham and Bela Boxerman.





## The Schultz Family Roots in Eastern Europe:

Referring back to the Schultz family chart two pages earlier, one might correctly guess that Joseph and Bluma Schultz's oldest child, bearing the name Judah Yuka Chulik, remained in Eastern Europe after his parents and other siblings emigrated. After Judah and Raisal died in 1920, their six children, the oldest being 17, came to Terre Haute in 1921 under the sponsorship of their uncle, Hyman Schultz. Like their predecessors, these six orphan children adopted Schultz as their surname and took on given names that were comfortable to the American ear.

The regions of western Volhynia and eastern Galicia in Eastern Europe are significant in the history of the Schultz family. I believe that the family origins may well be in historic Volhynia somewhere between L'viv and Zhytomyr on the following contemporary map of the Ukraine. (On the next page I tell how to find a better on-line map.)



## Historical Digression - Part 2

Here I resume my earlier overview of the geopolitical history of Eastern Europe as it may have affected the Shatsky family, and more generally the allied Schultz family.

Volhynia was one of the provinces of the old Poland, seized by the Russian Empire during the Polish partitions of the late 1700s. Today most of what was Volhynia is located in the western Ukraine.

Eastern Galicia, likewise part of the old Poland, joined Volhynia on the southwest.

**Footnote:** Don't confuse Galicia in southeastern Poland with Galicia in northwestern Spain.

After the Polish partitions, Brody, a small city in eastern Galicia, found itself in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, but only five miles from the new border with the Russian Empire. As explained later, Brody had major significance in Jewish history in that part of the Pale of Settlement around 1900.

Since World War II most of both Volhynia and eastern Galicia have been in the western portion of the Ukraine. You can locate this area on a printed map more detailed than the rudimentary one on the previous page by finding Lviv, previously Lwow, the major city in what was eastern Galicia. Brody is about 60 miles mostly east and a bit north of Lviv. Zhytomyr, once the capital of Volhynia, is a little over 200 miles east of Lviv. To get a better map on the Internet in 2012, you can Google on **Brody Ukraine** and pan out by using the + sign on the resulting Google map.

Both eastern Galicia in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the nearby area of Volhynia across the Russian border had large Jewish populations. Further there was a lively traffic, sometimes illegal, across this border, much of it going through the Brody area.

In 1881 Czar Alexander II of Russia was assassinated and in the resulting pogrom many Jews fled from Volhynia to Brody and from Brody left Eastern Europe. This established a pattern of emigration that persisted for many years.

A consequence of World War I, fought in 1914-1918 mainly in Europe, was the collapse of the Russian, German, Austro-Hungarian and Turkish Empires.

**Footnote:** The German Empire dated only from 1871, when Germany had been unified with the dominant part of the new empire being the former Kingdom of Prussia.

The first of the four empires to collapse, in 1917, was the Russian Empire, victim of the liberal Kerensky revolution in February followed by the Bolshevik Lenin revolution in October and then several years of exceptionally bloody civil war culminating in the formation of the Soviet Union.

World War I ended in Western Europe in November 1918 after the infusion of American military force and the collapse of an exhausted German army and citizenry. The subsequent peace conference oversaw the creation of different countries in central, southern and eastern Europe and in western Asia from the shards of the four former empires.

At the 1919 Paris Peace Conference after World War I, much of the old Poland, partitioned between Russia, Austria-Hungary and Prussia in the late 1700s, was combined to form a new Polish republic. However, the peace conference failed to

define fully the eastern boundary of the new Poland. Consequently between 1918 and 1921 the Polish-Ukrainian War and the Polish-Soviet War settled by force the boundary between Poland and the Soviet Union. Portions of Volhynia in the former Pale of Settlement, part of Poland before the partitions of the late 1700s, remained in the Ukraine and thus the Soviet Union.

In the few years around 1920 the Ukraine endured the Russian Civil war, the wars with Poland just mentioned, and associated pogroms. Consequently as many as 100,000 Ukrainian Jews died. The deaths included the brother and sister-in-law of Hyman Schultz of Terre Haute and the father of James Cosover, Rosylin Shatsky's first husband.

In 1922, out of the ashes of World War I, the Russian revolutions, and the Russian civil war, arose a second Russian empire, namely the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.), also known as the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union initially consisted of 11 semi-autonomous regions called Soviet Socialist Republics, with the ten smaller republics dominated by the Russian Republic. One of the republics, the Ukraine in the southwest of the Soviet Union, may well contain within its current borders the roots of the Shatsky family.

