



Kornmehl
Family



Family Anecdotes & Photos

During my discussions with our family, I recorded the many anecdotes they told me. Using living people's memories is an important part of social history, particularly when the era included the Holocaust and two World Wars. Lily Silver sent me a series of stories about her life in London from the 1920's to the end of the war. I received tapes from Nathan and Francis Kornmehl about their terrible war experiences in Tarnów, Germany and Siberia. Sieg Wolf and Jim Kornmehl told me about their flight from Germany at the start of the war taking them to the Caribbean island of Curacao and Australia. Herman Schildkraut's internment during the war. Jakob Schildkraut's family tragedy in Tarnów. Harry and Marcus Kornmehl flight to Buenos Aires, Pinchas Kornmehl flight from Vienna, and many other family stories.

K o r n m e h l

Tarnów - Holland - Germany - Belgium - Curacao - Australia - U.S.A

David Kornmehl 1886-1951 m. Regina (Rachel) Hecht 1884-1974

children

Bertha Kornmehl 1911-1959 m. Max (Moses) Wolf 1905-1980

Anna (Hanna) Kornmehl 1913-1991 m. Isaac Feigenbaum 1906-1963

remarried Alexander (Shura) Finkelstein died 1990

Itscho (Isaac) Kornmehl 1917-1991 m. Rita Jeret 1921-2009

Paul (Pinchas) Kornmehl 1920-2010 m. Melitta Heuschober 1919-2009



branch 1 & 2

Flight from Germany at the start of the war related by Sieg Wolf & Jim Kornmehl

David Kornmehl (Jim and Sieg's grandfather) was born in Tarnow, his wife, Regina (nee Hecht) was born in Kolomea a nearby shtetl. David, Regina and the two elder children, Bertha and Anna left Tamow in 1916. They immigrated to Holland to Scheveningen - a fishing village not far from The Hague (Den Haag). The two younger children, Isaac (known as Itscho 1917) and Paul (1920) were born there. David Kornmehl my grandfather had financial problems so in 1921 he moved with the family to Chemnitz in Germany where he continued selling hosiery and anything else he could do to earn a living. In 1928 they moved to Antwerp in Belgium also for economic reasons and stayed there till 1932 when they returned to Scheveningen.

Paul married Melitta who had come to Holland from Berlin in 1933 with her mother and sister. Melitta's father had earlier escaped as he had been arrested in Berlin for "spreading horror propaganda." Both Melitta's parents were originally Polish, and had emigrated to Germany.

In May 1940, the Germans invaded Holland and soon Melitta's father was expelled from the

country for being "illegal" as he did not have Dutch nationality, he ended up in one of the death camps. Bertha married Max Wolf in 1930 and set up home in Chemnitz, Germany.

In November 1938, as conditions in Germany became intolerable, Bertha, her husband Max and their two sons, Siegfried and Manfred, rejoined the family in Holland. Anna married Isaac Feigenbaum in 1933 and went to live in Antwerp, Belgium. As the Germans overran Holland and Belgium in May 1940, Anna, her husband and daughter, Paulette (now Paulette Rose, living in New York) fled ahead of the German troops and ended up in Marseilles, France. In November 1941, Paul and Melitta escaped occupied Holland and went via Antwerp in Belgium to France. They went part of the way by bicycle and part by train. The objective of the escape was to test the route for the rest of the family.

In February 1942, Bertha, Max and their two boys Sieg and Manny escaped from Holland following Paul and Melitta's route and travelled to Lyons, France. Itscho and his wife, Rita (nee Jeret) also went to France in July 1942. David and Regina

had preceded them by one month. Through the use of smugglers, false identification papers and other falsified documents, all of them managed to get to unoccupied France (Vichy). It was obvious that such a large family group could not move around together this invited attention, so they decided to split up. Despite the above, Paul was captured in Marseilles and jailed for 12 days and tortured by the French because one of the false documents was recognised by the police. The four Wolf family members were arrested in Southern France and miraculously escaped. To the best of our knowledge, all others arrested with them ended up in the death camps, as this was not just our family arrested but many other people.

As conditions in France got worse, and after the arrests and escapes, there was a flurry of activity to get additional false documents to allow transit to Spain. Depending on the quality of the documents, some of the family (the four Wolf family members, plus Rita, Melitta and Paul) made it by train. All the others crossed the Pyrenees on foot and were arrested in Spain for illegal entry. Regina, Anna and Paulette were jailed. The men (David, Itscho and Anna's husband, Isaac as well as Isaac's brother) ended up in a prisoner of war camp called 'Miranda de Ebro'.

Paul obtained money to bribe the jailers in Spain and got all the women out. Anna, who had befriended a Spanish general, managed to get the men out of the prisoner of war camp.

Rita and Itscho made their way, via Portugal to what was then Palestine. Bertha and her family went by way of Portugal to Surinam on the north coast of South America and then to the Netherlands West Indies, now the Netherlands Antilles islands in the Caribbean. Anna and her family managed to reach Canada and eventually ended up in New York. Paul, Melitta and "Pappa" (David Kornmehl) went to Jamaica where there was a large refugee camp. They stayed in the camp for some months and there, Paul enlisted in the Dutch Brigade, which was part of the Canadian Army.

David moved to the Caribbean island of Curacao where he was reunited with Regina. In Curacao, there was a long established Jewish community with an old Spanish synagogue, dating back several hundred years. Bertha and Max opened a small business, which sold everything from "combs to dresses to shoes, sheets and tablecloths". David died in Curacao at the age of 64. Isaac (Anna's husband) is also buried there, as is Bertha, who died of cancer in 1959. Manfred and Siegfried then moved to the United States to study and then settled there.

Paul saw a great deal of action in the war. He was the first Dutchman to land in Normandy (as part of the Princess Irene Brigade). He was captured in France by the Germans but escaped after two days and then rejoined his unit.

After demobilisation, Paul and Melitta returned to Holland. Melitta had worked for the British War Office in London from 1941 until the end of the war.

Melitta's mother died in Auschwitz but she never found out where her father had died. Melitta's sister, Jim's aunt Bella, had been hidden throughout the war by Dutch Christians. After the war, Paul and others utilised army transports to start a small import-export business in Europe. These activities formed a cash and customer basis for his later business activities in Holland. Itscho and Rita returned from Palestine to Holland and established a business with Paul. Anna and Isaac started a business in New York where Anna died in 1992. Regina died in 1973 in New York. Max died in 1980 in San Francisco, where he had retired.

In 1952 the Korean War started and Paul (Pinchas) Kornmehl was worried that there would be another world war, so he decided to immediately take the first available ship to Canada or USA. The first ship to leave was the Oceania an Italian Liner bound for Australia. He took this with most of his family who were also worried that they may not have another chance to leave The Netherlands.

He arrived in Australia with £10,000 and started a business in the trade he knew, Hosiery, and was again successful and the family prospered. Paul and Mellita often wanted to return to Holland as Australia was a relative 'backwater'. The only thing that stopped them, was the rest of the family were taking bets that we would return to Holland within six months.

Jim Kornmehl's mother Melitta Heuschober born 1919 remembers: "In Berlin where I grew up, I was thrown out of school at 13 because Jews weren't allowed in the High School System. Times were so hard that as a small girl I had to take sewing work and do it at night just to help feed the family, there was literally never enough food. Melitta remembers the last time she saw her father - a proud educated man - standing on the street corner selling matches.

Paul Kornmehl has been a long time supporter of "The Kornmehl Centre" - as it is now known which is the kindergarten at 'The Emanuel School'. This school is a Conservative Liberal Jewish school of some 800 students in Sydney. Paul is quite active in the school and its director.





Above: Paul (Pinchas) Kornmehl 1920- during the war.

Right: tscho (Isaac) Kornmehl 1917-1991 and his mother Regina (Rachel) Kornmehl nee Hecht photo taken about 1970

Bottom left: Isaac (Itcho) Kornmehl 1917-1991, Isaac Feigenbaum 1906-1963 and Paul Kornmehl 1920-



Above: David Kornmehl 1886-1951 born in Tarnów died in Curacao (Dutch West Indies) and his wife. Regina (Rachel) Hecht 1884-1973 born Kolomea Poland. died in New York



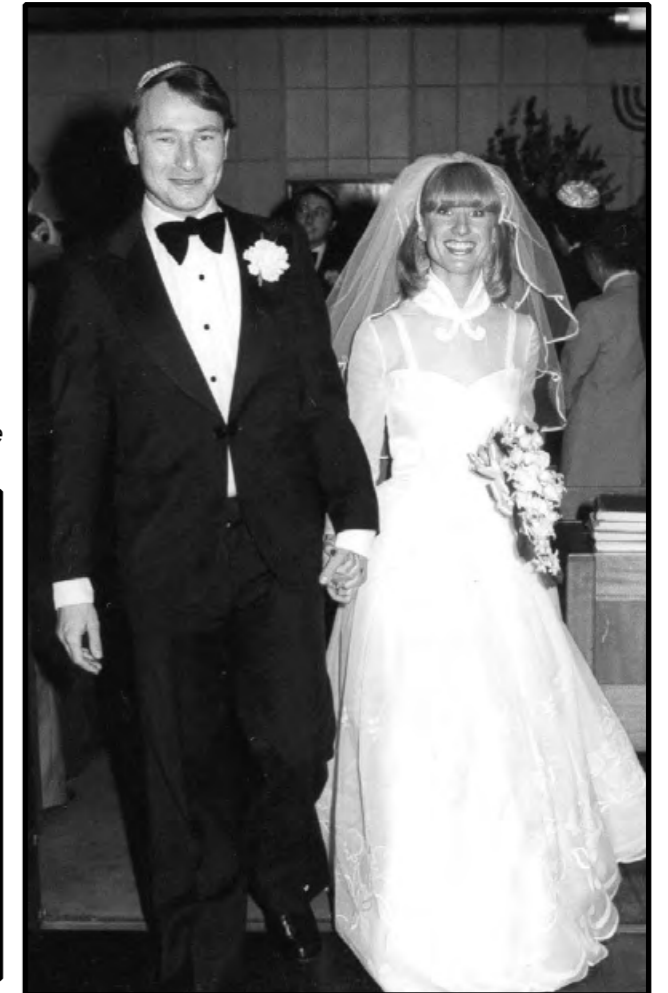
Paul (Pinchas) Kornmehl 1920- and Itcho (Isaac) Kornmehl 1917-1991 were in a bar in Berlin where a man was playing the piano - the name next to the piano was Herman Kornmehl "he looked like us". Dad sent over a note saying "come and join us after the next piece". The piano player sent back a note with the words "Ich bin kein Jude" (or similar) with no signature, no other comment. Itcho and Dad were so pissed off and upset they left, but obviously looking at him they knew he must have been related. He was apparently about their age too. Dad and Itcho often mentioned this story. (Jim Kornmehl)



Above: Robby Kornmehl from Holand his wife Marion nee Karafiol



Above: Robbie Kornmehl from Holland and Jim Kornmehl from Australia



Jim Kornmehl and his wife Joanne nee Schwamberg

Below: Paul (Pinchas) Kornmehl 1920- Gabriella Kornmehl, Jeanne Schneider (front) Rebecca Kornmehl, Marcus Kornmehl, Sophia Kornmeh, Jim and Joanne Kornmehl (front) March 2002



Below: Rebecca Kornmehl



K o r n m e h l

The Dutch branch

David Kornmehl 1886-1951 m. Regina (Rachel) Hecht 1884-1974
child

Itscho (Isaac) Kornmehl 1917-1991 m. Rita Jeret 1921-2009

branches 1 & 2



Back row standing from left:

- Fecien Neuhaus
- Micha Neuhaus
- Gideon Markuszower
- Debbie Markuszower nee Schuitevoerder
- Yigal Markuszower
- Daniel Schipper
- Letty Karafiol
- Ramon Schuitevoerder
- Ariella Schipper nee Kornemhl
- Renee Schuitevoerder
- Marion Kornmehl nee Karafiol
- Ramon Schuitevoerder
- Sharon Kornmehl nee Schuitevoerder
- Doedoe Kornmehl
- Joop Rood

Front row sitting::

- Zwi Markuszower
- Irith Markuszower nee Kornmehl
- Rita Kornmehl nee Jeret
- Yardena Markuszower (baby)
- Rob Kornmehl
- Nel Rood

Below: Ariella and Doedoe children of Robby Kornmehl and Marion nee Karafiol



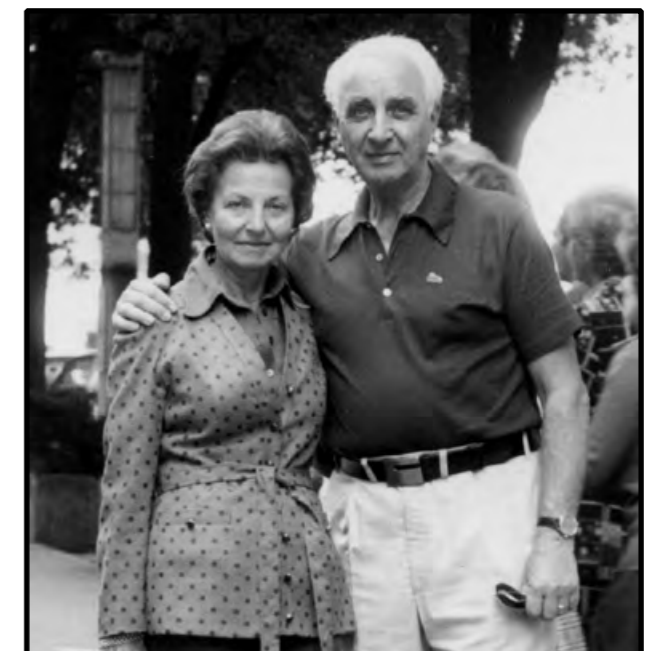
K o r n m e h l

U.S.A branch

David Kornmehl 1886-1951 m. Regina (Rachel) Hecht 1884-1974
child

Anna (Hanna) Kornmehl 1913-1991 m. Isaac Feigenbaum 1906-1963
remarried Alexander (Shura) Finkelstein died 1990

branches 2



Top left: Paulette Rose in 1998

Bottom left: Joseph and Paulette Rose, with their son Ian and his wife Stephanie.

*Top right: Isaac Feigenbaum and his wife Anna (Hanna) nee Kornmehl taken in Curacao in the early 1950's
bottom right: Anna Kornmehl with her second husband. Shura (Alexander) Finkelstein born in Latvia died 1990 in Israel*



Top: Anna (Hanna) Kornmehl 1913-1992 born in Tarnów died New York her husband. Isaac Feigenbaum 1906-1963: Rita Kornmehl nee Jeret born 1921 in Berlin, her husband Itscho (Isaac) Kornmehl 1917-1991: Bertha (Beila) Kornmehl 1911-1959 born in Tarnów died in Curacao Dutch West Indies, her husband Max (Moses) Wolf 1905-1980 died in San Francisco.: Melitta Heuschober 1919 born in Berlin, her husband Paul (Pinchas) Kornmehl 1920 they married in France.
Front row: Sieg (Siegfried) Robert Wolf born 1932 and his brother Mannie (Manfred) Wolf born 1935. Both were born in Chemnitz Germany. Photo taken just before the war 1938-39



Left: David Rose born 1962 and wife Laurie: their parents Joseph Rose and Paulette nee Feigenbaum: Stephanie Fell daughter of Paulette: Paul Kornmehl and friend Naterlie. Photo taken in 2001.



