

Genealogy of Joseph and Celia Diamond

(Last Update, September 16, 2025)

Send comments to

Ellis Horowitz

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Acknowledgements: I have been immensely helped by many of the people who are mentioned in this document. Of special note are the contributions of **Steven Diamond** who has contributed greatly to many of these sections and is cited in many places and his daughter Rebekah who kindly gathered the findagrave.com accounts.

This document is an attempt to capture whatever we can of the lives of Joseph and Cecilia Diamond and their descendants. We know very little about the couple who emigrated to the United States either late in the 19th or early in the 20th century and left a large family to prosper. In attempting to document their story unfortunately all of those who actually knew these two are gone and there are very few remaining facts.

What we do know is perhaps best presented in the photo below which shows the couple and their 10 children. The picture was likely taken in 1910, the year my mother Ruth was born, as you can see her in Celia's lap.



Photo of the Joseph & Celia Diamond family taken in 1910

Left-to-right: Sarah, Alex, Morris (in Joseph's lap), two standing men Samuel and Harry, two small boys Irving and the taller Meyer, Celia holding baby Ruth, Molly and Sol

Joseph was born in 1871 and Celia in 1870. According to Samuel Israel, (Sarah Diamond's grandson) Celia's maiden name was Krawish (Steven Diamond believes her maiden name was Mopsik, so there is some confusion here. There is a Mopsik family web site and Steve Diamond had correspondence with a Mopsik descendent Donald (a musician) in San Antonio, TX.) According to some records, Joseph had brown hair and was 5 feet, 2 inches in height and he was a tailor. Celia had black hair and was 4 feet, 10 inches in height.



This picture was taken in 1930 at 865 Park Avenue in Brooklyn, N.Y. Joseph Diamond owned this tenement building. See the Appendix for precise descriptions of whom is in the photo. Here is a description of who is in the photo provided by David Diamond to his son Steven,

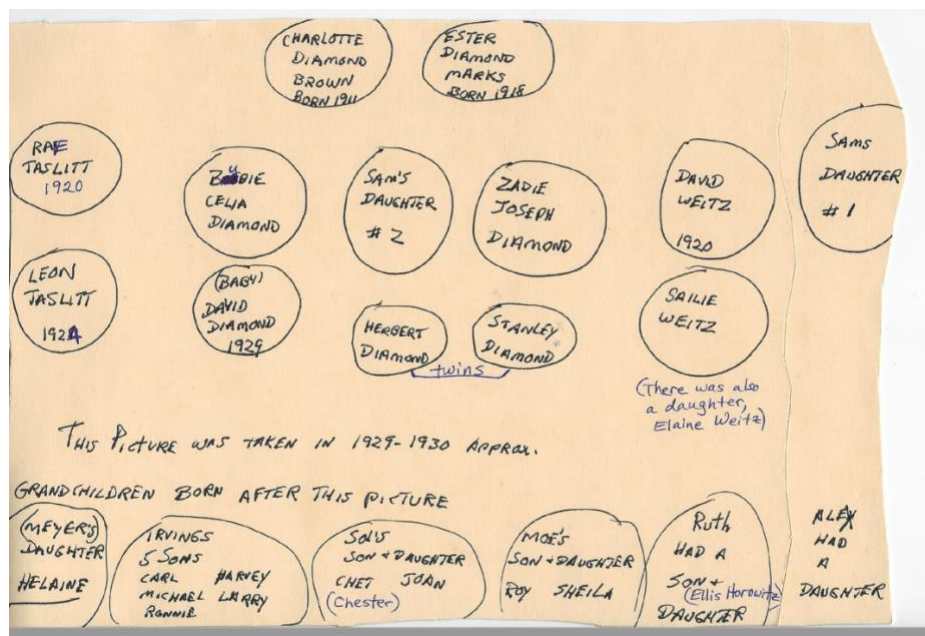
"Yes, Uncle Alex Diamond is kneeling on the left. Uncle Irving is holding me. The man standing next to zadye is Rabbi Shisgal, our cousin. The two children near me are Lee and Rae Taslitt. Sarah Weitz is in the lower right hand corner, Sam Weitz is next to Lee Taslitt. The twin boys, front center, are Herb and Stan Diamond, sons of Meyer and Kate. Meyer and Kate Diamond are standing behind Grandma Fanny; and Meyer is standing to the left of Grandma shaded by the tree. To the right of Kate is Sol Diamond. In front of Sol is his wife Theresa. In front of Theresa is Celia Diamond, my grandmother. Now moving to the right of Celia Diamond is Rabbi Shisgal. To the right of Rabbi Shisgal is Joseph Diamond, my grandfather. Next to the right is Ray Shernow, next is Mollie Taslitt and my aunt Lilly Reine....

Behind Uncle Alex is Uncle Moe Diamond. To the right of Uncle Alex is Moe's wife Ann Diamond. To the right of Ann Diamond is Charlotte Diamond (my sister) and Ruth Diamond (the mother of Ellis Horowitz)...."

"Oh yes, I almost forgot Davie Weitz is sitting in front of Charlotte Diamond.



Joseph and Celia with the grandchildren in 1929



Below are a few late-in-life photos that we have of Joseph and Cecilia Diamond. We believe that they were both from Minsk, Belarus. What we do know is that sometime in the 1930s they decided to leave their entire family and move to Palestine. Celia died of cancer soon after arriving, 2 days after Yom Kippur on Wednesday, October 9, 1935, (she was 65), and is buried on the Mount of Olives, in the old city of Jerusalem. Joseph died 6 days before Passover on Friday, April 1, 1955 and is buried in the new city of Jerusalem



Cecilia (year unknown)



Joseph (year unknown)



Joseph (year unknown)

No. 18828 ✓ NATURALIZATION SERVICE ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

(Valid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

State of New York, ss: In the District Court of the United States,
Eastern District of New York, ss:

I, Aron Katanblatt, aged 22 years,
occupation Carman, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Color white, complexion fair, height 5 feet 4 inches,
weight 140 pounds, color of hair brown, color of eyes gray
other visible distinctive marks None
I was born in Warsaw, Russia
on the 6 day of July, anno Domini 1882. I now reside
at 374 Myrtle Street, New York.
I emigrated to the United States of America from Hamburg, Germany
on the vessel Hamburg
foreign residence was Warsaw, Russia
It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to
of which I am now a subject: I
arrived at the port of _____, in the
State of _____, on or about the 19 day
of September, anno Domini 1916. I am not an anarchist: I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:
SO HELP ME GOD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27
day of October, anno Domini 1916
By John H. Bilkus
Clerk of the District Court of the United States.
By _____, Deputy Clerk.

[SEAL]

No. 18829 ✓ NATURALIZATION SERVICE ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

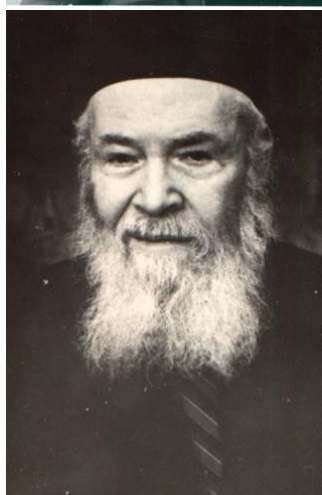
(Valid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

State of New York, ss: In the District Court of the United States,
Eastern District of New York, ss:

I, Joseph Diamond, aged 40 years,
occupation Teacher, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Color white, complexion fair, height 5 feet 4 inches,
weight 130 pounds, color of hair brown, color of eyes brown
other visible distinctive marks None
I was born in Slovak, Russia
on the 26 day of March, anno Domini 1878. I now reside
at 38 Sugar St., New York.
I emigrated to the United States of America from Hamburg, Germany
on the vessel Marie Pogorany
foreign residence was Slovak, Russia
It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to
of which I am now a subject: I
arrived at the port of _____, in the
State of _____, on or about the 20 day
of December, anno Domini 1898. I am not an anarchist: I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:
SO HELP ME GOD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 27
day of October, anno Domini 1916
By John H. Bilkus
Clerk of the District Court of the United States.
By _____, Deputy Clerk.