Strictures on Jews in the new Soviet Union were soon abolished. However the policies of Joseph Stalin, who dominated the Soviet Union from the mid 1920s until his death in 1953, were responsible for the deaths of millions of Soviet citizens in mass famines, in labor camps and by execution.

Here is a timeline summarizing the major geopolitical and military events in this area of Eastern Europe during my lifetime:

- 1939 World War II began on September 1st with the German invasion of western Poland. On September 17<sup>th</sup> the Soviet Union invaded eastern Poland.
- 1941 In June Germany invaded the Soviet Union and soon occupied most of the former Pale of Settlement. Mass killings of Jews and others followed the advance of the German army and continued long afterwards.
- 1944 The Soviet army reclaimed most of the former Pale from the German army.
- 1945 With the end of World War II, the boundaries of Poland were adjusted westward. Most of the former Pale became part of the Ukrainian, Byelorussian, or Lithuanian S.S.R.s and thus part of the Soviet Union. In particular, most of eastern Galicia and Volhynia became part of the Ukrainian S.S.R.
- 1989 The Berlin Wall fell as the Soviet satellite countries in Central Europe and the Balkans moved towards full independence.
- 1991 The Soviet Union was dissolved into 15 independent countries, including the Ukraine, Belarus, and Lithuania, all of whom had large Jewish populations before World War II.

**I end this digression with a very brief overview of the Holocaust:**

Most of us already know the sad statistics. The Jewish population of continental Europe before World War II was around ten million. Around six million perished in the Holocaust.

If you were Jewish living in occupied Europe during World War II, your chances of survival were much greater in Western Europe. In the occupied countries of Western Europe, except for the Netherlands, estimated survival rates are over 50%.

The statistics were far worse in Poland and the occupied portion of the Soviet Union. For instance, around 3,300,000 Jews lived in Poland before 1939. Around three million perished, for a survival rate of 10%.

Nearly 2/3 of Holocaust victims died in camps, especially the death camps, most of which were located in Poland. In addition, in Eastern Europe around a million Jews were collected into groups by mobile SS killing units, taken to their place of execution, and killed en masse, usually by shooting. Often this mass killing took place with the assistance of non-Germanic auxiliaries.

The American press reported at the time about the mass executions just mentioned. Less was known about the death camps until their liberation in 1945.

## Postscript

All of the grandchildren of Israel and Hannah (Schultz) Shatsky are now deceased and none of their descendants live in Terre Haute. The last Shatsky descendant in Terre Haute was my mother-in-law, Lucille (Shower) Dennis, who left Terre Haute in November 1996. However, I believe there are still members of the allied Schultz family living in Terre Haute.

Israel and Hannah Shatsky and their three children are all interred in the Highland Lawn Cemetery on the east edge of Terre Haute. The Jewish section is in the southwestern corner. Also interred in Highland Lawn Cemetery are five of the six children of Joseph and Bluma Schultz, the two Rosenfeld brothers, and many of the children of those just mentioned.

The Schultz family came from Eastern Europe. Currently I know of no members of the Schultz family who were still living in Eastern Europe when World War II began.

We know nothing of the older relatives of Israel Shatsky, which suggests to me that his siblings remained in Eastern Europe.

For those contemplating a visit to Eastern Europe to seek out their Jewish roots in 2013, there is lots of chatter on the Internet about this topic. Personally I think a good place to start would be by viewing the quirky and touching 2005 film *Everything is Illuminated*.

I think it likely that my mother-in-law lost second cousins in the Holocaust and that we will never know their names. But we might still discover where they lived in Europe. Perhaps someday Shatsky descendants will visit and while visiting honor their fallen family by recalling the following passage by the historian G. M. Trevelyan:

The poetry of history lies in the quasi-miraculous fact that once, on this earth, once, on this ... spot of ground, walked other men and women, as actual as we are today, thinking their own thoughts, swayed by their own passions, but now all gone, one generation vanishing into another, gone as utterly as we ourselves shall shortly be gone, like ghosts at cockcrow.