Left: Joseph and Paulette Rose with Shimon Peres in year 2000



Top from left; Bertha Kornmehl Wolf. Manfred Wolf. Anna Kornmehl Feigenbaum. Itscho Kornmehl. Rachel Kornmehl. David Kornmehl. Max Wolf (Regina) (photo approx 1948)



Bertha Kornmehl Wolf with her parents Regina & David Kornmehl



Top; Bertha Kornmehl & Max Wolf approximately 1929

Bottom; Siegfried & Mannie Wolf (1946)



Top; standing from left; Max Levy. Roberta E Levy (Robin). Phillip Levy. Rachel Levy. Judy Wolf. Sieg Wolf. Isaac Levy. Krystyna O Wolf. David B Wolf.

Seated from left; Peter Fordham. Lisa Fordham. Susan Wolf Fordham. Danny Fordham. Jacob Wolf (Kuba)



Centre; Susan Wolf Fordham. Lisa Fordham. Peter Fordham. Danny Fordham



Bottom; Krystyna Orlewska Wolf. David B Wolf. Jacob Julian Wolf (age 4)



Left; back row; Rachel Levy. Robin Levy. Phillip Levy.

Front row; Isaac and Max Levy

Centre; Kuba Wolf. Danny Fordham. Isaac Levy. Max Levy

Bottom; Robin & Phillip Levy (1985)



K o r n m e h l

Tarnów - Cologne - Siberia - U.S.A

Mindel Kornmehl Jakobsohn cir 1885-1944 m. Bernard (Baruch) Turteltaub 1855-1930 children

Helena (Chaya) Turteltaub 1906-1968 m. Willie Redlich 1899-1942 remarried David Mlynarski branch 4

Toni (Tova) Turteltaub 1910- 1992 (Tarnow) m. Leo Lilien 1908-2000 branch 4

Nathan Kornmehl 1916 -2013 m. Frances Leder 1925-1991 branch 5

Ida Turteltaub 1909-2008 m. Joseph Wolf 1909-1976 branch 5

Zillah (Zipora) Kornmehl 1919-1943 branch 4



branches 4 & 14

Nathan Kornmehls flight from the Nazi's to Siberia

From an interview by the Holocaust Research Centre in Buffalo on April 10th 1989

I was born in 1916 in Cologne Germany. My Parents were originally from Tarnów Poland. My mother was Mindel Kornmehl, my father Bernard Turteltaub. Since they were married in a religious ceremony, the Germans did not recognise the marriage and made all the children take the mother's maiden name although Helena, Ida and Toni called themselves Turteltaub".

"In 1937 I could not go to school because of anti-Semitic trouble in Germany. There was my family of four older sisters who also could not work, my father had died in 1930. My parents came from Poland, they wanted to go to the USA, but my mother told me that people came back from there because it was no good, so we went to live in Germany. My father was a Hebrew teacher, later on he became a salesman, he sold bedspreads and linens to people in their homes. In Germany we went to public school, it was a Jewish school, this was before Hitler. I was 15 and at school I had read of the wars in Cologne and on the Rhine, and the loss of Jewish blood, we could not understand, because as children we had it so good. We had a Jewish chess player at school Chaim Silberman, one of the best chess players in Germany. They took him to the Gestapo and after a few days they brought him back, he was castrated, the blood was still running. It gave us a shock, this was the first thing the Gestapo did".

"In 1938 on 28th October we heard from the police, we should be at the police station at 12 o'clock with just 10 marks (\$10) and only the

clothes that we can carry and one or two pieces of bedclothes, we thought 'why?'.

"They put us on the train and sent us to the Polish border, I was glad to go, even though we had to leave everything in the house. I was glad to leave Germany. Because we were Polish citizens, in Germany we were considered stateless, this was before Kristallnacht but we could not go right away into Poland, we were in no mans land. (*see end of story*) People were put into the stables with horses, many became sick and had nervous breakdowns. I saw this and wanted to get out, so I decided to talk to someone on the coal train to Geneva. I told him I would give him anything he wanted if he could help us. I had my watch from my Barmitzvah and a ring, so I gave them to him and he took us away. He said he'd take us to Posnan in Poland. Before the First World War Posnan was in Germany, after the war it was part of Poland, this was about 50-60 miles away from the border. I helped load the coal into the trucks, and he put my mother and my sister Zillah where the coal was kept".

"We came to Poznan, to the Jewish council, who only spoke Polish, most of the people on the train could only speak German. I could not speak Polish, my parents spoke Polish between themselves. The council put us with some people who had room for my mother and sister".

"They soon gave us tickets to go to Krakow, my sister had become ill and could not talk. I then went to Tarnów where I got a job with some relations working in a men's shop selling good quality shirts in Walowa Street. I lived there for less than a

year till 1939. My father's family, the Turtletaubs lived in Tarnow. My father's brother had six sons, one said to me "You are crazy the Germans will do nothing, there are six million Jews in Poland, nothing will happen" All the brothers were killed except one who escaped to Israel during the war. The war was now starting, young Jewish boys and men were being taken off the street to do forced labour".

"I saw this and I went into hiding, I could not go out, except to go to the market in the square in the morning to buy a few eggs to eat or something. I was afraid. The shuls had been destroyed the first week the Germans arrived so we had synagogue services in a private house, we always had a minion. One day as we were praying the Germans knocked on the door and took all the men away to do work, I had to clean the German trucks and cars. When it was finished they sent us home, the killings had not yet started".

"Germany and Russia had divided Poland, I knew what the Germans were like, but as for the Russians I had to see, so I preferred to go to Russia. My mother told my sister to go, but she wouldn't leave my mother alone. I really had a mind to stay with my mother but she pushed me to go, she thought it would be better for me. You had to walk 30 miles from Tarnow, my mother was not well and knew she would slow me down, so I went alone. I took a few belongings with me, and I walked; at first you had to go across a river".

"I reached the Ukraine, there were a lot of people, We were all walking, and one day we were told in the night to take all our belongings, and put them on a wagon and walk behind. This was good, as there was ice on the road and a lot of mud, you could hardly walk carrying anything. In the morning when it was light there was no wagon, they had run away with everything. So I was without anything, just the clothes on my back. I found someone in Lemberg (Lvov) who would let me stay with them, so I felt better".

"I was not the type to work in the market, so I worked in a place where you dug turf, I worked there for a few months, I was 17 at the time. One day the local Government called us, and told us we should all take Russian passports. I said I was born in Germany, and after the war I wanted to return there to my family. At this time there was no war, just the Russians and Germans had split up Poland. So I wouldn't take a Russian passport, although a lot of people did take them. A week or so later they told all the people that had taken Russian passports they could stay near Lemberg, and people who did

not take them would have to go to Siberia. So I was sent to Siberia, it was when I think the Germans took over the Russian side of Poland". (Most of the people that stayed near Lemberg were taken to the concentration camps when the Germans reached the town).

"We were put into cattle trucks but not like the Germans, the Russians gave us food and every few days we were able to wash. It took five weeks by train to get to Siberia at the end of the line, a place called Asino in Nova Sibesk. I was with my sister Toni and her husband Leo Lillien. Toni had just had a baby who died on the train, in these conditions you could not keep a baby alive".

"In Siberia the ground is black, and before the winter we put everything in the ground. Then in November came the snow, which lasts until May. Sometimes it is very windy, and most time it is below zero, at times it reaches 40 below zero. A lot of people get frostbite, but in the barracks it was warm, we burnt wood from the nearby forests. It was so cold you cannot wear shoes, you wear walasis, these are made from camel hair, they are like boots going right up to the thighs. Every night after taking them off you put them into the oven to dry, as they get very wet with the snow and ice".

"In Siberia I delivered provisions to people in their homes, this was good work, other people went to the forest and cut trees, this was dangerous work. When I delivered goods I was sometimes given a bit of bread or a cigarette, I delivered water and wood on my horse, I called the horse Yaska. The horse was my life, so I shared my food with the horse. I learned to speak a little Russian".

"I had friends, when people are in trouble they stick together. Most of us were Jews but there were some Polish people who also did not want to become Russian citizens. I was in Siberia between 1940 and 1942. They needed young people and sent them to Lenin Abat this was an area called middle Russia (Tajikstan). In summer time it was warm, but there wasn't much to eat. We had the same provisions as everyone else, this was very good. If someone was working they got 600 grams of bread, if they were Russian or anyone else it was the same thing. You got a card every month, and with this card you could get sugar and clothes. Compared to people in the concentration camps like my wife, we had it very good. At this time in Siberia we experienced no anti-Semitism".

"I knew nothing about my mother or sister Zillah. We did not even know about the gas chambers, we knew nothing. We heard the news on the

radio, but it never mentioned about this. It was only later when the war was ending and the Russians took over Poland, then we heard what had happened. When the Russian soldiers came back from the war, they told us".

"The Volga Germans came so I would talk German to them. There was a Russian army general who was Jewish, who was watching over the Germans. He took me to the bakery and he got someone to teach me how to make bread, this way I had plenty to eat. The director of the bakery told me I could bring in people to help me make more bread which was needed. I took a whole Jewish brigade and they worked day and night, they could eat as much bread as they wanted but you could not take any out of the bakery because guards were checking everyone. We had enough ingredients for the bread, but the bread was rationed out, everyone was equal, Russian, Jew, German, Pole, Tajik, or Uzbek, I was in the bakery for about two years. Leo Lillien my sister Toni's husband used to come to paint the bakery. Later on they took me to cook in the kitchens for the prisoners, I did not mind as long as they treated me well I would give my best. Sometimes on Saturday night you went for a dance in the barracks".

"I always had God in my heart, I don't think there was a day when I didn't ask myself why it had happened. Every morning I said Shema and any other prayers I knew".

"In 1945 I knew the war had finished, but it took time till they sent us back to Poland. First we had to go to Berlin. We had to give whatever little possessions we had, and they smuggled us to the German border by truck. I then went to Tarnów Poland to look for my family, but they weren't there. I stayed with my future wife Francis who had a large flat she shared with ten other girls, I had a room to myself. The Poles told us what had happened, that the Germans took the Jews to Aushwitz. So I left and went to Berlin, they took about 50 people in the truck by night, this was illegal".

"In Berlin I went to the Displaced Person camp and later on I went to Seigenheim where I worked in the post office. There was much illegal things going on, I objected, and I was voted to act as a judge in disputes in the court of Displaced Persons. This was mainly for people who stole, they were not put in jail, money was deducted from their wages. I was in the displaced person camp for about one and three quarter years from 1945 to 1947. Someone told me they had seen one of my sisters in Belgium I later found out that my sister Helena and her three chil-

dren survived the war hiding in a convent there. I have found no records, of my mother and sister Zillah. My other three sisters survived the war".

"Later on I went back to Cologne in Germany and visited the cemetery where my father was buried. People said I should stay in Germany, but there is nothing in the world that would make me stay. I came to USA in 1947. My sister had got away from Germany in 1939 and came to New York and later Buffalo. I also settled there with my wife Frances". "This is my story".

*The Poles were aware that the Germans were expelling all non-German residents and most of these people were Polish Jews. The Poles at this time had taken a cue from the Germans and were becoming vehemently anti-Semitic. The last thing the Poles wanted were more Jews so they passed a law in mid October 1938 which annulled the citizenship of Poles who had lived abroad for more than 5 years. This was unless they received a special stamp in their passports from a Polish consulate, Jews were refused this stamp. When the Germans heard that Poland would not endorse the passports of Jews, thereby making them stateless, the Gestapo chief Heinrich Himmler ordered all Polish Jews to be forcefully repatriated to Poland. It was in Germany on 28th October 1938 when 20,000 men, women and children were roused by a knock on the door. They were arrested, permitted hurriedly to pack just one suitcase and an allowance of 10 Reich's for each adult, and were transported to the Polish border in sealed trains. The Poles alerted by the German action closed their borders "No more Jews" was Warsaw's decision.

With German machine guns in front and Polish bayonets behind, the bewildered and hapless Jews were in 'no-mans-land'; Jewish welfare organisations were allowed to hastily provide shelter.

The conditions were grim and food was in short supply, and all the while the Poles and Germans argued. Eventually the Poles were forced to accept the by now dejected, hungry and tired Jewish mass of disowned citizens. The largest number of Jews was interned in Zbaszyn, a small Polish border town. Most of them from here moved to the Warsaw Ghetto and later death. Nathan and his family through initiative were amongst the more fortunate who made their own arrangements.



Nathan and his mother Mindel thought her brothers Henry and his family had been murdered during the war and sat shiva for them. Nathan only found out years later in America that they had survived. He met up with them in Buffalo after they had all emigrated from Europe (Jill Leibman)

Ida and Nathan Kornmehl remember that their older sister Helena went to Kamnitz Germany on her honeymoon where the wealthier Kornmeihls had a hosiery factory.



Frances Kornmehl Holocaust story

The following is an extract of an interview with Frances Kornmehl nee Leder by The Holocaust Research Centre in 1989 in Buffalo USA.

Frances was born in 1925 in Tarnow, into a very hassidic family. She was the youngest of five children with two sisters and two other brothers. Her mother was a housewife and father a merchant selling corn feed. Her eldest brother manufactured shirts of the 'highest quality'. Her father married at 18 and was very wealthy living in a lovely home, but he lost his money (*no reason given*) but still lived in a beautiful flat. Frances said she had a lovely happy childhood. "I was 13½ when the Nazis invaded Tarnów in 1939. No one was allowed into the street or they could be shot. The shops had to close and the owners had to give their keys to the Germans, all the synagogues were closed and anyone found on the street, if not shot were taken by the Nazis and used for forced labour, this could be anything, you had no choice. At certain times you were allowed out and had to queue for food, usually bread. Everything was closed and everyone was hungry. You could buy food on the black market but if you were caught they killed you. Father was afraid to go out so stayed at home all day.

"Many people left for Russia (*I am not sure if Frances means they left just before the Nazis arrived or escaped during occupation*). My sister and her husband returned to Tarnów from a small nearby shtetl. Members of our family would go out for food but it was never certain they would come back. We had to stitch on our clothing a white band with a blue star. Disease was everywhere with a typhus epidemic killing many people."

"In 1942 the Nazis took many people out of

their homes marched them the few hundred yards to the cemetery and shot them for no reason. This included my sister, brother, and other family members. They bashed children against trees knocking their heads and arms off, others were doused in gasoline and burnt. Thousands were killed; my mother had a heart attack. The Gestapo came into the house and saw mother lying on the couch and said "what's the matter with her, what's she doing here". I said, "she's sick", we were very lucky they didn't shoot her and my father, yet they went to many neighbours and shot people for no reason, it was a miracle. Mother died, I could not go for a doctor, as there was a curfew, if they saw me they would shoot me".