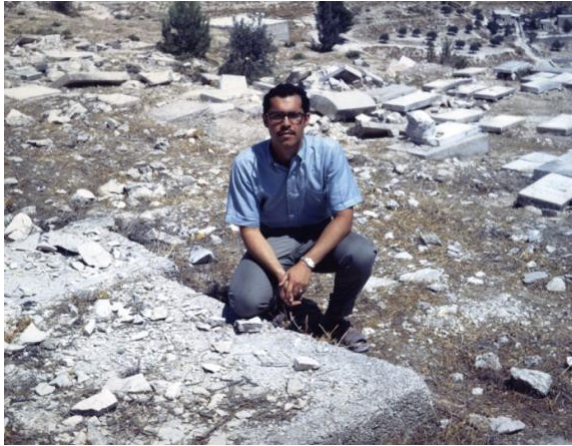
[SEAL]



**The Patriarch, Joseph Diamond The Matriarch, Celia Diamond Celia and Joseph
Joseph at 84 in 1955**

At the far right is the last known photo of Joseph Diamond who died at age 84. The picture of Joseph (actual name was Yechiel Yosef) and Celia standing together was taken the day Joseph was to leave Celia and family and get on a ship to Palestine. Apparently it was common practice to want to die in Jerusalem and Celia had cancer and needed one or more surgeries before she could depart. She followed her husband to Palestine in 1933. Joseph was connected to Kolel America, see <http://israelvisit.co.il/kolel-am/kolel-am.htm>. Established in 1895 its purpose was to encourage and assist Jews from North America to move to Jerusalem.

Celia's mother's name was Rose Rachel and her husband was Samuel. Samuel died young and Rose emigrated to Palestine. Celia Diamond was buried on the Mount of Olives which unfortunately was taken by Jordan when Israel declared its independence as a country in 1948. The graves were desecrated as is seen in the first photo below. The photo was taken in 1967, soon after the area was liberated by the Israelis. The person kneeling next to the grave is me, Ellis (Diamond) Horowitz who was visiting Israel and was able to locate the grave. The second photo shows the repaired grave, which was paid for by some of the Diamond family.



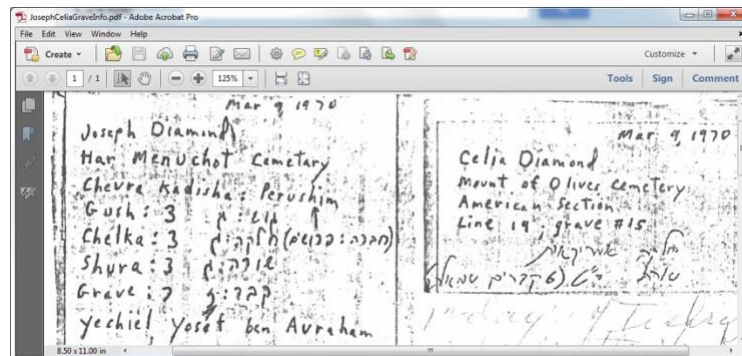
Ellis Horowitz at destroyed Grave of Celia, 1967

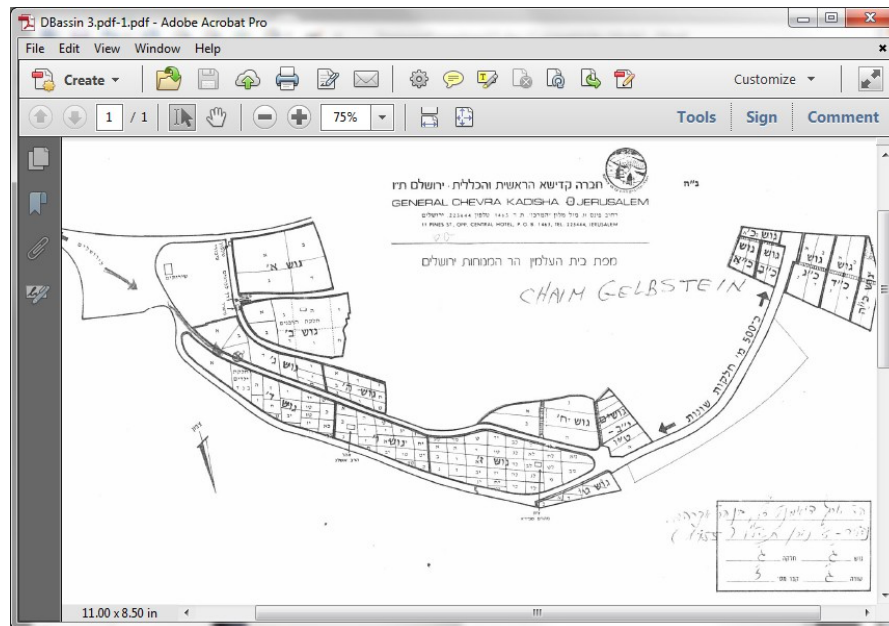


Dawn (Taslitt) Jones at restored grave 2012



Joseph Diamond's Grave, Har Menuhot Cemetery, Jerusalem, Israel





Apparently the above picture is of Diamond ancestors in front of their home in Minsk(?), but no date and no names are attached. Can anyone provide any information?

The following pages contain very brief summaries of Joseph and Celia's descendants. As there were so many immediate children, the descendants have greatly expanded. My focus has been on our ancestors. Any descendant is welcome to pick up where I have left off and continue both up and down the genealogy tree.

Recent postscript (Nov. 2015). Dawn Yonah, granddaughter of Molly Taslitt, daughter of Leon Taslitt, who now lives in Israel sent me this recent email:

"I am very excited to report that even though she was not a blood relative, I've found (by Divine guidance) the gravesite of our step great-grandmother!! Heretofore, we knew nothing about Great-Grandpa Joseph's second wife. As I had thought, her grave is in fact near his; I just had never seen it before.

Her stone was not easy to decipher, but I used my extensive Intelligence background to cull the following:

- Her name was Rachel Leah daughter of Yitzhak (I guess she was Jewish!)
- Her last name is spelled differently than Joseph's on the stone: "Diamant" instead of "Diamond" That's what you get when you try to spell an English name (Diamond) in Hebrew!
- She died eight years after Great-Grandpa, on 29 April 1963
- Just so we wouldn't have to question if she was in fact a Diamond, information on the stone confirms she was the widow of Yechiel Yosef (Joseph)! Eureka.



1. Harry Diamond

Born June 17, 1892, deceased August 26, 1963 at the age of 71. Cause of death was pneumonia secondary to diabetes. Harry was named Abraham Harry (Avram Hirsch) at birth. As a middle-aged man he changed the order of his birth name. Harry was born at home, as Celia was assisted by a mid wife, Mrs. L. Roseworthy. At the time of Harry's birth his parents lived at 44 Forsyth Street in New York City, and his father Joseph was a 21 year old tailor and cap maker on the lower east side of Manhattan.

As a teen-ager Harry was told by his father that his mother had given birth to a child back in the old country, but the child died as an infant.

By the time Harry was thirteen years old he had six younger siblings. Once Harry achieved Bar-Mitzvah he was told by his father that he was a man now, and therefore it was his responsibility to leave school and go to work to help his father support their large and growing family. Harry obeyed his father, but very reluctantly. A short time after Harry was forced to leave school to help support the family, Harry decided he wanted to be independent and be able to do what he wanted with the money he earned. Accompanied by three or four older boys Harry jumped a train headed west. The boys eventually arrived in Chicago, Illinois where the older boys took off and left Harry all alone. Scared and in a strange city Harry soon found his way to a Jewish orphanage in Chicago. Meanwhile back in New York, Celia was naturally upset that her son had run away and she was very worried that Harry being so young would not be able to take care of himself. At the supper table one evening as Celia was crying over her missing son, Joseph attempted to calm his wife by saying, "When the boy gets hungry enough, he'll be back, you will see!" Meanwhile in Chicago, 14 year old Harry hired himself out to a Jewish farmer and worked hard as a farm hand tending livestock and crops for a full year. Slightly over a year after Harry had left home, one afternoon there was a knock on the door of the Diamond family apartment. When the door was opened in walked a proud 15 year old Harry Diamond; carrying a suitcase, and wearing a brand new suit and tie.