## Shatsky Family Acknowledgments and Sources

As of September 2013, my contact information is as follows:

Robert A. "Bob" Christiansen  
843 E. Vera Ln., Tempe, AZ 85284  
RACChristia@aol.com  
480.861.8404 or 480.763.6928

- I spoke with the following members of the Shatsky families:
  - ✦ Lucille (Shower) Dennis and her sister-in-law, Gertrude (Allan) Shower.
  - ✦ Ruth (Shatsky) Werber and her daughter, Carole (Werber) Murdock.
  - ✦ Sandra (Spero) Hurwitz and her brother, Lawrence "Larry" Spero.
  - ✦ my dear and patient wife, Martha (Dennis) Christiansen.
- Edna Ruth (Schultz) Gilmore, daughter of Hyman and Mary Schultz, provided dates for the Hyman Schultz family.
- Paul Meyer of Portland, Oregon has researched the Boxerman, Weisser and Meyer families. David Schatsky's wife and daughter-in-law were Weissers and Hyman Weisser's wife was a Boxerman.
- As of 2013, Sallie Jo Benda-Pollack, in her "Fatland / Wald" database on Ancestry.com has compiled substantial data on descendants of the Boxerman family.
- Mary Jo (Cosover) Martin, the great-granddaughter of Pinchos Kossower and Gitel Beitchman, has written about the Cosover / Kossower family on findagrave.com. (Her great-uncle, Maurice James Cosover, was the first husband of Rosylin Shatsky.)
- The quotation by Tom Roznowski in the section *The Shatsky Family in Terre Haute* is from his book *An American Hometown, Terre Haute, Indiana, 1927*. Gertrude Shower, daughter-in-law of Anna (Shatsky) Shower, was one of the researchers who helped Tom with the audiotapes that evolved into this book.
- One can find the history of the Jewish community in Terre Haute in *Commemorative Book, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jewish Community in Terre Haute, 1949 -1999* (privately published, 127 pages).

Most of my recent Shatsky family research was Internet-based. I use the Google search engine. Among the web sites and databases that were most useful were the following:

- Ancestry.com, a subscription service. Within Ancestry I used databases such as:
  - ✦ United States census records through 1940.
  - ✦ City directories.
  - ✦ U.S. Public Records Index
  - ✦ New York Passenger Lists 1820-1957
  - ✦ Selected family trees
- The Social Security Death Index (various versions available; find by Googling ssdi)
- FindAGrave.com (Mary Jo C. Martin mentioned above is a major contributor.)

**Please Note:** The following three databases may help those trying to find their Jewish roots in Eastern Europe. I've listed the web site after the database description.

**JewishGen KehilaLinks** (formerly "ShtetLinks") is a project facilitating web pages commemorating the places where Jews have lived. KehilaLinks provides the opportunity for anyone with an interest in a place to create web pages about that community. These web pages may contain information, pictures, databases, and links to other sources providing data about that place.

- [kehilalinks.jewishgen.org](http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org)

The **JewishGen Gazetteer** contains the names of one million localities in 54 countries in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia.

- [jewishgen.org/communities/loctown.asp](http://jewishgen.org/communities/loctown.asp)

The **YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern** provides the most complete picture of the history and culture of Jews in Eastern Europe from the beginnings of their settlement in the region to the present.

- [yivoencyclopedia.org](http://yivoencyclopedia.org)

- Databases Specific to a State, County or City:

Older Shatsky family members lived in Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, New York and Florida. I used the following vital records databases, which are generally incomplete, from these states:

- + Missouri Birth Records, 1851-1910 (via [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com))
- + Missouri State Board of Health Death Certificate ([sos.mo.gov/images](http://sos.mo.gov/images))
- + Indiana Births, 1880-1920 (via [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com))
- + Vigo County Marriage Record Database: 1818-1958 ([vigo.lib.in.us/subjects/genealogy](http://vigo.lib.in.us/subjects/genealogy))
- + Wabash Valley Obituary Index ([vigo.lib.in.us/obituaries](http://vigo.lib.in.us/obituaries)) (index, not obituaries)
- + Indiana Deaths, 1882-1920 (via [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com))
- + Cook County, Illinois Birth Index, 1916-1935 (via [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com))
- + Illinois Death Certificates Database, 1916-1950 ([ilsos.gov/isavital/idphdeathsrch.jsp](http://ilsos.gov/isavital/idphdeathsrch.jsp))
- + Ohio, Births and Christenings Index, 1800-1962 (via [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com))
- + Ohio, Deaths, 1908-1932, 1938-1944, & 1958-2007 (via [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com))
- + Florida Marriage Collection, 1822-1875 and 1927-2001 (via [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com))
- + Florida Death Index, 1877-1998 (via [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com))

- For years the primary Internet site for genealogical research was the Mormon site [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org). I did not find [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) helpful for my Shatsky history project. However, someone without access to [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) would find it more useful, as it contains many census records.