Two ghetto areas were made, my brother and I were put into ghetto 'A' which was the work ghetto but my father into ghetto 'B'. I gave my mother's dresses and blouses to farmers in exchange for food, many Jews were killed doing such trading, I was lucky. From the ghetto I went through the fence and got apples, bread, cake, anything, and gave them to my father in the other ghetto, I gave him everything. The Nazis gave everyone work to do, one day I did not go to work and stayed with my father who was very sick. Another day I went through the fence and a Jewish guard hit me, but no German soldier ever hit me at any time during the war, it was another miracle as everyone was hit or beaten by the Germans. The Germans took everyone from the ghetto including my father and killed them, but I don't know how my father died. The Germans blew up everything, all the synagogues while they played German songs. I also saw a big hole, children aged 3-4 pushed in, and they buried them alive. I saw a child run out, three to four years old and they shot him".

"They took people from the hospital and killed them. They took them to the cemetery and shot them. People put children in bags, the Germans told them to open the bags, saw the children, took them out and shot them."

"They took us to Plaszow, one of the biggest concentration camps in Poland, it was in Krakow. They shot a lot of people when they came into the camp. There were only young people here, they did not take old people, they came from all over Poland. When Tarnów was Judenfrie (*free of Jews*), they took the Jewish police and shot them. Plaszow was terrible, I did sewing, books and things. We had soup every day, the soup had meat so I did not eat it, twice a week we had bread. Every day I said the Shema".

"In the barracks lived 300 people, you did not know what tomorrow was going to bring. They gave us soap to wash, and later I found out the soap was made from dead people. Every week we had a shower. You got used to it, I was in the concentration camp more than a year till 1944, then Plaszow became Judenfrie. There were about 600,000 people there, they killed thousands, shootings, beatings, sent them to the gas chambers at Auschwitz (*there were no gas chambers in Plaszow*) shot and burnt them".

"I was sent to Auschwitz, when I arrived they took us to the showers, we were asking what were we going to do here, we saw a chimney but did not see the ovens, as they were underground. People said: "from here you never get out, from here you die." Next day they chose the youngest people, the Nazis had lists. They were made to take off their clothes and were told to walk in front of Dr Mengele (*Doctor of death*). He sent people on this side and on that side (*Frances points both sides on the video*), those people on the other side went to the gas chambers. Later on they took us into the main camp of Auschwitz, it was so cold I thought I was going to die, I could not take it any more. They cut off your hair and gave you a dress, if you had a long dress you were lucky, if you had a short dress it was freezing. I got a coat, a long coat, but they had cut off all my hair, I had no shoes or stockings so it was very cold and very hard to walk. We were given beets, red beets to eat, they were good as many as you wanted. They tattooed me at Auschwitz number 27450, I found out it meant I was going to work".

"They took us out in the evening and counted us. I remember a room with 20 girls, we had straw to sleep on and a stove, it was warm, but I thought that tomorrow they are going to kill us. There was a latrine, you could wash yourself and drink as much water as you wanted. They gave us a little bread once or twice a week. I just wanted to sleep as long as I could, and eat as much as I wanted. I just wanted to die, this was my prayer every night, I couldn't take it any more".

"At 5.00 in the morning you got up and at 6.00 you went to work, I spun thread. It was so cold with a strong wind like a storm, there were mountains all around us, it was so windy, We had no gloves or hats, it was so very cold. Nobody spoke to us, the locals were afraid to speak, they were told we were bad. At 6.00 in the evening we went back, it took us half an hour to walk back and they gave us soup in the dining room. The German Commander was crazy, he was so crazy we could not understand

what he said, he was so primitive the way he spoke. There were two SS girls, I was afraid of them, one was quite nice but the other, a fat one was terrible, It was like this in December 1944".

"We could not observe Jewish holidays, we did not know anything, we did not know what was going on, no idea what day of the year it was".

"From Auschwitz I went to Sudeten-deutschland, to a slave labour camp. We got up one morning in April and everyone was gone, nobody from the guard staff was there. Next day came soldiers, German soldiers retreating from the front, the day after came different soldiers, with tanks, they looked different. An officer came over, he saw the camp and he cried, I have never seen a man cry like that. He said, "I'm a Jew" he was Russian. We found a mirror, we could not believe how we looked. Another Russian Jew said we should get out of the camp or we could be killed, either by the Russians, or the Germans who may return. He said leave this place and go, but we don't know where to go. We walked and walked and walked, we did not know where we were walking, we slept by the roadside or in an empty house, we ate whatever we could find. I was walking and always thinking someone would kill me, you were conditioned to think like this".

"After leaving the concentration camp I went to Krakow, I had no family there, I slept anywhere on the floor. I then went to my home town of Tarnow, I was crying, I did not know where to go, I had no family, I had nothing. I pulled myself together as everyone was in the same situation. I went to my home, someone was living there, she was not Jewish but she was very gracious. I said I was living here and she took me in. It was a beautiful flat. The Germans fixed it up as German officers used it as it was near their headquarters. I was crying but she was gracious. Nothing was left of our belongings".

"I stayed in Tarnów for a year, I worked in an office but later on they started pogroms. There was a curfew, you could not go out anywhere, they started killing Jews again. I met Nathan who came back to Tarnów to look for his family. We were distant relatives, he had met me before the war when he lived in Tarnow".

"Then they took Nathan and myself to Germany to Berlin. I worked in a post office. I lived in a barrack used previously by German soldiers. I continued to see Nathan in Sigheim, he was the head of the Jewish court. His sister came back from Russia, where she had been during the war".

"I was waiting to go to the USA but could not get a visa since I was Polish. I went to America

with Nathan who already had a visa and we married there. I did not want to go to Palestine, I just wanted to be alone in the world, at this time Israel was not a country. In USA the stores selling food and clothes were beyond my imagination”.

“I did not tell my story to my children, I did not want to take away their childhood because they would not understand, you don’t tell children tragic things, inhuman things, not even when they were teenagers. Up to now I never tell them. When someone else tells you something its okay, but when your mother tells you something you feel guilty”



Frances was raised in Tarnów in the ground floor apartment of number ‘16 Szpitalna’. Nathan a distant relation, met her family during the war when he was expelled from Germany. His mother and sister lived in a building owned by Frances’ wealthy brother who also owned a quality shirt store on Walowa Street. Nathan met Frances again after the war in Tarnow, described her as beautiful and married her in Germany where she lived at Bnai Akiva house. She was still very religious after the war. He married her so that she could get out of Germany on his visa, it was easier for Germans than Poles to leave and Nathan was considered German. It was a ticket out for her: he told her if she changed her mind in America, they would go their separate ways. She stayed in New York City for a few weeks after they arrived while he went to his family in Buffalo. After that time she called him up and decided to marry for good and settled in Buffalo.

In a telephone conversation between Nathan Kornmehl and Leonard Schneider



Branch 4 -5 & 14

Cipra (Zipra) Kornmehl mother of Mindel and grandmother of Nathan was born 1847 registered as a Male, It is debatable if this error was intentional as many registrations were contrived. (see Tarnów story).

Cipra kept her maiden name having only been married in a Synagogue to Wigdor Rausch. After he died in 1873 she married a second time to Abraham Jakobsohn (also in a Synagogue) and had four known children. Of these Mindel, and Henry immigrated to USA. Rosa died in the Holocaust and apart from her birth registration, nothing more is recorded about Scheidel Jente. She probably died between 1890-1900 when there are few records.



Wolf Redlich, husband of Helena Turteltaub (Kornmehl). Wolf died in Auschwitz while Helena and their three children survived in a Belgium convent.

K o r n m e h l

Tarnów - Cologne - Siberia - U.S.A

Mindel Kornmehl Jakobsohn cir 1885-1944 m. Bernard (Baruch) Turteltaub 1855-1930 children

Helena (Chaya) Turteltaub 1906-1968 m. Willie Redlich 1899-1942 remarried David Mlynarski branch 4

Toni (Tova) Turteltaub 1910- 1992 (Tarnow) m. Leo Lilien 1908-2000 branch 4

Nathan Kornmehl 1916 -2013 m. Frances Leder 1925-1991 branch 5

Ida Turteltaub 1909-2008 m. Joseph Wolf 1909-1976 branch 5

Zillah (Zipora) Kornmehl 1919-1943 branch 4



branches 4 & 14

Helena (Chaya) Turteltaub story

As told by her son Bernie Redlich

My mother, Helena Kornmehl, was born in Tarnov, Poland to Bernard Turteltaub and Mindel Kornmehl. When Helena was 3 or 4 years old, her family moved to Vienna, Austria. After a few years, the family moved to Cologne, Germany. My father, Wolf Redlich, was born in Lodz, Poland to Isaac and Esther Redlich. When he was 16 years old, his family moved to Cologne, Germany.

When Helena was only 15 years old, Wolf noticed a beautiful girl and had to find out who she was. He sent a Shadchen {marriage broker} to Helena’s family and found out she was younger than he thought. Wolf was willing to wait until Helena was 18 years old and then they were married. Wolf was in the textile business and had his own store. They lived a very nice life together and had two children, Frieda (b. 1928) and Irving (b. 1930). When the war broke out and Hitler was harassing the Jews, Helena and Wolf decided they should send their children out of Germany to relatives living in Belgium. Frieda and Irving left on a Kinder transport from Cologne on February 22, 1939. Irving was sent to stay with one of Wolf’s brothers. Frieda was sent to stay with a brother of an aunt.

In August, 1939, Helena and Wolf, on the advice of one of his workers, also fled Germany. In exchange for giving him their textile business, the worker helped them escape. It cost them a lot of money to

pay smugglers to get them out of the country. At the border, the smugglers deserted them and Wolf and Helena had to swim across a river to escape into Belgium. Helena was pregnant with her youngest child, Bernard who was born in 1939, in Charleroi, Belgium. While living in Germany, Wolf, who was a very religious man, had a Torah written. He paid a neighbor to send the Torah out of Germany, and today it can be found in a synagogue in Yehud, Israel. Along with the Torah, Helena packed some linens with jewelry hidden between. It was this jewelry that they sold in order to get food to live on when they reached Belgium.

In May 1940, Germany declared war on Belgium. Wolf took his family and started walking to France. On the way, he was captured by the French because he was German and tied to a tree. Helena and the children did not think they would ever see him again. Walking with thousands of other people, they arrived in France only to find that it was already occupied by the German army. Bernard stopped breathing at one point and Helena was told to throw him away, as so many of the mothers were doing with their children. She would not, and she gave him a wet rag to suck on. Miraculously, he started breathing again and they continued on their trek back to Belgium. Irving was crying that he could not walk any further and begged his mother to leave him behind. Naturally, she would not and he had to continue on. Once again, a miracle happened. They

stopped for the night in a barn with many other refugees. Helena woke up in the middle of the night and heard a voice calling to her. She woke up her children and they followed the voice out of the barn. It was then, that the bombs fell and everyone in the barn was killed.

Helena and her three children made it back to Belgium, and happily Wolf, who had escaped was reunited with them. Since they were illegal residents, they had no ration cards, and most of the time they were starving. Wolf would get up at 4:00 a.m. to go to the market to buy apples, pears and cigarettes with what little money he had left. His children would stand on the corner selling these wares. Frieda, who was 11, sold the fruit and Irving, who was 9, the cigarettes.

Things got worse and Jews were being deported every day. A tenant in the building where they lived, Madam Martha, hid the family in an attic. The Germans came, but for some reason, never checked behind the locked door to the attic. As it became increasingly dangerous, Madam Martha, fearing for her life, felt she could no longer hide them. She spoke to the Mother Superior of the Orphanage St. Joseph, in Marchiennes Docherie. She agreed to take the two boys, Irving and Bernard, who was only 2 at the time. At this Orphanage, there were orphans, children who were in trouble with the law and sent there by the courts, and children who were taken away from unfit parents. There was very little food and it was a difficult life.

Helena was hidden at the Convent of Sacred Heart and worked in the kitchen preparing food for the nuns. There was no place for her daughter, Frieda to go, so Madam Martha arranged that she go work for a woman cleaning her house. She was treated very badly, worked very hard and was not given much food. At times, she had to eat the dog's food. She was sick, dressed in rags when she ran away. Luck-

ily, Frieda met a Pharmacist who gave her clothes and medicine and begged the nuns to take her in the orphanage where her brothers were. Here she worked in the basement peeling spoiled vegetables to try to make some soup for the nuns and the children. Her brothers did not know she was there, but she was able to keep an eye on them.

Wolf was deported, along with his cousin, Moshe and Wolf's brother who was a hunch back). Moshe asked Wolf to jump off the train with him, but he would not leave his brother. Moshe escaped and survived the war. Wolf and his brother were killed in Auschwitz.

After liberation, Helena and her children were reunited. Their landlord had kept their apartment in Charleroi for them. Making furniture out of fruit crates, Helena was very resourceful. The Mother Superior begged the head of a business school to accept Frieda as a student. She was only 15, and he did not want her, but agreed to let her try for one month. The orphanage paid the tuition and Frieda excelled. She lied about her age and got a job at an American DP camp where they held German prisoners. She helped to interrogate them, because she was fluent in German. Helena got a job working for WIZO. She cooked for 28 survivors. Bernard was sent to a Sanitorium in Holland as he had developed TB, and also to fatten him up.

While working with the displaced persons, Helena met a survivor, David Mlynarski, from Poland, who lost his wife and two children. They married and the family moved to Israel a few years later. Frieda also met a young survivor, Samuel Sysman, and they married and moved to Israel with Frieda's family. Years later, the family came to America and settled in Buffalo where Helena's sisters lived.



K o r n m e h l

Tarnów - Cologne - Siberia - U.S.A

Mindel Kornmehl Jakobsohn cir 1885-1944 m. Bernard (Baruch) Turteltaub 1855-1930 children

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Zillah (Zipora) Kornmehl 1919-1943 branch 4



branches 4 & 14

Toni (Tova) Turteltaub's story

As told by her son Bernie Redlich

Toni (Toba) Turteltaub Lilien was born on August 26, 1911 in Koln am Rhein (Cologne) Germany to Mindel and Bernard Turteltaub. Although her parents were married in a religious ceremony in Poland, they were unsure if their marriage would be considered legal in Germany. So they gave the children Mindel's maiden name of Kornmehl.

Toni was the third of 5 children, having a younger brother and sister, Nathan and Zillah and older sisters, Helena and Ida. Theirs was an Orthodox home conforming to the strict rules of Kashrut. In her youth, Toni excelled in school. When she graduated, she became a buyer for a major department store. At the age of 25, she met a dashing gentleman from Krefeld, Germany and eventually became Mrs. Leo Lilien. With her husband, a professionally-trained sign painter, they moved into their own flat, delighting in their new furnishings and possessions.

Two years later, baby Betty was born. Toni shared her hospital room with the wife of a German officer. The woman refused to be in the same room as a Jew. Toni was moved.

At this time, the Nazi movement was on the upswing. Hitler youth threw rocks at windows and painted swastikas on Jewish businesses. For Leo, self-employed, finding work became difficult. The political tide was against them, and being on the streets was unsafe for Jews. Toni became pregnant for the second time. One night, Leo had to venture out after curfew to pick up medicine for his wife. He was stopped by an SS officer intend-

ing to arrest him. Leo insisted that he had to bring the medication to his pregnant wife. The German let him pass. All his life, Leo used this experience as evidence that not all Nazis were evil.