Occupation: Vegetable and fruit salesperson, automobile salesman¹

Married Frances (Fanny) Bassin in 1911.



Harry and Fanny Wedding Day Photo, March 21, 1911



Harry & Fanny 50th Wedding Anniversary

¹ The Diamond family ended up with two branches, one in New York City and the other in Boston. Steve Diamond has provided an answer for how/why Harry and his descendants moved to Boston. See Appendix X for the details.



The photo on the left was taken in 1934, Harry was 42 years old. Seated is Frances (maiden name Bassin). They had 3 children, two girls and a boy. To Frances' right is David and David's two sisters flank Harry, on the left is Esther and on the right is Charlotte. The second photo is Lena Bassin (1850 – 1939). Lena (Mofsik) Bassin was Celia's oldest sister, and the mother of Harry's wife Fanny. Harry and Fanny were 1st cousins.

1. Esther Diamond Marks, above at age 16, (Essie born 1918, died 2011) at age 93, Esther Diamond Marks 1918 - 2011 (93)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/126974005>



2. Charlotte at age 21 (born 1912, died 2007) at age 95.



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72773881/charlotte-brown>

Charlotte Albert Brown and had 2 children:

Harry and Fanny had two children, both of whom died at a young age

1. Lester (born and died at age 1 year in 1914),
2. Rose (born 1915 and died at age 1 year 1916)



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/138757521/rose-diamond>

Lester was buried in New York City area and Rose was buried at Anshe Dowig Cemetery West Roxbury, Ma.

From Steve Diamond

"Charlotte and Al Brown have two children. Their first born is Paul Brown who last I heard was a professor of Art at a university in or around New York City. Paul must be close to retirement by this time. Paul has one son Scott, I attended Scotty's bar-mitzvah in 1980. Charlotte and Al Brown's second child is Beverly Brown. Beverly didn't marry or have children, but I know she had a long-term partner. Although Charlotte and my father communicated we really never had any interaction with Paul (Paul would not do a bar-mitzvah for Scotty, so Charlotte and Al did it and it was just my father and I, Charlotte and Al, Al's mother, grandma Fanny that attended). Beverly came to my bar-mitzvah and I saw her from time to time because she lived in Framingham near my parents, but have not seen her since Charlotte passed."

3. David Diamond born February 12, 1929, deceased April 14, 2009. David married Geraldine Freeman on June 21, 1953. David and Geri had three sons:

- a. **Steven**, born June 10, 1955, living in Pittsfield, MA. Steve married Holly Kennedy on June 10, 1978, divorced December 2001. Steve and Holly had seven children; Joseph, Abraham, Rebekah, Charissa, Jerusha, Sarah, and Samuel.

Steve is listed on LinkedIn at

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/steven-diamond/56/60a/a67>

- b. **Ron**, born July 27, 1958, living in Tel Aviv, Israel. Ron married Nancy Moh on November 20, 1983. Ron and Nancy had two children; Elizabeth and Timothy.

- c. **Harold**, born February 18, 1964, living in Boca Raton, Florida. Harold married Lauren Morgenstern on June 22, 2003. Harold and Lauren had two children; Brooke and Mitch.



Dave and Geri Diamond Wedding

June, 1953, Boston, MA



Dave and Geri Diamond

August, 1999, Boynton Beach, FL

2. Samuel Diamond

Born April 10, 1894 and deceased March 13, 1921. Sam was murdered while serving as a chief petty officer in U.S. Navy at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He was married to Rose Leah Epstein and had two daughters: Florence born March 25, 1918, and Charlotte was born August 18, 1920. Florence had 3 children:

- 1) Philip, born, married, living in Maine, had one daughter
- 2) Saul, born, married, living in Florida, had two children
- 3) Joshua, born, Joshua married Melanie ? on ?, living in San Diego, CA. Joshua and Melanie had X children.

Charlotte had two daughters named Sheila and Lois.

The portrait below is of Sam taken in 1918 when he attained rank of Chief Petty Officer. The original was hung proudly in Harry and Fanny's parlor until Harry's death in 1963.



Steve Diamond has done some amazing research on Samuel. According to Steve "The grave is located at the Baron Hirsch Cemetery on Richmond Avenue in Staten Island, NY. The grave is in the Neiberg Society lot. Though the Neiberg lot contains about 146 graves, only about 25 remain visible. The remainder are covered over with trees, thorn bushes, wild vines and poison ivy."

Samuel Jacob Diamond Memorial

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/274248921>



A more Recent Photo of Samuel Diamond's Gravestone



In a subsequent letter Steve recounts the death of Samuel Diamond

"Samuel Jacob Diamond was Chief Printer on the U.S.S. Columbia. Around 9:15 pm Saturday March 12, 1921 Sam was attacked as he slept on his cot in the print shop of the U.S.S. Columbia. The attack was carried out by fellow sailor R.P. Gill, Printer First Class. Sam was the senior and in charge of the print shop. It was common knowledge on the Columbia that Gill held a deep animosity toward Sam.

Testimony gained from a Board of Inquest held Sunday March 13th and a four day Court of Inquiry held later in March, concluded that Raymond Parkinson Gill crept into the print shop the night of March 12, carrying the large port wrench that was kept near the print shop. As Sam slept laying on his right side Gill struck Sam multiple times on the left side of his head. According to testimony about 15 minutes after the attack R.P. Gill climbed up to the main deck of the ship shouting, "Is the Executive Officer present?" When Gill was questioned, he replied, "I want to be locked up." When asked what for, Gill replied, "I cannot tell you." At the same time that R.P. Gill was being questioned by a Lieutenant Commander, the Columbia's Chief Electrician was walking past the print shop when he heard a loud peculiar snoring sound. The Chief electrician looked through the partition into the print shop and saw Sam lying unconscious on his cot with his face and head covered with blood. Immediately the Chief Electrician began yelling to the Officer-of-the-deck for a doctor, saying, "Something has happened to Diamond the Chief Printer."

Upon hearing the commotion and realizing something had happened to Sam Diamond, the Lieutenant Commander put Gill into the custody of the Master-at-Arms, and ran down to the print shop. Upon arrival at the print shop Sam was found lying on his cot in an unconscious condition bleeding profusely from his head, left ear, his nose and mouth. Exposed brain tissue was wiped away revealing a large penetrating triangular wound behind Sam's left ear. Sam was immediately transported to the medical ship the U.S.S. Relief. Once aboard the Relief the Lieutenant Commander stayed with the medical team as emergency surgery was performed.

The surgery revealed that branching off from the triangular wound behind Sam's left ear was a three inch long laceration fracture which extended upward through the mastoid portion of the temporal lobe and onto the vertex of the skull above the left ear, with numerous smaller fractures radiating off the principle fracture. In addition there was found a large portion of bone about two or three inches in diameter had been driven down into the brain by the force of the blow. The depressed fragment of bone was lifted out revealing the dura, without pulsation. At this point the doctors realized that in spite of surgical interference death would occur in a few hours. The doctors closed the wound in the best possible way, applied a loose bandage, and Sam was taken to a quiet room. Death came seven hours later at 5:25 am Sunday March 13, 1921. The cause of death was intra-cranial injury due to a compound comminuted fracture of the skull involving the left temporal and parietal regions of the skull.