## Appendix 1 – Relevant Ukrainian Place Names

I don't think Shatsky family members will find this page of interest. I use it to hold in one location the known places of origin of families related to the Shatskys. Perhaps some day it will help me find the Shatsky family roots in Eastern Europe.

Most of the following information comes from the Internet and is uncorroborated. However, I have a fair amount of confidence in its accuracy.

- All locations are currently in the western Ukraine, in either what was once western Volhynia or eastern Galicia.
- Locations were in western Volhynia unless indicated otherwise.
- I've used contemporary spelling.
- I've used Brody as a reference point because it's a short place name that hasn't changed over the years. I've used approximate "crow flies" distances from Brody.
- Some of the family names may be unfamiliar as they may only occur in the charts in the following two pages.
- I've organized the list alphabetically by place name.
- Anyone using this list should also check [kehilalinks.jewishgen.org](http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org).

**Brody**, in eastern Galicia: Sam Shatsky's father-in-law, Morris Stamm.

**Izyaslav**, formerly Zaslav, 50 miles east of Brody: The Moshin/Meyer family.

**Krasilov**, 90 miles southeast of Brody: The Kossower/Cosover family; some of the Silverstein family.

**Teofipol**, 60 miles ESE of Brody: The Boxerman family.

RAC originally had Ternopil, 40 miles SSE of Brody.

**Vishnavets**, about 30 miles southeast of Brody: Morris Stamm's wife, Sophie Weisser.

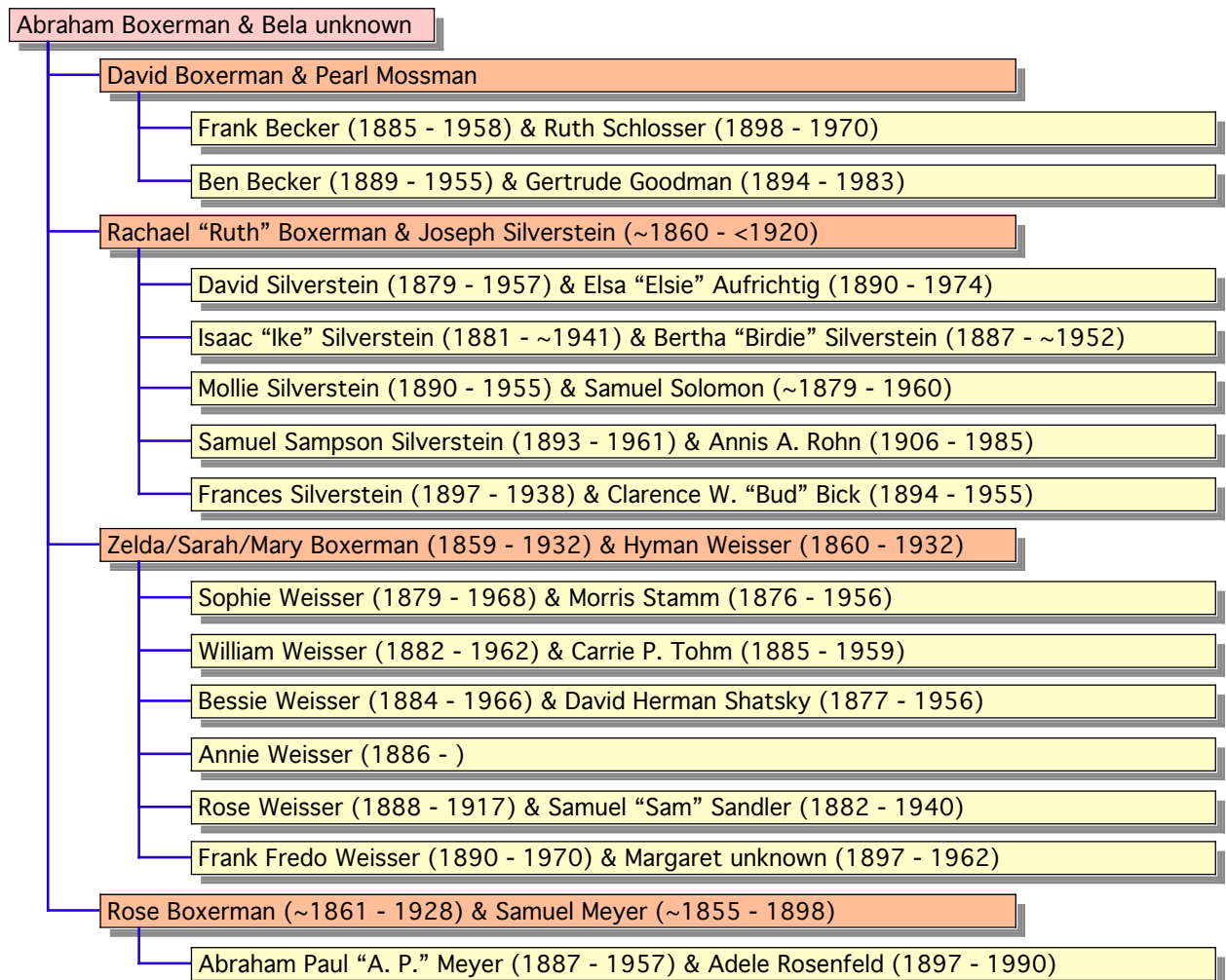
**Yampol**, about 60 miles east of Brody: Birthplace of several of Judah Yuka Chulik's children. He was Hyman Schultz's brother.