Their good fortune was short-lived, however. Soon afterwards, all Jewish males were rounded up by the Germans and taken to a labor camp. Toni was left to fend for herself with little Betty. It wasn't long before the Germans came and demanded that the remaining Jews leave or be killed. Toni audaciously replied, "You've taken my husband. I have a baby 1½ years old. I'm expecting in three months. You might as well kill me now. I have nowhere to go." Once again, luck was on her side. This German soldier, a family man himself, took pity on her because of her condition. He provided her with a pass that would allow her to stay until after the birth of the baby. As a proviso, she would have to leave immediately afterwards. She convinced her landlady to help her while she remained in Germany. In return, she would leave the woman all her possessions. Toni left with a single suitcase containing bare essentials.

After the birth of the baby, Toni, Betty, and the newborn daughter were put in a cattle car en route to Poland. Conditions were deplorable, and with little nourishment, the baby became ill and died in her arms.

From Poland, Toni and Betty were sent to Russia and then to Siberia. There, Toni found work in a hair-dressing salon, struggling to keep herself and her young daughter alive. Food was scarce. She would feed Betty first and hold her hand under the child's mouth to catch stray crumbs for herself. A male cus-

tommer of the salon took a fancy to her and wanted to make her his wife. She vehemently declined. She was waiting for her Leo, although she didn't know whether he was dead or alive. Four long, bitter years passed and the war finally ended. Toni and Betty were transported to a displaced persons camp in Germany, where, through the Red Cross, they were reunited with Leo. They spent three years in the camp until relatives were able to sponsor them to the United States. While undergoing her physical for emigration, the doctor informed Toni that she was pregnant. She laughed out loud since doctors told her that she could bear no more children. The pregnancy delayed their departure because the authorities feared subjecting a pregnant woman to a long sea voyage. Because of this, the family was provided with a flight to New York. They settled in Buffalo in November, 1949. Life was not easy in the new country. They didn't speak the language and Toni was seven months pregnant. Leo took odd jobs, eventually finding full-

time work in a factory. Soon after, a son, David, was born -- the first American in the family. Money was tight. Toni scrimped to pay the bills, designating a jar for each. One jar for the electric, another for telephone, and so on. The extended Buffalo Kornmehl family was very important in those years, as weekends and holidays were spent in each other's homes. At age 18, Betty married her first love and cousin, Irving. After three years of marriage, she gave birth to Toni's first grandchild- Miriam. Two years later, Wendy was born. David married Bonnie in 1976. Their children, Amy and Tamara, brought the grandchild total to four. Despite the debilitating war years and the struggle in America, Toni maintained a strong belief in God and boundless optimism. This carried her through the good times and the bad. Tragically, she died of lung cancer in 1993, and, to this day, she is sorely missed by all.



Left photo: from left: Ernie Kornmehl parents Francis Kornmehl nee Leder who was born in Tarnow, her husband Nathan Kornmehl born in Cologne Germany and Ernie's wife Ellen Kornmehl nee Weinstein.



Left photo: Upper row from left: Nathan Kornmehl; Betty Sodomsky nee Wolf; Myrna Sunshine nee Wolf; Lower row: Ida Kornmehl; Jill Kornmehl; Bernie Kornmehl:

Bottom: from left: Photo of the descendants of Bernard Turteltaub and Mindl Kornmehl. Top: from left, Sharon Kornmehl, Myrna Wolf, Betty Wolf, Bernie Kornmehl, Marvin Kornmehl, Warren Sunshine. Sitting: Ida Kornmehl and Nathan Kornmehl.





Above and below: These are pictures of Nathan Kornmehl's parents, Bernard Turteltaub and Mindl Kornmehl

Above: Nathan and Frances in front of the Kornmehl Kosher Meats in Buffalo circa 1970

Below: Nathan Kornmehl and his wife Frances in 1947



Above & below: Bernard Kornmehl and Jill with Jason, David and Adam.



Above: Zillah Kornmehl, Nathan's sister who died in the Shoah. She is Mindl Kornmehl's daughter

Below; Gus, Edie and Brett Warren in New York 2002



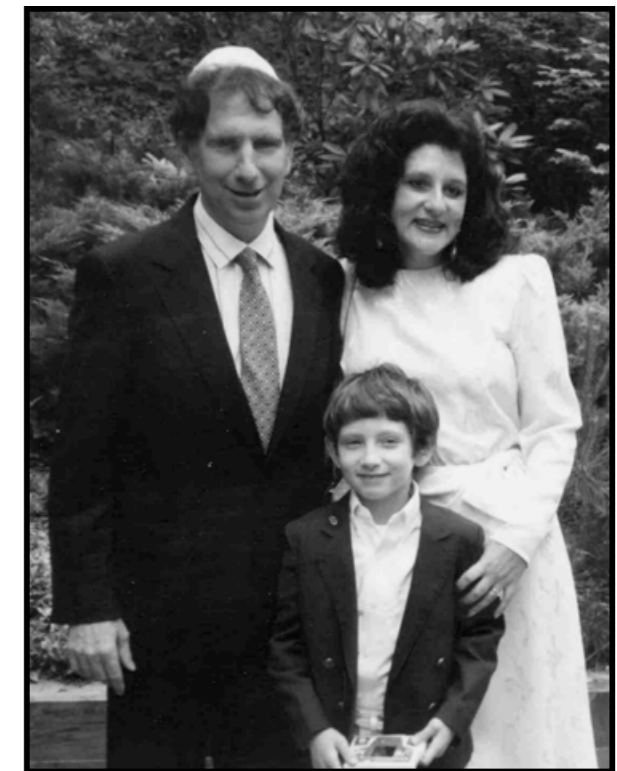
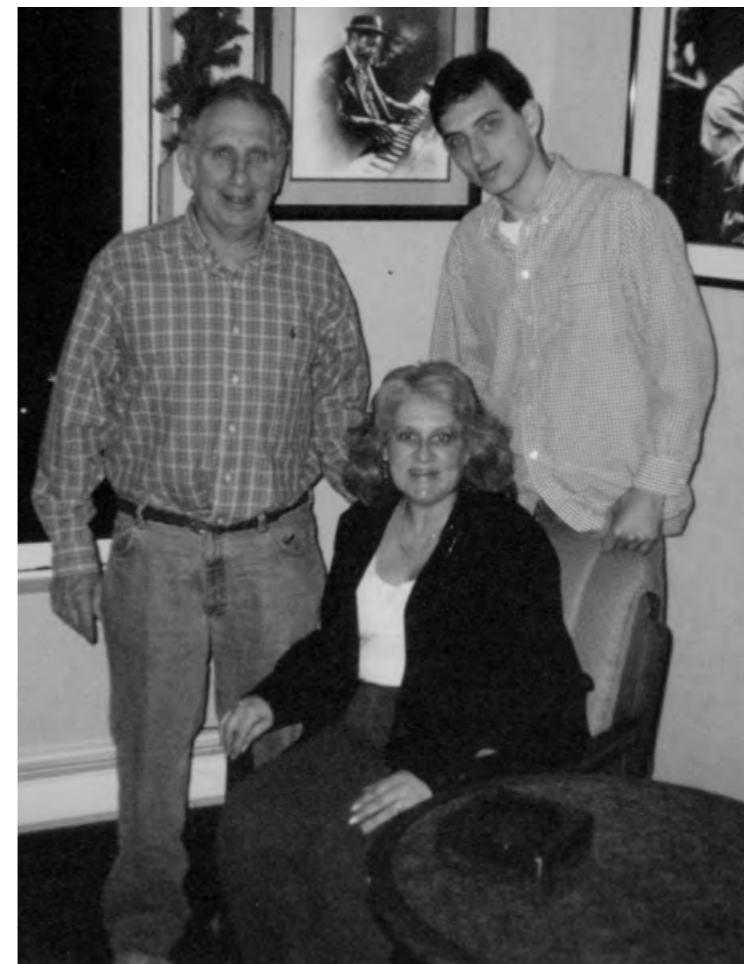
Above ; Gus and Edie Kornmehl Freidman on their wedding day August 17 1980

Drs. Ernie and Ellen Kornmehl. Ernie is the son of Nathan and Frances Kornmehl and is an corneal surgeon in Boston.



Above; Brett Warren Friedman with maternal grandparents. Nathan and Frances Kornmehl

Below; Gus Edie and Brett Friedman family portrait March 2004 in Lake Tahoe California



Above; Edith Kornmehl & Gus Friedman with son Brett



Marvin and Carol Kornmehl and children Chelsea, Tyler and Heather



Wedding of Marvin Kornmehl and Carol Lipshitz in 1985

K o r n m e h l

Tarnów - Vienna - England - Australia - New Zealand
Pinchas Kornmehl (Tarnow) 1872- m. Rachel Reich 1867-
 children

Ernestine Kornmehl 1900 -Holocaust m. Robert (Rachmeil) Weitzner 1895-
Isabella Zeyda Kornmehl 1897-1982 m. Karl Zeyda 1898-

branch 7



Story by Richard & Ray Gilbert

This branch of the Tarnów Kornmehts left the town at the turn of the 19th century.

Pinchas Kornmehl born 23rd April 1872 in Tarnow, settled in Berlin where he married Rachel Reich from Lancet (to the east of Tarnow) on Feb 19th 1896. They had two daughters, Isabella (b. 1897 in Antwerp Belgium) and Earnestine (b.1900). They moved to Vienna where Pinchas was listed as a merchant/trader. (Richard Gilbert).

Isabella Kornmehl married a non-Jew, Karl Zeyda in 1927 in Vienna. Karl was a waiter, the son of a tailor named Josef Zeyda and his wife Theresia. Karl was born a Roman Catholic on October 26, 1898 and lived on the same street as Isabella. They were automatically divorced in 1938 when intermarriage with Jews was forbidden. They had no children. Isabella escaped to England during the war and returned to Vienna afterwards where she died in 1982.

Earnestine Kornmehl married Rachmiel Weitzner (born 18th May 1895 in Tyshinca north Poland), in Vienna on June 15th 1919. They had 2 children Rosa and Kurt. They lived in Vienna at 11 Glockegasse 99, until Ernestine, Rachmiel and Kurt had to move to the Vienna Ghetto at the beginning of the war.

After the annexation of Austria by Germany in 1938 Austria became part of the Nazi Reich. In 1939 Rosa Weitzner (daughter of Earnestine) decided life would be safer in England. War had not broken out so it was still possible to get a passport but the passport was a Nazi passport with a red J denoting 'Jew'. The rest of the family including my

uncle Kurt Weitzner born March 1st 1929 in Vienna perished after being transported to Minsk on September 14th 1942 and thence to a death camp, possibly Treblinka.

My mother, Rosa Weitzner was the only family member to escape by going to England in 1939. She met John Gilbert (formerly Arthur Grünberg) and married him in England in 1946. My mother and father had 3 sons: Raymond born Nicholas 29th November 1947, Robert 28th May 1956 and Richard 28th July 1957. Robert and Raymond live in Auckland, New Zealand. Richard is a physician and lives in Toronto, Canada with wife Susan Starkman and son Miles born 4th October 1998. (Richard Gilbert)

After our family immigrated to Adelaide in 1964, I completed my education with a Bachelor of Economics degree. In 1969 I started working in marketing, moving from Adelaide to Perth to London and then to Melbourne, where I became involved in international trading. I returned to London in 1977 and worked there until 1980, when I was offered a job back in Melbourne. Soon afterwards I was transferred to Seoul, Korea where I lived from 1981 to 1984, still working in international trading. I then moved back to Melbourne where I worked as an export manager until 1990.

I then spent seven years in the insurance industry before deciding on a fresh start in New Zealand in 1998. Here I now work as an account manager. I have been married but am now divorced and do not have any children. (Ray Gilbert)





Above: Isabella Zeyda Kormmehl 1897-1982



Above: Kurt Weitzner 1929-1942/4 born Vienna murdered in Treblinka. Son of Ernestine Kormmehl and Robert Weitzner



Above: Ernestine Weitzner nee Kormmehl from Vienna born 1900. She was murdered in holocaust with her husband Robert (Rachmeil) Weitzner born 1895 in Tyshin. They were married in Vienna in 1919.

Below: Isabella Zeyda Kormmehl died in 1982 daughter of Pinchas Kormmehl from Tarnów born 1872 and Rachel Reich born 1867 from Lancut near Tarnow. Pinchas and Rachel were married in Berlin in 1896. Lancut has one of the few remaining synagogues in Galicia that was spared and is now a museum. This photo is dated 1916



Below: Rosa Weitzner born 1923 in Vienna. She married John (Arthur) Gilbert (Grunberg) from Leer in Germany



Above: The Nazi Passport of Rosa Weitzner born 1923 in Vienna dated 20th June 1939.. The red 'J' denotes 'Jew'
 Left: The marriage certificate of Isabella Zeyda Kormmehl 1897-1982 and Karl Zeyda 1898- dated 29th December 1927 in Vienna. Karl was a Roman Catholic. They were automatically divorced at the start of the war when new laws forbid marriage between Jew and Christian.



Left: Karl Zeyda, born in Mannersdorf, Nieder-Österreich waiter, son of the tailor Josef Zeyda and Theresia. Living at Zirkusgasse 30, 2nd district Vienna, Roman Catholic, born Oct 26, 1898, single.

Isabella Kormmehl, born in Antwerp, Belgium, cashier, daughter of the merchant/trader Pinkas Kormmehl and Rachel Reich. Living at Zirkusgasse 21, 2nd district Vienna, Jewish, born July 8, 1897, single. (note that they were living only a few doors down from each other)



Above: Richard Ernest Gilbert 1957- and. Susan Starkman 1962-



Above: Ernestine Weitzner nee Kornmehl (Vienna) 1900 (died in holocaust) and her son Kurt Weitzner 1929-1942/4 (murdered in Treblinka).



Left: Robert (Rachmeil) Weitzner born 1895

Bottom right: Rosa Weitzner 1923- born in Vienna and John (Arthur) Gilbert (Grunberg) from Leer in Germany



Below: John Gilbert in Berlin in 1945



K o r n m e h l

Tarnów - Vienna - Israel -U.S.A.

Ferdinand Fishel Ephraim Kornmehl 1876- m. Kamilla Bergmann 1884-1920

children

Victor (Avigdor) Koren (Kornmehl) 1908- m. Berta Kainin 1915-

remarried Hanna Rachel Spisbach 1909-

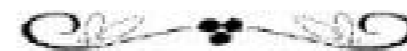
Bertschi (Baruch) Carmel (Kornmehl) 1911-1990 m. Gerda Hellman 1916-1944

branch 6



One of the unproven records in the family tree are the parents of Ferdinand Ephraim Fischel Kornmehl, but information indicates he was born in Tarnów to parents Juda Simon Kornmehl and Beile Kornmehl (cousins). He went to Vienna at the turn of the 19th century where he married a local girl Kamilla Bergmann on 17th June 1906. A note on her death certificate states her family had its roots in Tarnow. Whether Ferdinand went to Vienna alone or with his parents is uncertain.