Within hours of Sam's death The Commander Train of the Atlantic Fleet ordered a Board of Inquest to take place that Sunday afternoon to gather the immediate facts surrounding Sam's death. That same day The Commander Train of the Atlantic Fleet ordered a full four day long Court of Inquiry for the purpose of gathering all the facts involving the death of Sam Diamond, Chief Printer, U.S.S. Columbia. The facts compiled by the Board of Inquest and the Court of Inquiry were sent to the United States Department of Justice as evidence to be used by the Department of Justice in connection with the trial of Raymond P. Gill by Federal Civil authorities at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For the tie period immediately following the murder until being turned over to the federal authorities in Philadelphia Gill was

kept prisoner aboard the U.S.S. Columbia. Per order of the Commander Train of the Atlantic Fleet both the U.S.S. Columbia and the U.S.S. Relief were ordered to set sail for Philadelphia, in order to arrive at the Philadelphia Navy Yard for May 1st for a stay of six weeks, during which time R.P. Gill would stand trial for murder.

R.P. Gill was brought to trial at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 13 and 14, 1921. After two days of testimony, the following verdict was given.

"Guilty of murder in the second degree recommending him to the mercy of the Court."

On June 21, 1921, R.P. Gill received his sentencing.

"...it is considered and adjudged that the defendant Raymond P. Gill be imprisoned and confined in the U.S. Penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga., for the term of twelve years from June 27, 1921, and stand committed until judgment be fully complied with."

To the best of our knowledge the only family member present during the federal trial in Philadelphia was Sam's wife Rose L. (Epstein) Diamond. Paperwork from this trial, "The United States of America vs Raymond P. Gill" seems to indicate that Sam's wife Rose was called up as a witness during the trial. Once the trial had ended Sam's body was turned over to his older brother Harry Abraham Diamond, my paternal grandfather. Years later Harry told my father that by the time he viewed the body Sam's face was almost unrecognizable. After identifying the body on behalf of the family, Harry had the body transported to New York City for burial. In the presence of family and friends Sam was interred at the Baron Hirsch Cemetery Staten Island, NY on March 23, 1921."

A full accounting of the murder of Samuel Diamond can be found in a document authored by Steven Diamond. Look for

[SamuelDiamondMurder.pdf](#), and

[Federal Order of Proceedings.pdf](#)

on the same website where this document is stored.

3. Molly Diamond

Born: Feb 25, 1896

Died June 26, 1971 at age 75, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/273821360/molly_taslitt



Israel Taslitt, born March 23, 1894 in Ukraine and died Feb. 15, 1989 at age 94.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/85172020/israel-taslitt>



Married israel Taslitt in 1919 and had two children, Leon Taslitt and Rae Taslitt.



Molly and Israel Taslitt, 1919

Leon Taslitt, born July 28, 1924, married Iryne Selma Perlmutter in 1947. They had a daughter, Dawn, and a son Wayne. He and Iryne divorced and Leon remarried in 1961 to Marjorie Meltzer. They lived in Mt. Holyoke, Massachusetts. Marjorie died in 1999 and Leon moved to Florida where he married Helen Barksy. At the age of 89 he moved to Israel to join his daughter Dawn, where he died on August xx, 2019 at the age of 95. Here is a link to Leon Taslitt's obituary

*****THERE IS MAJOR CONFUSION OVER WHEN LEON TASLITT DIED². WE BELIEVE HE WAS BORN IN 1916 AND ACCORDING TO HIS DAUGHTER DAWN HE DIED IN 2019 MAKING HIM 103, BUT SHE SAID HE DIED AT 95 AND WORKING BACKWARDS THE BIRTH DATE WOULD BE 1924. HOPEFULLY DAWN CAN CLARIFY

<https://obits.masslive.com/obituaries/masslive/obituary.aspx?n=leon-taslitt&pid=193771020>



An early and not so early picture of Leon; Above Leon is sitting with third wife Helen Gailboord Barsky Taslit and between them is Leon's granddaughter Miranda who had just graduated from the Univ. of Virginia.

² Leon Taslit. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/202558449> Helen Taslit <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/202558449>; Molly Taslit <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/273821360>; Israel Taslit <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/85172020>;

Here is a note from Dawn indicated that Leon was apparently re-buried in Israel,

Update on Cousin Leon (Earthly life ended 12 Aug 2019 morning, 11 Av 5779)

Cousin Leon Diamond Taslitt (Yehuda Leib ben Yisrael v'Malcha) was laid to rest on the Mt. of Olives on Tuesday, 13 Aug 2019, a few yards away from his son-in-law Raphael's grave. Wayne and I, my daughter Miranda, Wayne's Matt and Sara were in attendance. Representing the Diamond family was Ron Diamond who lives in Tel Aviv.

Baruch Dayan HaEmet.

Dawn

Leon and Iryne had two children:

- 1) Dawn, born, married Raphael Jones on ?, Dawn and Raphael had two daughters Elle and Miranda. Dawn, Raphael, Elle, and Miranda made Aliya to Israel December 2009. Raphael died unexpectedly on December 18, 2010, and he was buried on the Mt. of Olives.
- 2) Wayne, born, married Diane Nay on March 28, 1981. Wayne and Diane live in Chicopee, MA. Wayne and Diane had two children Mathew and Sarah.

Rae Taslitt, born 07/31/1920 and deceased on 09/07/2004. Rae married Larry Batinkoff born April 6, 1916 and died on November 3, 2001. Rae and Larry lived in Liberty (or Ferndale), New York near Monticello, New York which is in the Catskill Mountains. Larry operated one of the leading chicken hatcheries and poultry farms in New York State³. His obituary is below and can be found at

http://www.sc-democrat.com/archives/2001/obits/11November/2001_1109.html

Lawrence Batinkoff
Ret. Poultryman, 85

Lawrence L. "Larry" Batinkoff of North Hutchinson, Fla., a former resident of Ferndale, died Saturday, November 3, 2001, at the Tandem Health Care of Vero Beach in Florida, after a prolonged illness. He was 85 years of age.

He was born April 6, 1916, in the Bronx. Mr. Batinkoff retired to North Hutchinson Island, Fort Pierce, Fla., in 1971.

Mr. Batinkoff owned and operated one of the leading chicken hatcheries and poultry farms in New York State for over 30 years, while in Ferndale. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Agway, Inc., in Syracuse and was a director and past president of the Board of Directors of the Federal Farm Credit Banks in Springfield, Mass., and Middletown. He also served on a variety of boards in various official positions including Inter-County Farmers Co-operative Association in Woodridge, Cornell University Poultry Department, New York State Cooperative Extension, Community General Hospital and the Ferndale Synagogue, all in New York State, and the North Beach Association in Florida. He was a member of the Beth Israel Temple in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

³ I was fortunate to work part of a summer on Larry and Rae's chicken farm; for a Brooklyn boy it was a wonderful experience, picking eggs and learning how to drive a truck. I especially remember the kindness of Rae.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Rae Batinkoff of North Hutchinson Island, Fla.; a son, Barry Batinkoff of Glenmont; a nephew and a niece, Bennett and Doris Stern of Woodbourne; a brother-in-law, Leon Taslitt of Ft. Pierce, Fla.; and a grandson, Randall Batinkoff of Santa Monica, Calif.

Graveside services and burial were held Wednesday at the Beth El Memorial Park in Ft. Pierce, Fla.