The descendant charts on the next two pages show only some of the older descendants. The first chart, which touches on the Weisser family, is based on a chart drawn by Paul R. Meyer of Portland, Oregon years ago. The second chart encompasses the extended Silverstein family of Terre Haute. The Weissers married into the Shatsky family and some of the Silversteins were related to the Weissers.

## Appendix 2 –Boxerman/Becker/Silverstein/Weisser/Meyer Charts

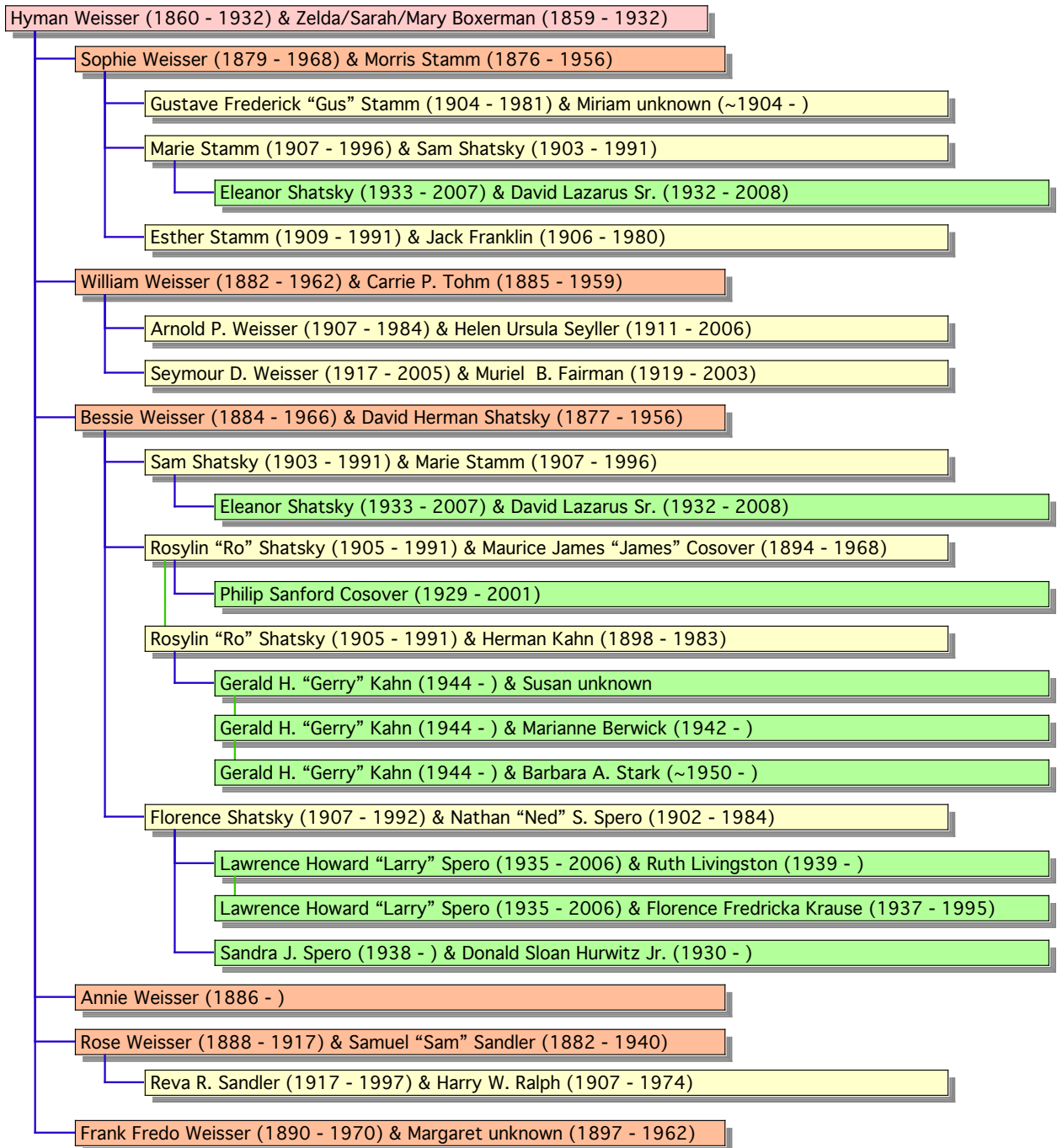
### Notes:

- Most of these charts are very fragmentary.
- As the following chart indicates, the Becker, Silverstein, Weisser and Meyer families were descended from the Boxerman family.
- Family members used different variations of the spelling "Boxerman". For the moment I am standardizing on one spelling.
- The Weisser family is included because two members of the Weisser family married into the Shatsky family.
- The Becker and Silverstein families are included because of their presence in Terre Haute.
- The Meyer family is included because of family history research done by Paul Meyer, a family member.
- Two Silverstein brothers lived in Terre Haute. Appendix 3 includes both brothers.
- Charts on the following two pages include two additional generations.



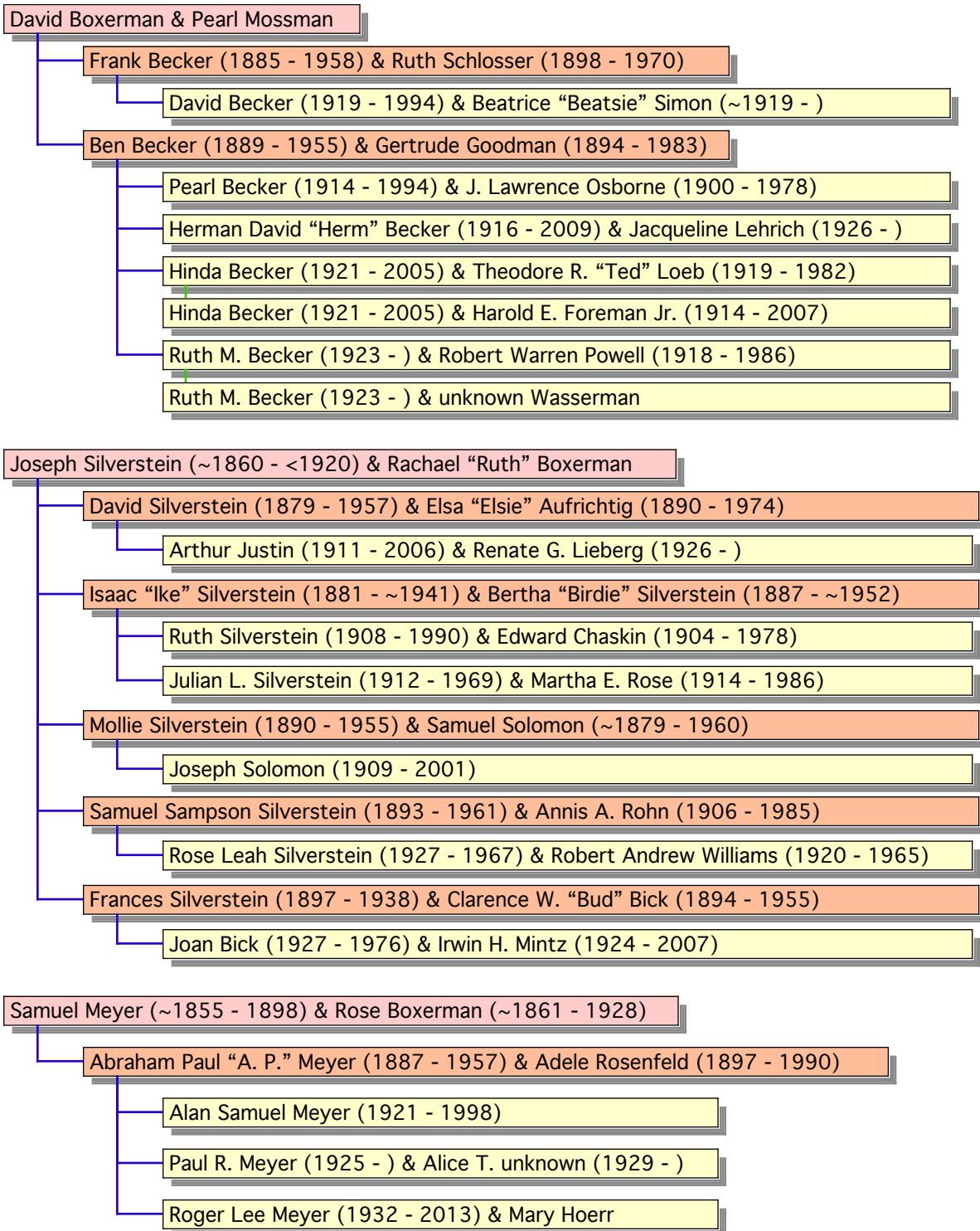
## Four Generations of the Weisser Family