Ferdinand and Kamilla had two children, Baruch (Bertschi) Kornmehl 1911-1990 who married Gerda Hellman in Vienna. They had Hesi who was born in Vienna in 1937 after which they immigrated to Israel and changed their family name to Carmel and had daughter Carmella. Ferdinand's other son Avigdor Victor Kornmehl married Hanna Rachel Spisbach from Berlin. They immigrated to Israel (then Palestine) where they changed their name to Korin and married for a second time and had son Hillel.



Bertschi Kornmehl son of Ferdinand and Kamilla was one of the four members of the action committee of Austrian Jews from the 'Betar' movement, who helped organise the transport of many small convoys of several thousands Jews to Israel before the start of the Second World War.

The operation started in 1937 and continued

even after the Anschluss of Austria to Germany in 1938. The first trial run was sixteen men from Vienna who managed to reach Athens and take a ship to Israel so proving the journey was possible for Jewish refugees who were being evicted from their homes.

In August 1937 the 'official' transports started. Sixty male refugees from Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland made the journey. The Austrian police allowed the Jews to depart without documents or punishment as they were glad to be rid of them. There was even a ceremonial speech by Adolf Eichmann, who by then was in charge of Jewish affairs in Austria. Eichmann said " You are all returning home to the country where your fathers were forced to leave by the Romans. You are all leaving Austria voluntarily and not as refugees, you shall look back with respect and with your heads held high at your life in Austria, Austria that used to be your home. Now you must go forward as pacemakers for a proud Jewish future". After the speech the Betar group sang the Hatikvah on the south station of Vienna. Eichmann also gave the order for 120 Jews from Dachau to be put on the next transport, this transport also included 300 Austrian and many more Czechoslovakian Jews that reached Israel without any serious problems.

Two groups which were opposed to this operation aiming at getting the Austrian Jews to Palestine, were the British Authorities and the Vienna Jewish Community leadership.



PAST AND PRESENT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE KORNMEHL/KOREN FAMILY

Family roots and background by Hillel Koren

My grandfather Ephraim Fishel Kornmehl was born in Tarnow, Poland in 1876 and moved to Vienna with his wife Kamilla Bergman at a young age. They lived in one of the Jewish quarters in Vienna known as the second Bezirk (not far from where Sigmund Freud had his residence).

Vienna had a flourishing and established Jewish population with its own institutions including dozens of synagogues, community centers, athletic organizations, and many distinguished artists and intellectuals. In fact, about 10% of the Viennese population was Jewish. My grandfather owned a grocery store in the same neighborhood where the family lived. From what I understand the Kornmehl's led a very traditional Jewish life, belonged to a local synagogue, ate Kosher, but were not orthodox.

The upbringing at home must have been quite Zionist. Ephraim and Kamilla had two sons - the older of the two Avigdor Victor (nickname Vicki, my father), and his brother Baruch (nickname Bertschi, my uncle). They were both active in athletic life in Vienna and belonged to Jewish athletic organizations (Ha'koah, and Maccabi). My father graduated from the medical school at the University of Vienna, which was at the time one of the top medical schools in the world. He served as President of the Jewish student organization at the University of Vienna for several years. I remember him telling me about anti-Semitic incidences he experienced as a student and Zionist at the university.

Recognizing the tragic reality of the political developments in Europe and being influenced by his Zionist upbringing my father decided to leave Vienna soon after his graduation from medical school and immigrate to Palestine in 1933. The rest of the Kornmehl family including my uncle Bertschi and his wife Gerda and their son Hesi (nicknamed Hansi) as well as some other members of the Kornmehl family, with whom I am less familiar, followed suit.

In Palestine my father met his future wife Hannah (Hani) Spisbach, a recently arrived immigrant from Berlin. My mother was the daughter of a successful patent attorney Joseph Spisbach and his wife Felicia Spisbach. Before my parents got married my mother lived in Jerusalem where she had her own cosmetics store. My grandfather, Joseph Spisbach opened

a patent law office in Tel Aviv. My parents got married and lived ever since in Tel Aviv where my father established his private practice. So, both the Kornmehl and the Spisbach sides of the family lived in Tel Aviv. We were also close to my aunt Gerda and my uncle Bertschi and their son my cousin Hesi. My cousin Carmella was their second child.

Both Hesi (Carmel) and Carmella (Levi) are married and have their own families. Fortunately, the close members of our family were all in Palestine by the time the war had started in Europe. Being raised as a Zionist and a revisionist, my father was a member of the underground Irgun (headed by Menachem Begin) and participated amongst as a medical doctor in the liberation of Jaffa from the Arabs. During the War of Independence in 1948 he was in active duty in the medical corps of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). My father also played an important role in the medical establishment in Israel. Together with two other physicians he founded the first non-union related medical sick fund/insurance, which was a new and pioneering concept in Israel. Kupat Cholim Maccabi, the name of the medical insurance organization is today amongst the largest ones in Israel.

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I was an only child but according to my parents not too spoiled! I have very vivid memories spending time with both sets of my grandparents as well as with my aunt, uncle, and my cousins. At home and with my grandparents I spoke German and was exposed to the daily newspaper in German to which my parents were subscribed. Obviously, at that time there was a sizable German Jewish population in Israel. Hebrew was of course my mother tongue and the only official language.

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Interestingly, it turned out that Charlotte's father Emil Agid like my father was also born in Vienna where he was a successful businessman.

Emil fled from the Nazis in his homeland Austria to Switzerland. It was in that country that he met Bertha Press who also was a refugee (from Holland) with whom he got married to in 1945. Charlotte like me is the only child.

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Our Immediate Family

I was born in Tel Aviv on January 13, 1943 which qualifies me as a real Sabra. At the same time since the country was still a British mandate then called Palestine I can also be considered as a Palestinian! I was an only child but according to my parents not too spoiled! I have very vivid memories spending time with both sets of my grandparents as well as with my aunt, uncle, and my cousins.

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Charlotte & Hillel Koren



From left to right:
Sabine Aged
(Charlottes aunt)
Hillel Koren
David Korn (13)
Charlotte Koren
Ben Koren
(front)
Michael Koren



Sitting from left:
Gerda Carmel
Charlotte Koren
(standing)
Carmella Carmel



Top left: Michael Koren Bar Mitzvah



Top right: Emil & Berta Agid Charlottes parents) with grandson Michael Koren.

Centre left: Grandfather Ephraim Fishel Kornmehl with grandson Hillel Koren.

Centre right: (left to right) Hillel Koren: Hesi Carmel: Trude Apel.(standing) Bertschi (Baruch) Kornmehl.

(standing) Reni Carmel: Gerda Kornmehl: Reut Carmel: Charlotte Koren:

Bottom left: Avigdor Victor Koren with ID pass for public trnsportation to Vienna 1927

Bottom right: Bertschi (Baruch) Kornmehl with baby Hesi



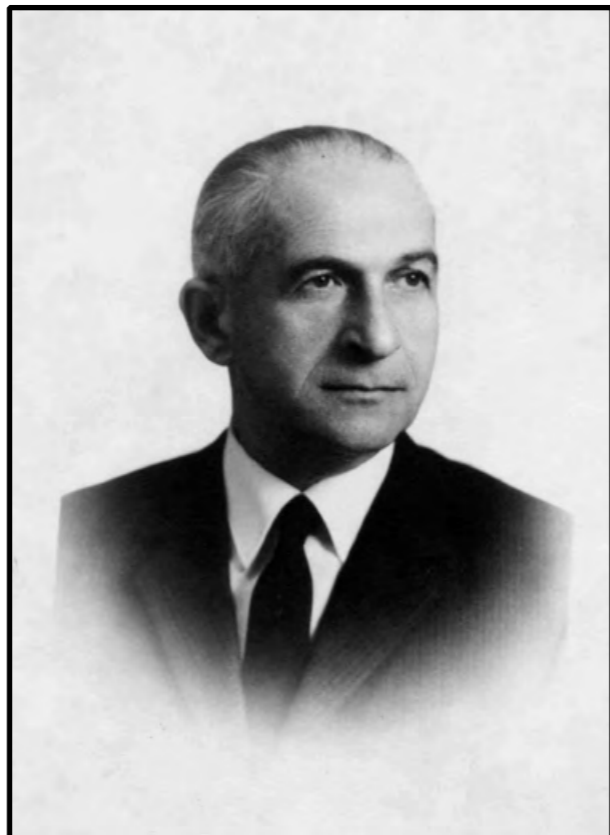


Above: Hanna Rachel Koren nee Spisbach born 1909 in Berlin. Wife of Dr. Victor (Kornmehl) Koren

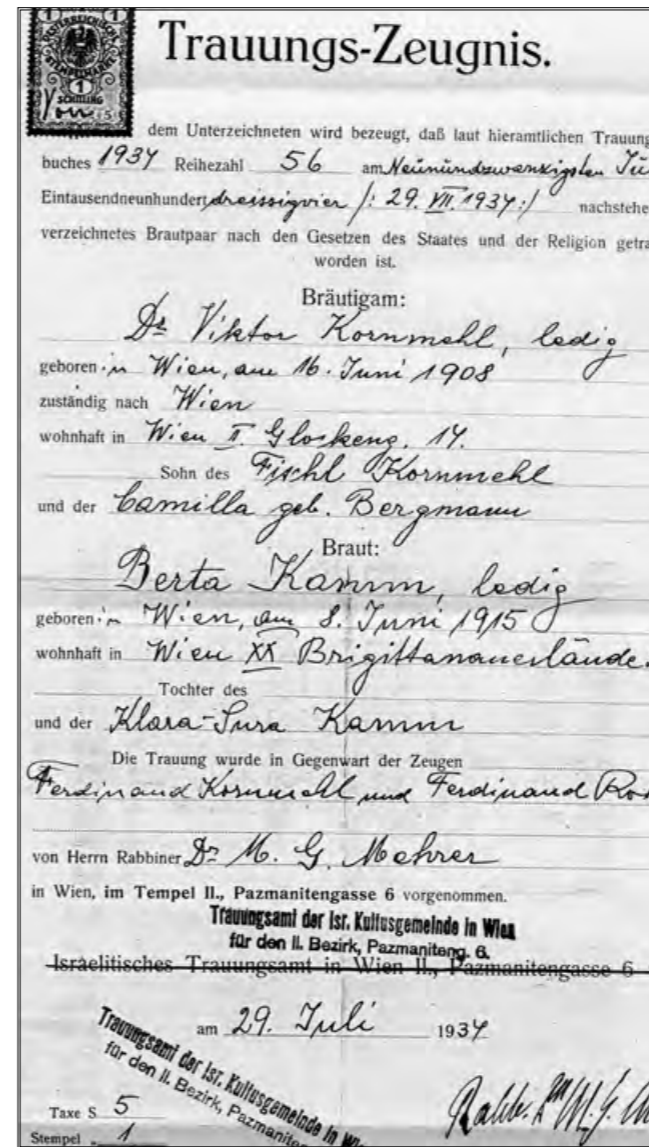


Above: Ferdinand Fishel Ephraim Kornmehl born 1876 with his second wife Dora Weitz (Vienna). The grandchild in arms is Hillel Koren, standing is Hesi Carmel.

Below: Dr. Victor (Avigdor) Koren (Kornmehl) born 1908 father of Hillel Koren



Below: Dina Weitz second wife of Ferdinand Kornmehl



Left: Wedding certificate on 29th July 1937 in Vienna of Dr Viktor Kornmehl born 16th June 1908 son of Fischel Kornmehl and Camilla nee Bergmann to Berta Kainin born 8 June 1915 daughter of Klara Sura Kainin.

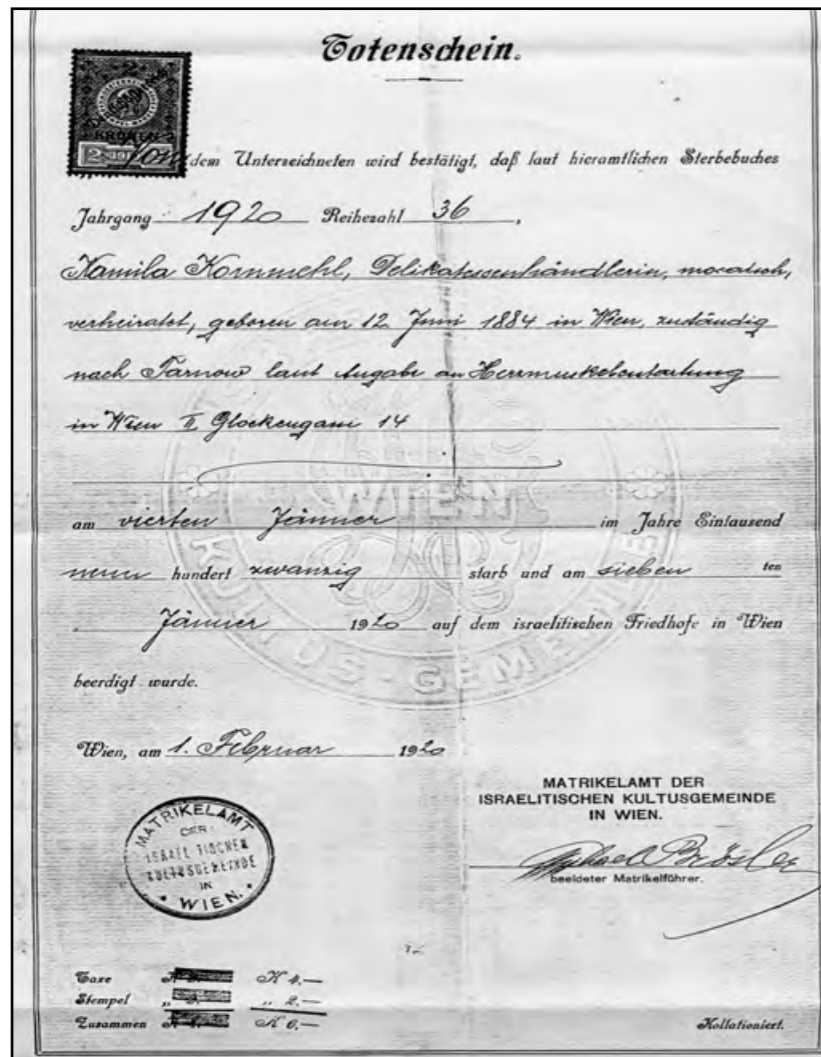
This was Viktors first wife, there were no children. He later married Hanna Rachel Spisbach.



Above: Invitation to the wedding of Kamilla Bergmann 1884-1920 and Ferdinand Fishel Ephraim Kornmehl 1876- on 17th June 1906. One of the problems in the family tree was finding the parents of Ferdinand Fischel. This invitation to his wedding says: "Herr und Frau Simon Kornmehl".



Above: Hillel Korin. and his wife Charlotte nee Agid with their three sons David, Benjamin and Michael (front) in Durham North Carolina 1998.



Left: Death certificate of Kamila Kornmehl nee Bergmann in 1920 age 36. born 12th June 1884 in Vienna but reference to her 'roots' in Tarnow



Below: Identity card for Ferdinand Fishel Ephraim Kornmehl when he emigrated to Palestine before the mandate. His address was 184 Ben Jehuda Street Tel Aviv.