Lawrence Batinkoff Memorial can be found here:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/87055886>

and Rae Batinkoff Memorial 1920 - 2004

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9473168>



Larry and Rae had one son:

Barry, born, married, divorced lived in ?. Barry and (his wife)? had two children. One, Randall Batinkoff born 10/1968 became an actor and is listed on imdb.com. A daughter Stephanie. Steve Diamond provides some additional information, copied below:

Barry Batinkoff actually had at least 2 children. You've listed Randall, and Barry had a daughter named Stephanie. I'm attaching a Wikipedia link below that will tell you about Stephanie.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephanie_Winston_Wolkoff

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Stephanie_Winston_Wolkoff&oldid=1217807103

If these links don't work you can simply Google Stephanie Winston Wolkoff and you'll find her. Wikipedia will verify her biological father as Barry Batinkoff

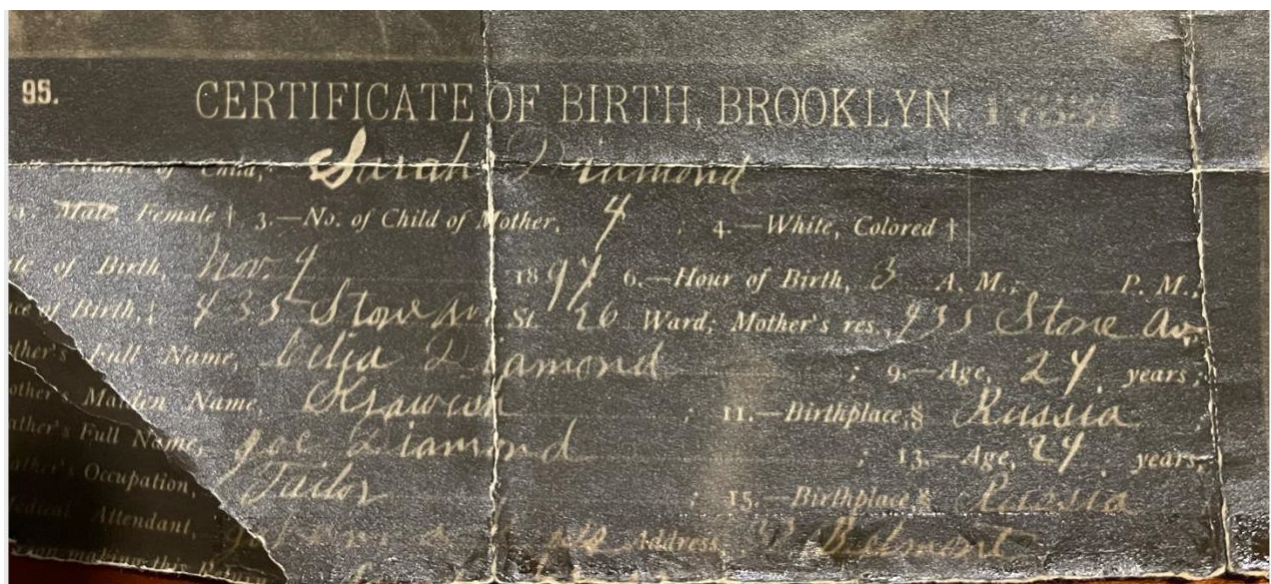
Stephanie does not have a good relationship with her biological father Barry and she was adopted by her mother's second husband Bruce Winston the son of the "King of Diamonds" himself Harry Winston. Stephanie married David Wolkoff in 2000. Thus her name Stephanie Winston Wolkoff. You may have heard of her book *Melania and Me* or you may have seen her in various interviews/podcasts that are easily available for viewing on YouTube.

In her book Stephanie references having two older brothers Randall and Gordon. I know nothing about Gordon. I don't know if Gordon was another son of Barry Batinkoff or if Gordon is a son of Bruce Winston, Stephanie's adopted father.

Sincerely, Steve Diamond

4. Sarah Diamond

Born: November 4, 1897, the birth certificate below, supplied by Elaine and Samuel Israel shows Celia Diamond's maiden name as Krawish. As for Sarah's birth year, I read it as 1897, see my appendix at the back of this document.



Sarah died in 1972 of colon cancer. Married twice, Sarah and her first husband adopted Davey (born in 1920, died in 2006). Sarah's second husband was Jack Weitz and they had two children, Solomon (nicknamed Sailey) and Elaine. Sarah Weitz Memorial 1897 - 1972

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/273790328>



**Jack and Sarah Weitz and their three children,
left to right: Davey, Elaine and Samuel (nickname Saily),
taken sometime in the 1930s**

a. Samuel (known as Saily) born in 1925, married Eileen; they had three children: Paul (possibly became a rabbi), Diane and ?

b. Davey married twice. His first wife was Dottie (Dottie Stern, born 1921, died of cancer in 1970). Davey and Dottie were married in 1945. Below is their wedding picture.



Doty and Davey Weitz, Davey Weitz in his 80s



Davey Diamond Weitz Bar Mitzvah at Age 82

Standing, Dina Weitz, Sheila Stark, Gil Stark, Davey, Faye Diamond, Roy Diamond
Seated: Leon Taslitt, Helen Gailboord Barsky Taslitt⁴, Michael Diamond, Harvey Diamond,
Maryanne Horowitz, Ellis Horowitz

David Diamond Memorial 1929 - 2009 (80)

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/53508775/david_diamond_weitz

Dottie and Davey had 3 children:

⁴ Helen Taslitt was Leon's third wife. His first wife was Irlene Perlmutter and his second wife Marjorie Louise Ziff Taslitt, who passed away in 1999.

1. Ira Weitz, (born 1947, died 2018 of colon cancer),
2. Shelly Weitz Knopf, born 1951, married in 1972 to Irwin Knopf; they have three children; and
3. Jayme Weitz Mirsky, born in 1954, married Stuart Mirsky in 1976, they have three children

Davey married his second wife Dina in 1972, they had no children. Dina died in 2015

c. Elaine, born in 1930, marries Lou Israel on March 5, 1950; they have 4 children



Wedding Picture of Elaine (Diamond) and Lou Israel

Paula (born 1950), Marsha (born 1953), Caren (born 1954) and Sammy (born 1957). The entire family ended up in Los Angeles. Lou Israel died in 2015.



Ruth, Cecile (Ruth's daughter), Sarah Diamond



Sarah Diamond(date unknown)



Picture taken in 1942 at David Diamond's Bar Mitzvah; apparently Jack and Sarah Weitz

5. **Al** (Alex, Alawicius) **Diamond**

Born: Nov 12, 1899, **Died** Nov 30, 1956 at age 57. he died of stomach cancer; married and divorced, he had one daughter, name unknown.

Occupation: he was a plumber;





Alex Diamond, 20 years old in 1920

Alex, Ruth, others unidentified, August, 1936

6. Meyer (nickname Mac)

In the previous picture one can see the twin boys, front center, named Herb and Stan Diamond, who are the sons of Meyer and Kate.

The following document was contributed by Kathy Diamond, the wife of Steven Diamond who is a grandson of Meyer Diamond.

Meyer Diamond Born February 2, 1902, Brooklyn, NY. Meyer is listed, along with his parents, in the 1920 Census in Manhattan. His brother, Harry, was living in Boston by 1920, so I assume Meyer moved there to work with Harry – both men were in the fruit business. In 1925, Meyer married Kate Magazine (b. January 1, 1898, Boston, MA). On October 9, 1926, Meyer and Kate had identical twin sons, Stanley Jack and Herbert Allan. A daughter Helene followed on May 18, 1932.

Stanley married Ruth Davis (b. March 13, 1947) on December 2, 1946. They met in Boston when Ruth was 15 – her dad, Louis, moved the family there from Brooklyn for work. They moved back to Brooklyn after a year, so Stan and Ruth had a long-distance relationship. Stan served in the Navy during WWII.

Stan and Ruth had three children: David Paul, born June 17, 1948, Marcia Gayle, born April 2, 1953, and Steven Elliot, born June 14, 1958. The family lived in Brooklyn and moved to Hicksville, NY (on Long Island) around 1956.

David and his partner, Gail Roseman (they were married and divorced and then got back together), currently live in Sarasota, FL. They do not have children. David and Gail went to high school together, lost touch, and then got back together around 1980.