- Note the two connections with the Shatsky family.

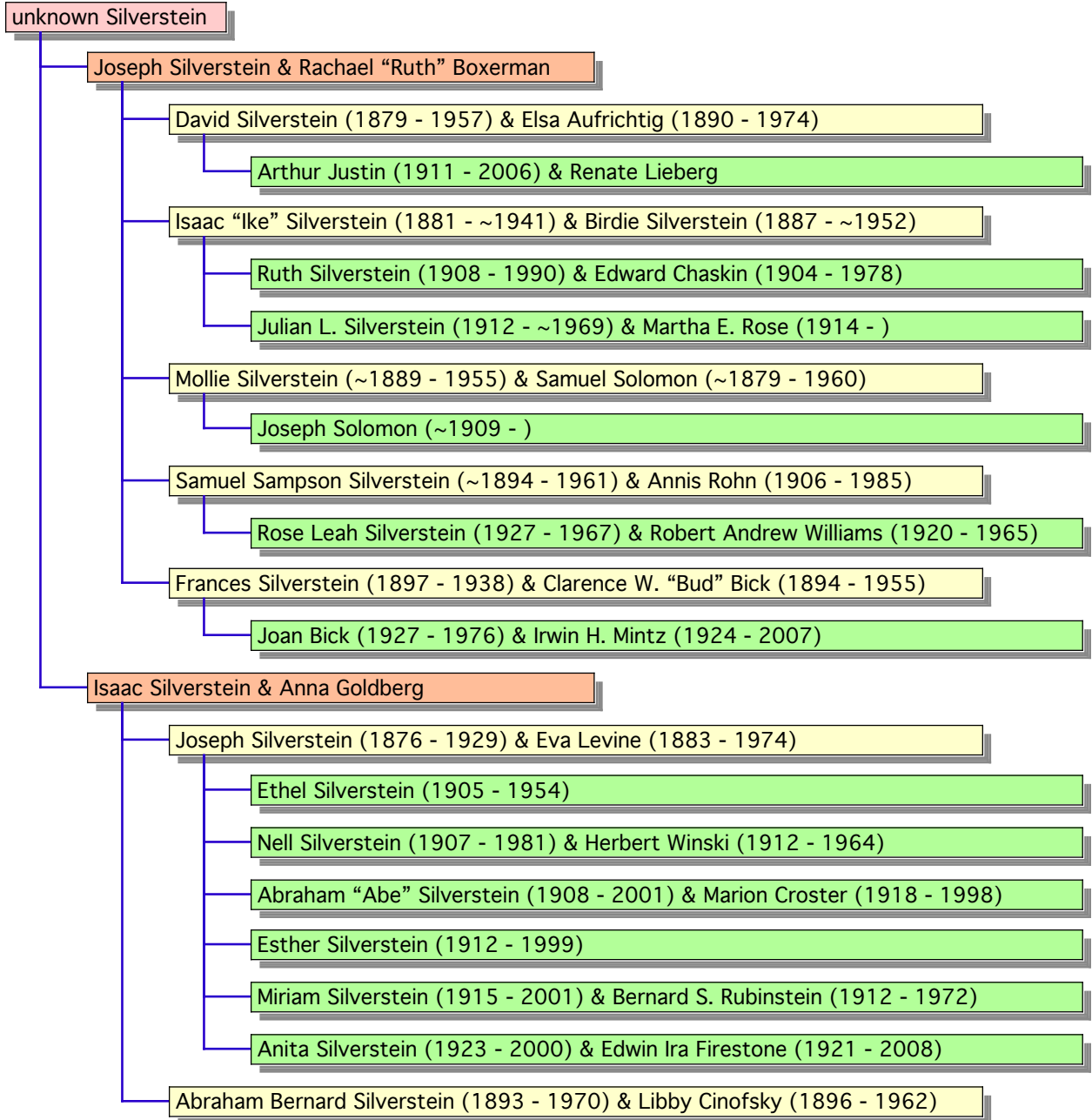


## Fragments of the Becker, Joseph Silverstein, and Meyer Families

- Note the two surname changes – first chart, Boxerman to Becker; second chart, Silverstein to Justin.



## Appendix 3 - The Silverstein Family of Terre Haute, Indiana



**Of Interest:** In his early years in Terre Haute, Joseph Silverstein (1876 – 1929) dealt in second-hand goods. In 1929 he was struck down and killed by a car driven by Judge Rawley's 16-year-old son. Joseph's only son, Abraham "Abe" Silverstein was a senior administrator in NASA in the early years of the space program. According to his Wikipedia entry, NASA credits Abe Silverstein with naming both the Mercury and Apollo programs.

## Appendix 4 –The Ebner Family of Springfield, Ohio

Carole (Werber) Murdock, the second cousin of my wife, Martha Dennis Christiansen, is the daughter of Jack Leonard Werber and Ruth Ethel Shatsky who appear on the following two-page chart of the older members of the Ebner family.

Ruth Ethel (Shatsky) Werber's mother-in-law was Pearl Ebner, the daughter of Nathan Ebner and Fannie Kempler, both immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire who settled in Springfield, Ohio.

For many years the Ebner family operated a business in Springfield, known as *Ebner and Sons*.

Two members of the Ebner family are of special interest:

**Of Interest: Murray Ebner**, who appears at the end of this chart, was a relative of the Springfield Ebner family, probably a second cousin of Jack Leonard Werber. Murray Ebner was born in Poland in 1928, in Nowy Wisnicz, which is east of Krakow and just south of Bochnia, and was a child when the German army occupied the Krakow area in 1939 just after World War II began.

Before World War II, Murray Ebner's parents, Hershel and Feigel (Sellinger) Ebner, lived a comfortable life in Nowy Wisnicz, where Hershel ran a wholesale farm products business. Moniek, as Murray was known at the time, had three brothers.

Murray Ebner was the only Holocaust survivor of his family. He has said that others died so he could live.

Murray came to the United States after World War II and by chance located Ebner relatives in Ohio. Murray became a successful businessman in Columbus.

In 2001 Murray Ebner returned to Poland to the locations he remembered from his ordeal during World War II.

Murray Ebner's wrenching story is told in the video *A Survivor's Journey*, produced in 2002 by Sam Nahem, and in the book *Chosen for Reasons Unknown: A Holocaust Survivor's Journey*, published in 2010.

**Of Interest: Nate Ebner** is the grandson of Richard Ebner, who appears on the second page of the following chart. As of 2016, Nate Ebner was a member of the New England Patriots National Football League team. Nate also played on the United States Rugby team at the 2016 summer Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro.

Nate Ebner's father, Jeffrey D. Ebner, was murdered in 2008 during a burglary of the *Ebner and Sons* family business.

One can read more on Nate Ebner's Wikipedia page.