K o r n m e h l

Poland-Germany-Argentina-Israel

Taube (Tova) Rosa Kornmehl 1863- m. Ytzhak Nebenzahl. Died 1909
children

Moriz (Markus) Kornmehl 1903-1980 m. Gusty (Gitel) Faber 1913-1991
Hary (Hirsch) Kornmehl 1905- 1988 m. Carlotta (Scheindel) Rosner 1918-

branch 13



Ytzhak Nebenzahl and his wife Taub Rosa Kornmehl had ten children but only registered them in the synagogue. This classed them as illegitimate so all the children took their mother's surname Kornmehl. Of the ten children I know only two, Harry and Fanny.

My great grandfather Ytzhak Nebenzahl died in 1909, according to my grandfather Markus he caught pneumonia after returning from the Mikve.

Moriz (Markus) Kornmehl 1903-1980 from Kalwarya Zebrzydowska about ten miles south of Krakow left town with his family in 1913 and immigrated to Leipzig Germany. His future wife Gusty (Gitel) Faber 1913-1991 from Novi Sanz about thirty miles south of Tarnow also arrived in Leipzig in 1915. My grandmother Gusty had a brother and sister but I don't remember their names.

In Leipzig Moriz and Gitel owned a fur shop. On Kristalnacht on 9th November 1938 in the pogroms that occurred throughout Germany my grandfather's shop was completely vandalised and destroyed. Three days later, my grandparents realising that their lives were at risk managed to escape with their two children, Heine (Heinrich) age 5 and Ruth age 3 via France (by train), then by ship to Montevideo, Uruguay, and then illegally at night by boat and on foot to Buenos Aires, Argentina. There my grandfather was arrested but after three weeks he was released.

My father Perez (Heinrich) Kornmehl who was born in Leipzig in 1934 married my mother Renee

Silvyta Yacubsohn in Argentina where they had their first son Daniel.

In June 1963 when my brother Daniel was ten months old my parents made Aliya to Israel, With them went my grandparents Moriz and Gusty and my aunt Ruth and her husband Louis. Two other children Dorit and Ariel were born in Israel.

In 1999 I took a trip to Buenos Aires Argentina and joined my parents who were already there on holiday and visited my mother's brother who still lives there. We visited the house where they lived and saw the jail where my grandfather was held in 1938. *Story by Ariel Kornmehl*

Hary (Hirsch Herman) Kornmehl 1905-1988 brother of Markus Moriz Kornmehl and his wife Scheindel Rosner from Bad Norheim just outside Frankfurt Germany had remained in Germany after Kristalnacht. In 1941 when matters became too dangerous they realised they had to leave. They left all their possessions behind and managed to leave Germany and went to Belgium. There they took the last boat to leave which went to Buenos Aires Argentina. The ship was called 'Copacabana'. Their son Roberto was born in 1948. He Married Elana Puterman. They have two sons Pablo and Nicolas who is a copilot for LAN (Chile) Airlines.

This information was gathered during my visit to Buenos Aires in October 2000. Scheindel has changed her name to Carlotta: (Leonard Schneider)



Web site of Daniel (Dani) Kornmehl and his wife Anat in Israel (for their cheese farm in Israel).

Making the desert bloom is a well-known phrase. Today a few idealistic people are making the dream come true. With the help of the Jewish National Fund, Israel's first independent farmers are testing the waters, or lack thereof, in the desert. Their goal is to settle the Negev and Arava deserts by operating self-supporting cottage industry farms.

Among them is the Kornmehl family. On their 350-dunam mountainous farm in the Negev desert, Daniel, together with Anat and their children, produce goat cheese from the milk of their small herd of goats.

The family lives in a caravan atop a hill on route 40 between the Tlalim and Halukim junctions. Aside from a few ferocious dogs and their herd of goats, they are alone on the mountain top.

The Kornmehts were both raised in the city and met while students at the Faculty of Agriculture of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Rehovot. After spending two years abroad in the US and South America, they returned to Israel. In a fateful encounter, they met Shai Zeltzer, an Israeli cheese

making pioneer, with a reputation for eccentricity. The couple signed on as apprentices at his 600-acre farm in the Judean Hills, and learned the art of fine cheese production from the master.

At around the time the Kornmehts were seeking land on which to establish their own goat farm, "Action Plan: Negev" was put into effect. The plan, created jointly by the Jewish National Fund, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jewish Agency, seeks to settle the Negev with family homesteads. The Kornmehts were accepted into Action Plan: Negev and thus allocated sprawling desert farmland.

While traditionally thought of as arid and barren, the Negev desert is proving otherwise. David Ben Gurion's dream of making the desert bloom is becoming a reality. The Negev has good natural resources: underground brackish water, energy, soil and climate. Potential areas of development include fish farming, olive and pistachio groves, vineyards, hothouses and natural hot springs and land development.

I tried to contact Daniel after the 2000 Intefada started with no success. (Leonard Schneider)

K o r n m e h l
Tarnów - Vienna - U.S.A.
Rabbi Mordechai Kornmehl 1883-1927 m. Alta Shapira Horowitz
children
Rabbi Nuchem Zvi Kornmehl 1907-1992 m Sara Rosa Klein
Hella (Esther Freidel) Kornmehl m. Herman Bleich
Mindel Kornmehl (killed in the Holocaust)
Chaya Kornmehl killed in the Holocaust)
Sarah (Hudes) Kornmehl 1912-1991 m. Tzvi

branch 3



There are five records of births from Schabse Kornmehl and Faya Ausenberg in eleven years, all births are registered at different addresses. Considering many couples lived at the same address for many years this is highly suspicious, and wrong addresses could have been given for an ulterior motive. One of their sons Mordechai, became a Rabbi in Tarnow.

Rabbi Mordechai Kornmehl was born in Tarnów in 1883. He was one of seven children of Schabse Kornmehl and Faye nee Ausenberg. Schabse came from Tarnów and Faye from Wicniez a large shtetl about 15 miles west of Tarnów towards Krakow.

Rabbi Mordechai was considered one of the sharpest minds in Tarnów where he wrote several

religious books and taught many students. He married Alta Shapira Horowitz, daughter of Nahum Tzvi Sejel Horowitz, head of the Rabbinical Court in Ryglice. Alta perished together with three of her daughters in Auschwitz.

At the beginning of the First World War in 1914 Rabbi Mordechai decided to move with his family to Vienna. He found it difficult to earn a living, as there were not enough money to pay for religious instructions in times of war.

Rabbi Nuchem and his wife Sara Rosa eventually emigrated to USA and became United States citizens during the war on 13th July 1944 at Albany County Hall, New York.

The following story was sent to me by Joan Weinstein nee Kornmehl:



Harav Nuchim Kornmehl and Rebbetzin Rose



Born in Riglitz, Poland, Rabbi Nuchim Kornmehl was the eldest of six children, the other five all being girls. His father was a Rav in a small town, but in 1914 the family moved to Vienna where Rav Kornmehl attended the Husiatin Yeshiva. He had his first "verher" that was completely "b'al peh" at the age of twelve on all of Masechet Gittin.

By the age of fourteen and a half he had outgrown the yeshiva intellectually and left it to learn at home with his father. During this time, he rarely left the house, going out only to sell merchandise so as not to be a financial burden on his family. It was at this time, too, that he taught himself German and read the works of Kant, Freud, Goethe and Schiller.

After losing his father at the age of nineteen, Rav Kornmehl went to learn with the most important rabbi in Vienna, the Altstadter Rav, who ordained him at the age of twenty. The Jewish community of Prater in Vienna quickly accepted him as Rav and Moreh Zedek for shaalot and tshuvot. In further tribute to his advanced learning, Rabbi Kornmehl was called to serve on the Beth Din of Vienna as third rabbi and, at the age of twenty-three, received a second smicha from the Altstadter Rav.

Success followed upon success. In 1934 the Rav married his Rebbetzin, the former Rose Klein, after a long courtship, and a year later, in 1935, published his first sefer, *Maamar Mordecai*, a collection of his father's writings.

But the clouds of war were gathering, and in 1939 the Rav, the Rebbetzin and their daughter, Joan, were advised to emigrate to America. After many difficulties and travels to Lugano and Belgium in search of visas, they miraculously succeeded and arrived in New York where they stayed for a few months before the Agudas Harabonim sent the Rav to Albany. There he became rabbi of the Agudas Achim synagogue, a congregation of 120 mem-

bers. In the twenty-three years that the Rav served the immigrant population of the Albany area, he started the city's first yeshiva and organized the Vaad Hakashruth, an undertaking that involved strenuous effort and constant travel to several cities such as Troy, Rochester, Buffalo and Chicago. All this as well as his numerous other rabbinic duties took a tremendous toll on Rabbi Kornmehl's health and in 1963, at the urging of both his doctor and the Rebbetzin, he decided to leave the position he had held for nearly a quarter of a century.

A famous Mother's Day dinner with his family at the house of his daughter Martha Kotkes in Lawrence in 1964 inaugurated the next stage in the Rav's rabbinic career. Present at that dinner were Messrs. Farber, Kaye, Kohler, Lehmann and Lyman who knew that the Lawrence-Cedarhurst area needed a rabbi and immediately recognized the extraordinary good fortune of Rav Kornmehl's availability. By July a contract was signed and a house secured; after an unexpected delay due to his health, the Rav finally moved into Lawrence on December 30, 1964.

After more than fifty years in the rabbinate, Rabbi Kornmehl still finds his greatest satisfaction in writing and teaching. His own first sefer, *Tifereth Zvi*, published in 1966, drew praise from a grandson of the Chasam Sofer. Containing an introduction by Manfred Lehmann, it provides Responsa to questions on such varied contemporary problems as adoptions, autopsies and organ transplants. The second part of the sefer appeared eight years later in 1974; the third section, now being published, includes selections and translations into English from previous as well as new Responsa.

Rabbi Kornmehl can point with justifiable pride to his many years of teaching and his numerous talmidim all over the world, including Dr. Frisch, present head of medical research at Hadassah Hospital in Israel. Rabbi Feigenbaum, former Chief Rabbi of Brazil and now head of the Beth Din of the London orthodox community, was a chaver of the Rav; Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld of the Young Israel of Kew Garden Hills heard Rabbi Kornmehl's very first Shabbos HaGadol drasha in Europe.

The Rav is also proud of his children: Joan, a graduate of New York University Law School; Martha, a Barnard College graduate; Paula, who attended Stern College, and Esther, who attended Brooklyn College.

When asked what, if anything, he would like to see changed in religious communities today, Rabbi Kornmehl expressed a desire for a more sincere observance of Orthodox Judaism. He feels that many people have come to practice their religion out of style or habit rather than belief. To the members of Young Israel of Lawrence-Cedarhurst who are now honoring Rabbi Kornmehl after twenty-three years at their synagogue and after more than fifty years of service in the Rabbinate, Rabbi Kornmehl is a sincere, warm and compassionate leader with a practical approach to Halacha. His phenomenal photographic memory and total ability to absorb information from all secular and religious sources have made him the leading authority among the rabbis in the Five Towns and Rockaway area as well as among the leading Roshei Yeshivot in America and Israel.

**NATIONAL
COUNCIL
OF YOUNG
ISRAEL**

3 WEST 16 STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10011
212-929-1525

ב"ה

April 9, 1987

Dear Fellow Young Israelites,

As president of the National Council of Young Israel, it is a great privilege to participate in honoring one of the true Torah leaders of our movement, the Morah D'Asra of the Young Israel of Lawrence-Cedarhurst, Harav Hagaon Nuchim Kornmehl.

Rabbi Kornmehl represents the finest goals and ideals of Young Israel. As a Posek and scholar respected throughout the world, he has lent the honor and prestige of his vast Torah knowledge and expertise to the Young Israel movement. As a recognized expert in the field of Kashruth, he has raised the quality of Jewish living for us all.

Furthermore, in his capacity as Morah D'Asrah of the Young Israel of Lawrence-Cedarhurst for the past quarter century, he has raised it from a membership of only twenty families into a major force in the growing Lawrence-Cedarhurst Orthodox community, with 140 member families and growing.

It is most fitting that the journal in which this letter of tribute appears is also a Sefer containing some of Rabbi Kornmehl's many Chidushim in Torah. This is typical of how, over the past 25 years, Rabbi Kornmehl has elevated and sanctified every aspect of Young Israel communal life. He has served as a living model of Torah scholarship and Torah living to which we can all aspire.

We offer our most heartfelt congratulations to the Young Israel of Lawrence-Cedarhurst on this occasion, and we wish to Rabbi Kornmehl and his wife and family continued Hatzlacha, good health and Nachas for many years to come.

With warmest Young Israel greetings

Harold M. Jacobs
Harold M. Jacobs
President

יחשיב לב אבות על בנים ולב בנים על אבותם

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Kornmehl Anecdotes

Branch 8:

Baruch Kornmehl 1834-1896 married Chane Scheindel Schillay. At the birth of their son Samuel Laiser Kornmehl in 1864 Chane's father Pinkus Schillay was a witness. He was also a witness at the birth of Laiser Schildkraut son of Leibisch Schildkraut and Rachel Kornmehl in 1861. This highlights the close family relationship between Kornmehl's and Schildkraut's. In 1868 Baruch Kornmehl was witness to the birth of Feige Schillay daughter of Jankel Schillay (no wife on record). On the same day 13th March, Baruch was witness to the birth of Jakob Pfefer. I can't find a family connection to the Pfefer's possibly the Pfefer's had no witness and as Baruch was at the registry at the time he was asked to help.

Branch 9:

Dwora Gittel Kornmehl was married to Berl Grau. On her death in 1846 Berl married her elder sister Ella Kornmehl.

Branch 9:

On 1st July 1873 Fischel Kornmehl aged 44 husband of Chaya Dwora Feiwele **Branch 7**, and Wigdor Rausch aged 26 husband of Cipre Kornmehl (mother of Mindel) **Branch 4 & 5** both died of Cholera. Both families lived in the same house number 20 (street indecipherable). At this time water was delivered every day by the waterman (Wasserman) in barrels on a cart. This suggests they were in close contact and both infected. 1873 was the year known as 'The Little cholera epidemic' in Galicia when thousands of people died.

Wisnitz Kornmehl's

There are records of a Kornmehl family from Wisnitz a shtetl about 20 miles from Tarnow. The first member mentioned was Kalman Mordka Kornmehl who married Sara Tenzer later he remarried Pesie Aptowicer.

Kalman Kornmehl had six children with his first wife, Hersch Ber, Dawid Leib, Meilich, Moses and Jakob and two with his second wife, Symche Zipie and Emi.

Several Kornmehl members married people from Wisnitz but I have been unable to find which branch these families belong to.



K o r n m e h l

Tarnów - Vienna - USA

Gutman Markus Kornmehl 1857- married Rywka Rausch

children

Leopold Kornmehl 1882-1910 married Rose (Rachel) Kukuk 1887-1977

David Kornmehl 1885-1960 married Rose (Rachel) Kukuk

Mini Kornmehl 1881-1937 married Herman Rauch 1876-1935

branch 8-9-10



**Story by Freda Weintraub nee Kornmehl
1913-**

Gutman Markus Kornmehl was born in Tarnow, his wife Rywka Rausch came from nearby Wisnicz, they went to live in Vienna in the 1880's. They had at least nine children, Rywka's brother Simon Rausch married Fraidel Hollander from Dabrowa Tarnowska (north of Tarnow) Simon and Fraidel's son Herman, married Mini, the daughter of Gutman and Rywka. Mini and two other children from Gutman emigrated to USA according to the records from Ellis Island.