Marcia married Howard Sandler, who is originally from Maryland, on September 2, 1979. They lived in Maryland for several years after they were married and then moved to Woodbury, NY on Long Island around 1986. They have two sons: Adam Lawrence (b. November 24, 1983), an attorney who lives in Randolph, New Jersey with his wife, Randi (nee Chonowski), and their two children, Marley (7) and Spencer (4), and Matthew Brett (b. October 17, 1987), a CPA who recently became engaged to Christina.

Steven married Kathy Ostrow, who grew up in Forest Hills, NY, on October 19, 1980. They have two children: a daughter, Alexandra Morgan (b. January 18, 1994), who is currently the assistant to the comedian/TV star Hasan Minhaj, and a son, Dylan Hunter (b. August 11, 1999), currently a senior at Cornell University, who plans to attend law school. The family lives in Huntington, (LI) NY.

Stan's brother, Herbie, also served in the Navy during WWII. In March 1950, Herbie married Joyce Marcia Margil (b. July 6, 1929). They had three children: Mona (b. 1954), who I believe lives in Washington State, Joanne (b. 1957), and Paul (b. 1962), who I believe lives in New Hampshire (I haven't finished my deep dive into their current status).

For many years, Herbie was estranged from both Stan and Helene (the result of some sort of family argument). Stan and Herbie reconnected at Kate Diamond's funeral in 1985, but I don't believe Helene and Herbie ever did.

Helene Diamond married Sydney Martin Covall (b. February 11, 1932) They had three children: Mark (b. 1954), who married Kathy Heinbuch (b. 1950), David (b. 1957), who married Stephanie Bernstein, and Lisa (b. 1963), who married Michael Rovinsky. Mark and Kathy have a son, Harrison (b. 1988) who is married to Sara Wassel. Harrison is an attorney, and they have two young children and reside in Connecticut. David and Stephanie live in Atlanta, Ga and have two daughters, Karly (b. 1993) and Julie (b. 1997). Lisa also lives in Atlanta and is married to Michael Rovinsky; they have one son, Andrew, who is a senior in high school.

Death dates:

Meyer Diamond died in 1951; and his wife Kate Diamond died on January 25, 1985; Stanley Diamond died on February 6, 2014, though his wife Ruth Diamond died on April 8, 2007. Herbert Diamond died February 8, 2004; sister Helene Covall died April 8, 2012 and husband Sydney Covall died October 6, 2018

7. Irving Diamond

born Aug 4, 1906 **died** Oct 28, 1963, cancer (not sure which kind)



Married Sophie Novick, Born Aug 6, 1912 Died Aug 8, 1996. According to Sheila Stark, Irving ran a store that made passport photos. It was fortunately positioned next to the Federal office that granted passports, so he had a natural constituency.



Two early pictures of Irving Diamond, on the right. Unsure of the other person

They had five sons:

Carl Diamond born Apr 13, 1939, lives in state of Washington; ex-wife Lorraine; two children Andrew and Jeffrey;

Michael Diamond born May 13, 1941, policeman, teacher, died August, 6, 2013, kidney cancer both kidney's were removed;

Ronald Diamond born Nov 9, 1942, died several years ago; lived in New Jersey; installed swimming pools;

Harvey Diamond born Feb 2, 1945; In 1985 Harvey wrote a successful diet book with his wife at the time, Marilyn Diamond, entitled *Fit For Life*. Several books followed. An obituary for Marilyn Diamond appeared in the NY Times on 09/14/2025. A link to the obituary is here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/12/books/marilyn-diamond-dead.html>

Or download it from <http://horowitzfamily.com/familywebsite/MarilynDiamond.pdf>

One of Harvey's sons, Beau Diamond was sentenced to prison for 15.5 years for running a Ponzi scheme in Florida. For details see <http://www.heraldtribune.com/news/20101222/update-beau-diamond-sentenced-to-155-years>

or

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/2010/12/22/update-beau-diamond-sentenced-to-155-years/28986313007/>

A more recent account of Harvey and the family can be found here.

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/news/20100926/harvey-diamond-from-high-life-to-low-point>

A recent check of the link above shows the article as completely blanked out, but a check of the Internet Archive produced it (It is now available from <http://horowitzfamily.com/familywebsite/HarveyDiamond.pdf>).

Lawrence Allen Diamond born Nov 4, 1949, died from cancer; never married, no children, worked



on boats;

8. Morris (Moe)

Born: 2/25/1904 **died:** 1983, heart attack; bleeding ulcer;

Married Anne born ? died: 1995 ' (maiden name Weinstein)

Pictures of Moe and Ann Diamond





Moe, Al and Ann, probably living in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, year unknown

Above, Moe and Ann at David Diamond's Bar Mitzvah in 1942

Moe and Ann had two children: Sheila and Roy;

Sheila was born in 1934

Roy born 1946; Roy died in 2012 of Leukemia; Roy had two marriages:

Roy married Linda, and produced one son Jason, divorced ; Jason now living in Staten Island married to Peggy; Ryan born Oct 23, 2003

Roy married Faye, had two children Eric (born 1982) and Jeremy (now in London working for Bloomberg)

Faye currently lives in Henderson, Nevada (outside Las Vegas) Phone: 702-614-3970

Sheila marries Gil Stark in 1955; she has had breast cancer twice;

Here is some background on Gil Stark's family. "Both of my parents were immigrants. My mother came to this country at age 3 from Romania. My father came to this country at age 14 , returned to Russia at age 17 and came back to stay at age 18.

My mother's maiden name as used in college was Elizabeth Louise Schoenfeld. She graduated from Columbia University Dental School with a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree in 1917, being one of two women in her class. At that time she wasn't yet 21, so she had to wait close to a year until she could take the license exam.

She married Isaac (Ury) Stark (DDS New York University Class of 1918) in 1922 and practiced side by side with him in the same office in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, NY. She specialized in children under 12 (a pediatric dentist before there was such a thing) and my father took over after the 12 year molars came in.



Moe & Ann Diamond in Florida in 1985



Gil and Sheila Wedding Photo, 1955



Gil and Sheila on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, 2005

Gil and Sheila have two children:

1. Karen born ? Karen married Bill Spear

They have two children: Emily, Alyssa

2. Randy (Rory) (born), married Denise Napolitano

9. Sol

Born April 1, 1908, he was a smoker for 30 years, then gave it up for 30 years, but it eventually caught up to him. He had a lung removed, but still died of lung cancer on September 12, 1983 at the age of 75 of a combination of lung cancer and emphysema. Sol's wife Theresa was born on November 9, 1903, and died on September 6, 1990 at age 87. She suffered a heart attack from which she never recovered. Sol and Theresa were married on April 26, 1929 in Dayton, Ohio. They have two children: Joan and Chester. Joan was born on March 10, 1931 and was recently living in Florida. Chester was born on June 27, 1936, he was named after Celia. Rabbi Shisgal shown in the earlier photo played an important early role in Chester's life, giving him his Hebrew name Tzuriel ("God is my rock"). It is mentioned only once in the Torah – Numbers 35:3. He is married to Fran and is a retired Jewish Reform Rabbi in Louisville, Kentucky. There is a write-up on Rabbi Diamond at <http://www.thetemplelouky.org/#!/rabbi-diamond/c1nrc>

Rabbi Diamond and his wife Fran, have six children, nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren

This is a remembrance from Sol's son Chester:

"Sol only had a 3rd grade education and was out working at a very young age. However, he was quite articulate and people often thought he was a lawyer. He was quite intelligent and knowledgeable especially about politics. He worked as a shoe window trimmer and was quite skilled in that job working with materials, backdrops and excelled in the actual placement of shoes. He worked for the National Shoe Company and also worked freelance. His days were very long. He started early and arrived home late. When I was young he often took me along with him and I could see

how quickly, efficiently, and expertly he worked. Individual store owners felt fortunate to have Sol dress their windows. When I was nine years old we moved to Boston so he could work in Uncle Mac's produce market, but we stayed for only a year and then returned to Brooklyn. But it was in Boston that I got to know Aunt Sophie and Uncle Irving and their 5 boys, Aunt Fannie and Uncle Harry, and Davey and Essie. I also remember Al Brown. Sophie and Irving lived on the same street as we did, Glenarm St. in Dorchester. I remember it was near Franklin Park and the Oriental movie theater. If I remember correctly Fannie and Harry lived on Blue Hill Ave.