Leopold married Rose (Rachel) Kukuk, and when he died in 1910 Rose married David, Leopold's younger brother.

In the Ellis Island records it lists:- Helene Kornmehl age 40 born 1867 and her son Jacob Kornmehl age 3 born 1907 They arrived in New York in 1907 from the port of Glasgow in Scotland on the ship "Furnessia" Helene was to meet her husband Leopold living at 284 8th street Jersey city. Possibly Helene and Leopold had a marriage of convenience to help her and her son Jakob gain entry into America as I have no other records for these names.

David Kornmehl age 17 was born in Vienna in 1886 and arrived in New York 23rd January 1903 from the port of Hamburg Germany. David was single, and worked as a barber, he could read and write English and was going to meet his father Gutman Kornmehl in 'Jersey City'.

Our early years were spent in mid-Manhattan, New York where we lived for many years. My father, David, owned and operated a barber establishment in the area, Third Avenue between 33rd and 32nd St. and was very well liked, admired and respected. The Kornmehl family was well known in the area, the children were known as the nicest and best dressed. We lived there for many years listening to the rumbling of the overhead elevated trains.

David was the most caring, lovable father and was so proud of all of his children. During WWII mother and I together with other mothers and grandmothers, volunteered at the Red Cross, and we rolled bandages for the servicemen.

During WWII, whenever the blackout alarm sounded, Myself and my husband (Abbe (Abraham) Samuel Weintraub 1909-1980) donned helmets and became guards making sure no lights were visible in the areas assigned to them.

We lived in a large apartment in Manhattan. One year we all came down with whooping cough. The doctor mentioned that breathing salt water air would be a relief. There was a man who owned a houseboat he kept moored in the East River very near where we lived and offered to allow us to spend time on the boat. So, every morning we would set out, walking in a line holding hands and we spent the days breathing in the salt air.

Ruth passed away at a very young age, leaving a daughter, Lori. The rest of us were all still living at home so mother decided to take Lori to live with us and we considered her as a sister.

After living in Manhattan, mother and dad bought a house in the Bronx, a borough of Manhattan in New York City where we lived until we were married and started to have families of our own. Dad was 70 years old when he passed away in June 1960.



Above: David and Rose Kornmehl and three children- Ruth, Edward and Freda.



Above: Photo from Tarnów given to me by Stephen Glazer of an unknown Kornmehl descendant.



Above: left; Edward Adolph Kornmehl 1911-1986 Ray Kornmehl 1915- and his wife, Sy nee Flisser 1917-



Above: Four children: Freda born 1913: Anne born 1914: Sylvia born 1916: and Ray born 1917 children of Dawid Kornmehl 1885- 1960 and Rose (Ruchel) Kukuk



Above: Ann Kornmehl 1914-1983 and Harry Wolfe 1911-1982 married 21st March 1936



Above: Meri (Merilyn) Gail Wolfe 1942- and Raymond Eric Spier 1938- Meri is the daughter of Ann and Harvey Wolfe



Left: Freda Kornmehl 1913- m. Abbe (Abraham) Samuel Weintraub 1909-1980



Family wedding just after the war in 1946

Adults from left:

- Ray Kornmehl 1917-2001
- Sy (Seymour) Leon Flisser 1915 (husband of Ray)
- Abbe (Abraham) Samuel Weintraub 1909-1980
- Dawid Kornmehl 1885- 1960
- Freda Weintraub nee Kornmehl 1913-
- Rose (Ruchel) Kornmehl nee Kukuk (wife of David)
- Sy (Seymour) Gross 1925- (Groom)
- Lori (Lorelei Lois Dwore 1931- (Bride)
- Ann Wolfe nee Kornmehl 1914-1983
- Anne Janet Kornmehl nee Goldstein 1913-1988 (in front of Ann Wolfe)
- Harry Alan Wolfe 1911-1982
- Edward Adolph Kornmehl 1911-1986 (in front of Harry)
- Sylvia Mager nee Kornmehl 1916-2000
- Nathan (Nat) Hellman Mager 1912-1986 (husband of Ray)

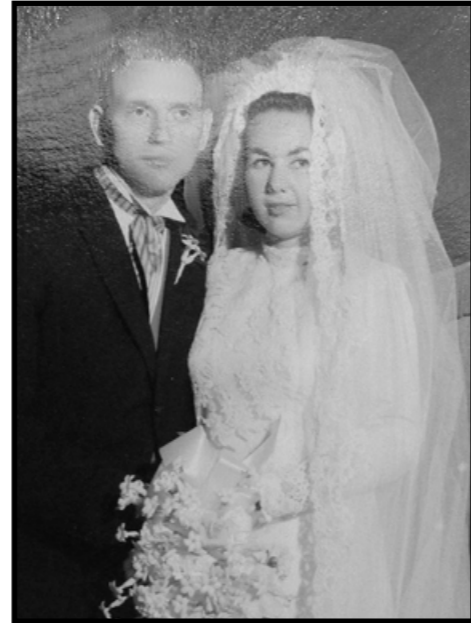
children from left:

- Richard Irwin Weintraub 1936 age 10
- Meri (Merilyn) Gail Wolfe 1942- age 4
- Roger Steven Wolfe 1939-1977 age 7



Above; David Jay Schlesinger 1971- and Michelle ...

Below; Edward Adolph Kornmehl 1911-1986 m. Anne Janet Goldstein 1913-



Above; Ilene Lois Weintraub 1945- m. Jerry Edwr Schlesinger 1943-

Below; Ray Kornmehl 1917- m. Sy (Seymour) Leon Flisser 1915-



K o r n m e h l

Tarnow-Vienna-Jaslo-Russia-Wroclaw-Jerusalem-USA

Chana Dwora Grossbard (1866-1942) m. Samuel Lejser Kornmehl (1864-1921)

Children

Helena (Chaya) Kornmehl (1889-1942) m. Josef Margulies (1879-1942)

Ezriel Kornmehl (Kornel) (1891-1948) m. Ernestine (Ernestyna) Karpf (1897-1986)



Samuel Lejser/Leiser Kornmehl, known for most of his life as Leiser Kornmehl, was born March 28, 1864, in Tarnow, Poland. He was the son of Baruch Hersch Kornmehl, an innkeeper who likely owned real estate, and Chana Sheindel Kornmehl.

Leiser married Chana Dwora Grossbard, who was born in 1866 in Zabno, Poland. They owned a store in Tarnow that sold roofing supplies, including tar and tiles, at Lwowska 21. After Leiser died in 1921, his widow, Chana, opened a gas station and became known as a very successful businesswoman. Chana was killed in the Holocaust in 1942.

Leiser and Chana Kornmehl had three children, Pinkas, Helena (Chaya), and Ezriel.

Pinkas was born in 1888 and died in 1891 of pneumonia.

Helena (Chaya) Kornmehl was born in 1889. She married an attorney from Krakow, Josef Margulies, and they had two children, Stella and Sigmund (Zygmunt). Stella, born in 1916 in Krakow, became an acclaimed pianist. Sigmund was much younger; he was born around 1925. The family relocated to Tarnow during the war to be with their mother, Chana Kornmehl.

Stella was initially deported to Plaszow, a labor camp near Krakow. In the camp, her piano-playing skills were recognized and she was asked to play for the commandant. The entire Margulies family perished during the war.

Ezriel Kornmehl was born in Tarnow in 1891, and completed gymnasium (high school) there in September 1911. The same year, he moved to Krakow to attend the Jagiellonian University School of Medicine. In 1914, he transferred to the University of Vienna

Medical School, where he was a student of Sigmund Freud, according to his son, Ludwig. Ezriel completed his medical studies in March 1918. He volunteered as an army physician in the Polish-Bolshevik war in 1921. He returned to Tarnow to be near his mother, Chana, who had been widowed. He was soon introduced to Ernestine Karpf by her father, Markus (Mordechai) Karpf, the patriarch of a wealthy and philanthropic family from the nearby town of Jaslo.

After Ernestine and Ezriel married, they settled in Jaslo, where Ezriel practiced medicine. He was the only Jewish doctor to work for the general government health office, and was well respected by both Jewish and non-Jewish patients. Ernestine was active in the Jewish community and was well known for helping the sick and orphans. Their only child, Ludwig, was born in 1923. He grew up in Jaslo near his mother's family, the Karpfs. The Kornmehl family returned to Tarnow to visit Chana Kornmehl every Passover.

Shortly after Ludwig turned 16, the Germans invaded Poland. The Kornmehl family, along with Ernestine's brother Mundek Karpf, drove to Lvov, which was on the border between Poland and Russia. In 1940, they crossed over to the Russian side, and the Bolsheviks deported them to a labor camp in Kazan, near the Volga River in the Republic of Tatarstan. Although he was qualified, Ezriel was not permitted by the camp commandant to serve as the camp doctor, only as a doctor's assistant. Ernestine helped Jewish Polish refugees in Russia. Their son, Ludwig, started medical school in Kazan, but was conscripted into the Soviet Army. He went AWOL in order to get a letter which informed the Army that he had tuberculosis. When he got back to his unit, he presented the letter and was released from service.

After the war, Ezriel, Ludwig, and Ernestina

Kornmehl were permitted to leave Russia for Poland, where they were reunited with Ernestina's three surviving brothers. They eventually settled in Wroclaw, where Ezriel practiced medicine for two years and Ludwig completed his medical studies. They decided to emigrate to Palestine and waited for a visa. As was common for many Jews who lived through the war in Europe and planned to move to the Jewish state, Ezriel no longer wanted to have a German surname – and so Kornmehl became Kornel.

In 1948, three events occurred on the same day: Ludwig graduated from medical school; the visas came through for the family to leave for Palestine and Ezriel developed a terrible headache and died of a massive stroke. Ernestine and Ludwig had to wait another year until they could get new papers for two family members, rather than the original three. In 1949 they left Wroclaw and settled in Israel.

Ludwig practiced at Hadassah Hospital for a



Above: Stella and Sigmund Margulies children of Helena Kornmehl and Josef Margulies

few years. On a visit to Paris to see a friend, he met his friend's cousin, Esther Mueller. Esther was originally from Switzerland, but her parents were from Tarnow. Esther and Ludwig married and had two sons, Ezriel (Edward) and Amiel Kornel. Ludwig continued his studies in England, where he got a PhD, before returning once again to practice medicine in Israel. The family came to America in 1958, first settling in Birmingham, Alabama, and moving to Chicago in 1965.

Ludwig practiced medicine at Chicago's Rush Medical School for many years until he retired. His son, Ezriel (Ed) is also a physician, specializing in neurosurgery in Westchester, New York. Amiel works in San Francisco as a senior managing director of a firm specializing in private equity and venture capital.

Ernestine remained in Israel and died in 1986.



Above: Stella Margulies and her brother, Sigmund Margulies with their grandmother Chana Kornmehl and cousin Ludwig Kornmehl (son of Dr. Ezriel Kornmehl).

Letter from the University of Vienna

Dr. Ezriel Kornmehl diploma 1916



The Medical University of Vienna forwarded your question to the Archive of the University of Vienna because we have the older files of the Medical Faculty.

Ezriel Kornmehl studied here from March 1914 to June 1916. In the student files ("Nationale") he was registered as Ezriel Kornmehl, born February 11th 1891 in Tarnow, Galicia, of mosaic confession. He was the son of Leiser Kornmehl, merchant in Tarnow. He finished the high school in Tarnow. Before he started his studies in Vienna he has already studied at the University of Krakow. According to the register of final exams ("Rigoroosenprotokoll", signature: MED 12.4, p. 358) he also absolved the first of three final exams ("Rigoroosen") in Krakow. The second and third final exam he absolved on February 20th 1917 and February 1st in Vienna. He got his Dr. med. on March 9th 1918. During his studying time in Vienna he lived in the 2nd district which had a large Jewish community in this time: from (about) March to June 1914 his address was Große Schiffgasse 11. Then he moved to Taborstraße 20a, door number 14 and before March 1915 to Obere Donaustraße 89, door number 1. From October 1915 to June 1916 he lived at Große Sperlgasse 37 a, door number 15.

Yours sincerely
Archiv der Universität Wien
Postgasse 9 A-1010 Wien



K o r n m e h l

Tarnow – Palestine/Israel – United States

Reisel Blume Kornmehl (Tarnow) 1859 – m. Gutman Sommer 1857

Children

Mindl Sommer 1881 m. Chaim Klapholz, Chaim Sommer 1882 - 1942 m. Sheindl Einziger, Regina Sommer 1884 - Holocaust m. Ferdinand Halpern, Sara Sommer 1885, Rachael Sommer 1886 - Holocaust m. Lieberman, Rywka Sommer 1889, Rachela Sommer 1892, Relcha Sommer 1896 m. Stern, Victor Sommer, Schmucl Sommer



Story by Henry Sommer

The descendants of Reisel Blume Kornmehl were among the few Kornmehts who remained in Tarnow well into the Twentieth Century. Reisel Blume, born in 1859, married Gutman Sommer, a flour merchant in Tarnow who was born in 1857, the son of Chaim Joseph Sommer (who died in 1881) and Bele (or Raly) Tucherderber. The official marriage date listed in Tarnow records was October 2, 1892 (the same date as the official marriage of her brother Samuel Leiser Kornmehl) but the religious marriage must have been much earlier, because their children were born beginning in 1881.

They had ten children: Mindl Sommer, born in 1881, married Chaim Klapholtz in Tarnow in 1900. Rachael Sommer, born in 1886, married a man named Lieberman. They had no children and died in the Holocaust. Regina Sommer, born in 1884 married Ferdinand Halpern from Lublin, also born in 1884. They perished in the Holocaust, but had one child who survived. Relcha Sommer, born in 1896 married a man named Stern. Chaim Joseph Sommer was born in 1882 and married Sheindl Einziger from Nowy Sacz in 1906. He was also a flour merchant and lived at 5 Sweti Anni. They perished in the Holocaust, but three of their four children survived. Other children of Gutman and Reisel Blume were Sara Sommer, born in 1885, Rywka Sommer, born in 1889, Rachela Sommer, born in 1892, Victor Sommer, and Schmucl Sommer.

Victor Sommer, who had a lumber business in Krakow, and his son Tadek Sommer both survived the war in Russia, but Victor was hit by a motor

vehicle in Krakow a few years later. Tadek went to dental school in Poland and then emigrated to Israel, where he had children. Regina lived in Krakow and had two children, Bunya (Sabina) Halpern, who married Zygmunt Miller, and had a son and daughter, and Gutek (Gustav) Halpern, who later lived in Israel, where he had an elder care facility business, and then the U.S., where he operated a similar business. Gutek's son, Jerry (or Perry?) lived in Stroudsburg, PA. Schmucl, another flour merchant, had a son, Yitzhak "Bulush" Sommer, who obtained a medical degree in Prague but was not allowed to practice in Poland, so he gave injections in a Tarnow hospital. Relcha married a plumbing supplier named Stern in Krakow. They lived in the same Krakow building as the Halperns, at Orzeszkowej 2, and had a daughter, Sabina Stern, who emigrated to Palestine with her mother in the 1930's and married a man named Rubin. Both Relcha and her husband died in the flu epidemic of 1918. Mindel had three children, Romek, Janek, and Benek Klapholtz, Romek died in the Holocaust. Janek obtained his medical degree in Prague, later lived in Israel and had children there. Benek was a chemical engineer and then a pharmacist who went to France, but died in the Holocaust.