When we moved back to Brooklyn we lived at 813 Crown St. and stayed there from 5th grade at P.S. 189, Winthrop Jr. High, and Samuel J. Tilden H.S. I was born on Lincoln Place near Franklin Ave and we moved to 368 Eastern Parkway where my Mom's parents Fannie and Simon Blumenson also lived (same apt building, but different apartments). It was five blocks from the famous Ebbets Field where the Brooklyn Dodgers played. Mom was born in Manchester, Eng. and when she was 3 yrs old they moved to Dayton, Ohio. After Mom and Dad were married in 1929 they moved to Brooklyn where dad's work was. My parents were not religious, but living in a Jewish neighborhood, Yiddishkeit was in the air! My parents never attended synagogue, even on the High Holy Days. They had no negative feelings about religion, it was simply not part of their life-style. At Passover time, for Seder we either went to mom's parents or sometimes to Aunt Sarah and Uncle Jack Weitz's. We also were at the Weitz's on Friday nights to watch wrestling and to play chess with Jack. On Sunday's we frequently visited Aunt Ann and Uncle Moe on Brighton 11th St. Sometimes we went to Far Rockaway to see my mom's Aunt Sis and Uncle Sam and their family. From time to time your parents would visit, also Aunt Molly from Tampa, and also Uncle Al was around quite a bit.

My Sister Joan is married with two children, Madelyn and Alison. They are both married -- Maddy has two children -- Sara and Alex, and Alison and her husband have a little girl Tara. Joan was a registered nurse but when she married left nursing. Joan and her husband David recently moved from N.J. to Florida to be close to Alison and her family. Maddy stayed in Jersey with her husband and kids. When I have a chance I'll scan some pix for you."

Sol and Teresa Diamond are standing on the far right in the picture below. Teresa's hands are resting on shoulders of Bea Gillar and her husband. To Sol's left is Samuel Adler (husband of Rose Leah Epstein Diamond). Rose was the widow of Samuel Jacob Diamond, not pictured in photo. Moving to the right of Teresa is Fanny Diamond, Essie (Diamond) Marks, and Florence (Diamond) Wilner (oldest daughter of Samuel Jacob Diamond). Seated left to right are Joe Levine and his wife Sheila (Friedlander) Levine. Sheila is the daughter of Charlotte (Diamond) Freidlander who was Sam's younger daughter. This photograph was taken in 1966 @ Queens New York, the occasion being the bar-mitzvah of Saul Wilner. Saul was the middle son of Florence (Diamond) Wilner and her husband Jules Wilner. The picture and description were provided by Steven Diamond.





Sol and Teresa at David Diamond's Bar Mitzvah in 1942

a YouTube video of Chester Diamond ⁵



Purportedly two early pictures of Chester Diamond

⁵ Chester Diamond explains how he arrived as assistant rabbi at Temple Adath Israel Brith Sholom in Louisville, KY
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkQqOlj-HfY>

10. Ruth

born 04/13/1910 died: Nov. 31, 1967 at age 57. Died from Multiple Sclerosis

THE CITY OF NEW YORK.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

STATE OF NEW YORK.
CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF BIRTH

No. of Certificate: 16503

Name of Child: *Rae Diamond*

Sex: <i>Female</i>	Father's Occupation: <i>Tailor</i>
Color: <i>White</i>	Mother's Name: <i>Helia Diamond</i>
Date of Birth: <i>April 13/10</i>	Mother's Name before Marriage: <i>Helia Mufcheer</i>
Place of Birth: <i>105 Hopkins St. NYC</i>	Mother's Residence: <i>105 Hopkins St. NYC</i>
Father's Name: <i>Joseph Diamond</i>	Mother's Birthplace: <i>Russia</i>
Father's Residence: <i>105 Hopkins St.</i>	Mother's Age: <i>No YPO.</i>
Father's Birthplace: <i>Russia</i>	Number of previous Children: <i>(19)</i>
Father's Age: <i>40 YPO.</i>	How many living (to all): <i>(10)</i>

I, the undersigned, being a duly qualified health officer of the City of New York, do hereby certify that the above birth and am personally conversant thereof; and all the facts stated in said certificate and record of birth are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Arthur J. Smith*

DATE OF REPORT: *May 18* 1910. Residence: *140 E. 140th St. NYC*



Charlotte Diamond (left, b. 1912)
with her Aunt Ruth (b. 1910) in Coney Island
in 1916;



Ruth probably taken in the 1940s



Ruth and Al Celebrate Someone's Birthday



Ruth Diamond, Date Unknown

Married Irving Horowitz in 1942, (born Jan 26, 1912, died Nov 31, 1981)



Ruth marries Irving Horowitz, April, 1942

They have 2 children:

Ellis, 2/11/44, home page at <http://www.ellishorowitz.com>



Ellis and Maryanne, June 23, 1968

June 21, 2008

Cecile 10/13/47



Ruth's Daughter Cecile at age approximately 8 years old, 1955

Cecile went to Brooklyn College starting in '71 and transferred to Suny Buffalo in '73 where she finished her Bachelors degree. After a period of time working in New York City she went to Indiana University in Bloomington, eventually earning her Masters degree in Library Science. Cecile's major career was spent at the U.S. Library of Congress where she met her future husband Mark Addison.

Isidor Horowitz died on 11/11/1981; He is buried at Mount Sinai Cemetery in Los Angeles, Hollywood Hills Canaan, LA-CA-10, 1972, 4_0. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/107546829>



Ruth Horowitz died on 11/31/1967; she is buried in Mount Lebanon Cemetery in Iselin, New Jersey
B#9445, Planted Grove, Section 1, Block 10, Lot 38-41, S/D "H", Grave #11



Photo added by Marc

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/273792236>

See Appendix 5 for a letter from Ruth Horowitz to her husband sent a day or two after the birth of Ellis Horowitz. At the time Irving was in the U.S. Army. See also a brief history of the Horowitz family at <http://www.horowitzfamily.com> and in particular https://horowitzfamily.com/familywebsite/Horowitz_History.pdf

Appendix 1

This appendix contains translations of two letters

Letter from Joseph Diamond, Jerusalem, dated 7 March 1946.
Translated from the Yiddish by Sylvia Taslitt Lustig;
transcribed by Dawn Taslitt Jones, January 2003.

To my beloved daughter, Malka,

I wish you happiness always. You are the only one who doesn't forget to make me happy with a letter. And I can write you that a long time has passed since I heard from anybody. And I didn't know any possible reason for the silence. And now G-d has blessed me and helped me that I received your beloved letter. I was very, very happy as a result.

When you write that you are healthy and that you visit Raizel (Rae) for a few days, and you gave a kiss to your beloved grandchild, this is my chiefest joy. (Be well.)

You asked me to tell you if I eat vegetables. I don't eat vegetables. Thank G-d, my stomach works well. I feel better than I used to feel (in the best of health).

I have written you a number of times that I received your package of the two pair of underwear. I must tell you it was most necessary and it proved very good. The shirt you sent also fit very well. And I ask you, dear Malka, when you write me a letter, please don't forget to address part of it to my wife. She's sensitive and she reads the letters and she throws it up to me that no regards are sent to her in the letters. Therefore, G-d will help you (for doing a mitzvah like that) with all that is good. You should have a lot of nachas from your beloved children as well as from me. And I send my regards to Israel, to my beloved Rae... (?) (*She should* ?) live happily with (*her*?) husband and with (*her*?) beloved son. They should be well with many years. I should live to see his bar mitzvah. Live in happiness and good health. I also send regards to dear Lee. He should come home O.K. and get married soon and you should have nachas from him, too.