Chaim Joseph Sommer, my grandfather, married Scheindl Einziger from Nowy Sacz and lived at 5 Sweti Anni in Tarnow. Like most Tarnow Jews, he was Orthodox, but he was not a Chasid. He was a flour wholesaler, who sold to bakeries, both Jewish and Gentile. He also rented and ran a flour mill until the Depression. They had four children. The oldest

was Minka, who married a dentist named Markus Messinger and had two daughters, Blanka, born in 1932 and Zofia, born in 1937. They all perished at Belzec in 1942. My grandmother died in 1941, at around the time the family was forced to move into the ghetto.

Moses (Monek), my father, was born in 1911. In his teens, he was very active in Hashomer Hatzair, a socialist Zionist youth group, where his mentor was Monek Klapholz, a second cousin who later became Moshe Etzioni, a justice on the Israel Supreme Court. After attending a secular gymnasium in Tarnow, Moses went to university and medical school in Montpellier and Lyons, France because it was almost impossible for Jews to obtain medical degrees in Poland. He had to take a year off from school during the Depression to help run his father's business when his father was ill and the family was saving money for Benek's travel to Palestine. By the time Moses finished his studies in 1937, it was impossible for Jewish doctors to practice in Poland. Fortunately, he got a visa to the United States through his uncles on his mother's side. He went back to Tarnow for one last visit before embarking, and never saw his parents, sister, or nieces again after that. He interned in New York City, and served as a captain, leading a medical clearing company, in the U.S. Army in North Africa, Italy, and the Pacific, earning a Bronze Star. He was on a ship in the Pacific when he got a telegram from his New York uncles that his brother Eli had been found in a German hospital. It was not until after he returned from Japan in 1946 and met Eli when he landed in New York that he first learned of the horrors of the Holocaust and the tragic fate of his family. After the war Moses became a radiologist and married Ruth Stein, who had escaped Vienna after Kristallnacht. He practiced radiology for over forty years in Albany and Schenectady, NY. He and Ruth had three children, six grandchildren, and, as of mid-2013, four great-grandchildren with several more on the way. Moses visited Tarnow with me in 1981 and met several of his Gentile classmates from the gymnasium. He died in 2008 and Ruth died in 2012.

Chaim's third child was Baruch (Benek), born in 1914. He emigrated to Palestine in 1935, was in the Haganah, and later worked for the Israeli government. He and his wife Sarah had one daughter, Yaffa, who married and later divorced a man named

Geisler. Yaffa attended graduate school in the U.S. and later emigrated here. In the 1980's, her parents joined her. Benek died around 2000 and Sarah died a few years ago. Yaffa has three children, two of whom live in New York City, and she lives in Chicago.

Eli (Eliezer), the youngest of the four children was born in 1919 and grew up in Tarnow. He was an excellent athlete, a member of the Polish National Championship ping pong team. He survived numerous concentration camps during the war. After the war he became the leader of the Jewish refugees in a displaced persons camp. He came to the United States, where he lived in New York City and married Sonya Blusztajn, a survivor who had survived by passing as a non-Jew during the war. Eli worked in stationery sales jobs and later started a small sales business. They had two children, five grandchildren and (as of 2013) several great-grandchildren. After Sonya passed away, Eli married Jenny Isakson, a survivor from Latvia who, with her sister, had also been prisoner in numerous concentration camps. Eli and Jenny visited Tarnow in 2006 with his son Andrew and his wife Vicki, along with granddaughters Rachel and Hannah, all of whom live in the New York area. Eli and Jenny live in Hackensack, NJ and Delray Beach, Florida.

The next generation of the Sommer family, besides Benek's daughter Yaffa, includes Moses' children Henry Sommer, an attorney in Philadelphia, Margaret (Peggy) Magiera, a collectibles dealer in Fairport, NY, and Susan Sommer, a nurse practitioner in Cambridge, MA. Eli's sons are William, in the stationery business, who lives in Dix Hills, NY, and Andrew, whose firm provides computerized litigation support, and who lives in Merrick, NY.

All have children, and Henry, Margaret, and William have grandchildren. My son Ethan works for a software company and lives with his wife Alison and two daughters Kaylee and Danielle in Minnetonka, Minnesota. My son Aaron lives in Philadelphia and has just graduated from law school. Peggy's children are Randy Magiera and Amy Torres. Amy and her husband Chris Torres have two children, Noah and Lindsey. They all live in the Rochester, NY area. Susan's children are Ben Sommer and Maya Sommer. They all live in Cambridge, MA. Andrew's daughters Rachel and Hannah live in New York City. William and his wife Helene have three children and three grandchildren.



Above: Kfutsa (Group) in Hashomer Hatzair. Moses Sommer is the second from the right of those who are standing.

Below: Moses Sommer family in 1937. This is from his last visit to Tarnow before coming to America, the last time he saw his parents, sister and nieces. Standing from left to right are Eli Sommer, his sister Mina and her husband Marcus Messinger and Moses Sommer. Seated are grandparents Scheindl and Chaim Joseph Sommer and cousins Zofia and Blanca Messinger.



K o r n m e h l

Tarnow-Vienna-Prague-New York

Aron Juda Kornmehl (b. 1852) m. Rivka (Regina) Spiegel (1848-1931)

Siegmund Kornmehl (1875-1938) m. Anna Kornmehl (1877-1943)

Helena Kornmehl (b. 1887) m. Isaac Neugasser (1883-1967)

Mina Kornmehl (1894-1944) m. Ervin Allina (1891-1962)

branch 6 - 45 - 46



Many generations of the large Kornmehl family lived in Tarnow, and many were involved in the family occupation from which their name derived: grain dealers. Among their ranks was Aron Juda Kornmehl, who was born in 1852. In 1876, he married Rivka (Regina) Spiegel, who was born in 1848. They had three children, Helena, Mina and Siegmund, and raised them in a religiously observant home. Aron Kornmehl and his family were among the first of the Kornmehts to leave Poland for Vienna, probably several years before the end of the 19th century. They were part of the large migration of Jews from the smaller towns of the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the capital.

Siegmund and his family

The oldest child, Siegmund Kornmehl, was born in 1875. He married his distant cousin, Anna (Chana Jente) Kornmehl in Vienna in 1899. He is listed in the Vienna address book as a "cafetier," and owned the Cafe Victoria, a well known coffee shop and restaurant. Siegmund died in 1938 and was buried in Zentralfriedhof, the main Jewish cemetery in Vienna. Anna died in Theresienstadt on September 1, 1943.

Anna and Siegmund had four children: Alfons (b. 1899), Margit (Greta, b. 1913), Egon (b. 1901) and Henriette (Hetty, b. 1908), all born in Vienna. Alfons and Margit Kornmehl were sent with their mother, Anna, to Theresienstadt in 1942. They were transferred to Auschwitz, where camp records indicated that they died.

Egon and Henriette fared better. Egon married Gitta/Gisella Szabo, who was born in Hungary. They moved to England in 1939, where Egon worked as a coffee house manager. In 1942 the

couple immigrated to New York and lived with Egon's aunt, Helena Kornmehl, in Brooklyn. Despite his efforts, Egon was unsuccessful in securing passage for his mother and siblings to the US. By June 1945, Egon and Gisella had moved to Manhattan; they were listed on naturalization records as US citizens. Egon and Gisella had no children. They eventually moved to Florida and where Egon died.

The youngest child, Henriette (known as Hetty) married Dr. Otto Sternberg in Vienna in 1930. Hetty worked in her father's fashionable restaurant, Cafe Victoria, where she learned how to cook from the staff. Hetty and Otto Sternberg had one son Henry (Heinz, b. 1933). When the Nazis came to power, Otto was imprisoned for treating an Aryan patient and non-Jewish physicians brought it to the attention of the Gestapo. Otto's family wanted to keep him in prison where they felt he would be safe from deportation, so one of his non-Jewish patients brought a malpractice suit against him. Once the family's immigration papers arrived, the Aryan patient dropped the malpractice suit and Otto was freed. Shortly afterwards, the family left Vienna. They arrived in the USA in July 1940. Otto practiced medicine in NYC for many years. He died in 1985. Hetty died in 1990.

Helena and her family

Helena Kornmehl, who was born in 1887 in Tarnow, married a tailor named Isaac Neugasser, born in 1883 in Poland. They had two children in Vienna, Martha (b. 1913) and Walter (b. 1920). Isaac Neugasser immigrated to the US on the SS Volendam on January 15, 1923. Six years later, his wife Helena, and their children Martha and Walter, joined Isaac in the U.S., sailing from Bremen on the SS Colum-

bus, and arriving in New York on May 16, 1929. Initially they lived in the Bronx, but they later moved to Brooklyn. In the 1940 census records, Isaac was listed as a clothing machine operator and Helena was listed as a housewife. Martha Neugasser married Aaron Weiss in Brooklyn on September 21, 1935. They had two children, Marvin and Rena. Aaron and his brother-in-law Walter Neugasser were house painters.

Mina and her family

Mina Kornmehl was born in Tarnow in 1894. She married Ervin Allina, who was originally from Czechoslovakia, in Vienna on April 24, 1917. Ervin's mother, Anna Nalos Allina, was a Sephardic Jew. Ervin and Mina initially lived near the Allina family outside of Prague. Ervin worked with his four brothers, who were in the banking business, in Prague.

Ervin and Mina had four children: Gertrude (b. 1918), Hans/Jan (b. 1919), Curtis (Curt, b. 1922) and Erika (b. 1924). Ervin left his family in Prague and immigrated to America. After he left, Mina moved with her children to Vienna to be closer to her brother Siegmund and his family. The Allina children were raised in Vienna but were not religiously observant. They grew up with few resources, other than what was provided to them by Mina's relatives. The Allina family lived on Berggasse Street, across from Freud's apartment and the Kornmehl family butcher shop in his building. When they were young, Curt and his friends would look through the window, watching Freud smoking a cigar and analyzing patients on a couch. To help earn a living, Mina took in student boarders from the nearby University of Vienna.

Mina moved her family back to Prague in 1937, after her brother Siegmund died, likely for financial reasons. Gertrude became a milliner and Hans/Jan

a baker. Curt went to commercial school to study business. Erika, nicknamed Kuki, was a student. Curt's immediate family was deported from Prague to Lodz in 1941. In Lodz, Gertrude's boyfriend was told to report for a work detail and Curt substituted himself so that his sister and her soon to be husband could remain together. Curt was separated from his family and sent to Posen. From there he was deported to Auschwitz where he was tattooed with the number 142575. Curt was selected for execution several times. On one occasion, a few prisoners tried to escape from the camp. In punishment the Nazis lined up a group of prisoners with the intention of shooting every third one. However the guard miscounted and Curt lived. Through courage and luck, he survived until liberation.

After the war, he went in search of his family. He was informed that his sister, Gertrude Allina Hoenigstein had survived. After Curt arrived in Bergen Belsen, he found out she had died of typhus after liberation, but before his arrival.

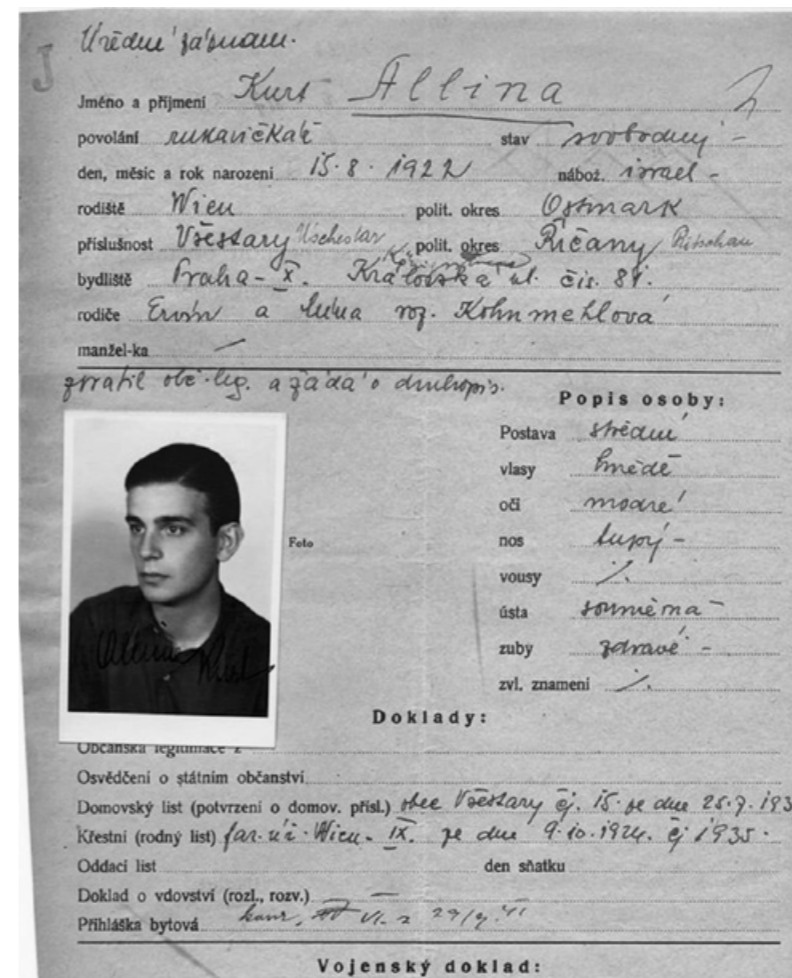
Curt received permission to immigrate to the USA in 1947 but there was no room on the departing ships for him. He finally was able to board the SS Marina Tiger and arrived in New York on March 23, 1948. Awaiting him on the dock were his father (whom he did not know was alive) and his aunt Helena Kornmehl Neugasser. Curt settled in Brooklyn, first living in a house with his father and his aunt Helena and her family. He took a job in the Catskills, where he met his first wife, Hanna Hoffman. His next job was making hot dogs in a meat-packing factory. In 1953 he began working for the Pez Candy Company, a company that originated in Austria. A brilliant salesman, he invented the Pez candy dispensers, an innovative marketing tool. Curt and Hanna had two children, Babette and John. Curt remarried Haneliore Pichler and had two daughters, Tanya and Alexis. He died in 2009.



Above: Curt Allina, grandson of Aron Juda Kornmehl taken around 1939



Above: Deportation document for Gertrude Allina daughter of Mina Kornmehl. She was deported from Prague to Lodz Ghetto in Poland on 10/26/1941. She was a milliner before the war.



Left: official Czech ID for Curt/Kurt Allina issued in 1939. He was living at 10 Kralovska Street 84 in Prague. His occupation was a glove maker. His parents were Ervin and Mina and he is listed as being born in Vienna in 1922. Notice the Red J -- for Jude - in the top left corner.