I see as you write me that you may go back to Florida and the warm climate. But it's too far away from Rae's. Kiss the beloved grandchild. The 15th of April is Pesach—Have a kosher and happy Pesach, and happy yontiv. Enjoy together with your children.

(NOTE: Translator says Joseph spelled words as they sounded, not necessarily the correct spelling; also, he repeated himself a lot.)

Joseph Diamond's Letter to Malka, 1946

Joseph's letter was written in 1946 to Malka, his name for his daughter Molly. In the letter he refers to Rae, who is Molly's daughter and the "beloved grandchild" is Rae's son Barry Batinkoff. The wife Joseph refers to was his 2nd wife, as Celia had been deceased over 10 years at this writing. At time of this letter Molly's son Lee was serving in U.S. Navy hence the reference to coming home soon. He did come home and got married as the next letter will bring up.

Letter from Joseph Diamond, Jerusalem, dated 28 May 1950.
Translated from the Yiddish by Sylvia Taslitt Lustig;
transcribed by Dawn Taslitt Jones, January 2003.

To my dear and devoted daughter, Malka,

I am happy to write to you that I now am in the best of health and I hope to hear the very same from all of you, dear Malka. I can now write to you that I received your beloved letter. I am also happy to hear that Sarah's children are doing good business and may the Eternal One help them. Dear Malka, write and tell me what Rae and her husband are doing with their beloved little son (what is Lee's charming little daughter doing (??)) She should be with many years with good fortune. Dear Malka, you should have joy from all of your beloved children and figure me in on it, too.

I want to ask you in case you have a dress you don't want to use, send it to Moshe (?). Maybe he'll send it to my wife. Perhaps you could send some clothes. She hears that the other ones have children in America and the children send them clothes. And my wife doesn't receive anything. You must know that even the strange woman who works for me (?) you also can send a little dress. She's all alone (has nobody). I must say that after I'm gone you'll have to help her as much as you can. You'll have to help her make a life as much as you can afford to and if you'll visit Sarah in her house, you should read her this letter. I also want Sarah to know what I've written. And she should also inform all the children about this.

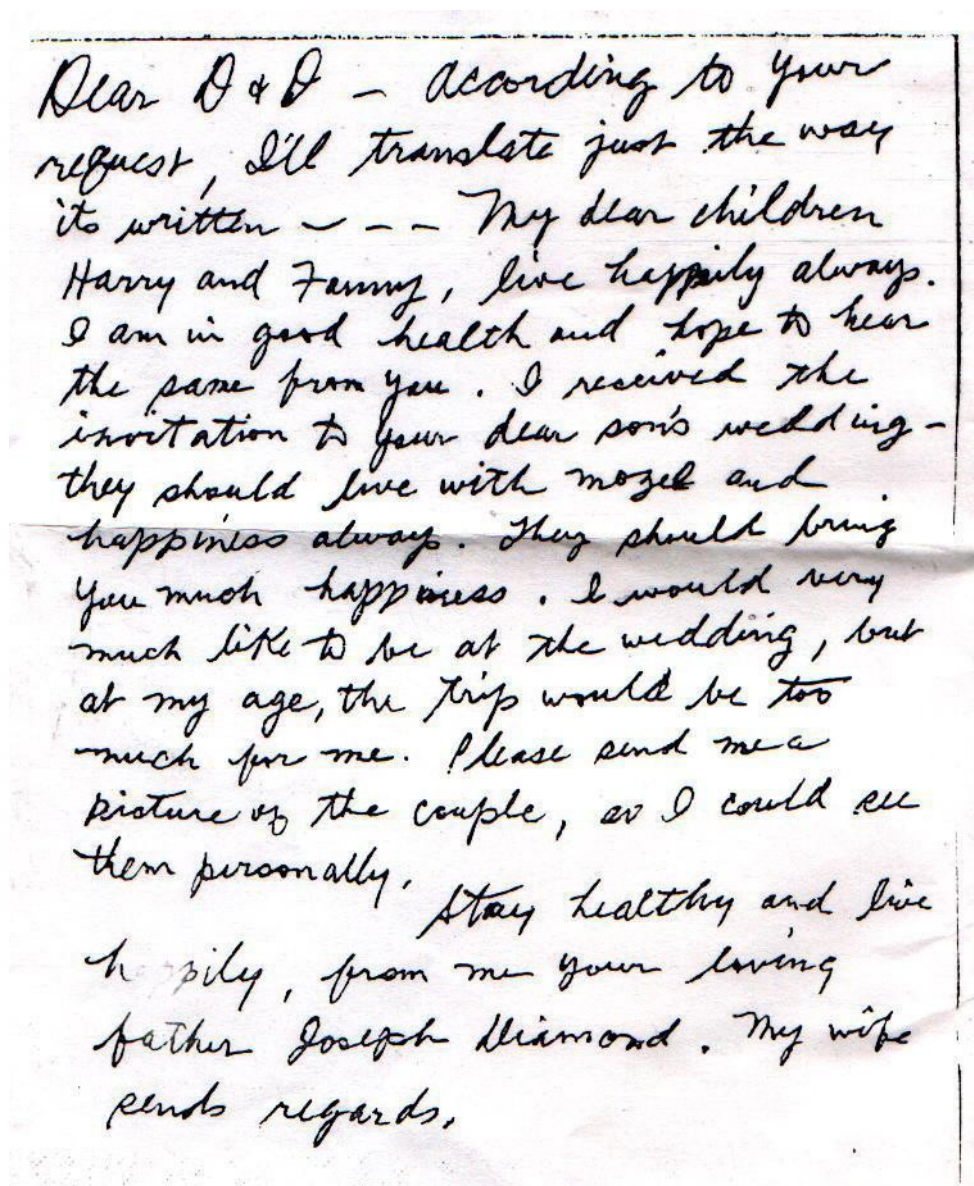
Be well, from your loving father, Joseph (Yosef) Diamond. Send my regards to Israel, Rae, with Lee, with his beloved wife and their little daughter. They should all be blessed with long life. My wife sends you very warm regards. Answer me for that is my entire pleasure.

(NOTE: Translator says Joseph spelled words as they sounded, not necessarily the correct spelling; also, he repeated himself a lot.)

Joseph Diamond's Letter to Malka, 1950

Joseph's letter above is again to Malka, written in 1950. The reference to Lee's charming little daughter is Dawn, Moshe would be Moe Diamond. Apparently every year Moe would take up a collection of clothing and money and send it to his father in Palestine. (Harry used to get very annoyed at Moe's insistence that

Harry should be made to contribute. According to my father, Harry reluctantly would give in and send something). None of us know who the "strange woman" is a reference to.



Dear D & D - according to your request, I'll translate just the way it's written - - - My dear children Harry and Fanny, live happily always. I am in good health and hope to hear the same from you. I received the invitation to your dear son's wedding - they should live with mozel and happiness always. They should bring you much happiness. I would very much like to be at the wedding, but at my age, the trip would be too much for me. Please send me a picture of the couple, so I could see them personally. Stay healthy and live happily, from me your loving father Joseph Diamond. My wife sends regards.

Joseph's Translated Letter

This final letter has Joseph responding to an invitation to the wedding of David and ? in June of 1953. This letter is Joseph's response to Harry and Fanny. All Joseph's letters were written in Yiddish. In 1984 Davey Weitz and my father went to Florida to visit Uncle Moe. While down there they asked Moe to translate into English the letter that Joseph had sent to Harry in 1953.

Appendix 2: Birth/Death Dates

Harry (1892,1963):

Esther (1918,2011), Charlotte (1912,2007), David (1929, 2009)

Samuel (1894, 1921):

Philip, Saul, Joshua

Molly: (?,?)

Rae (?,?), Leon

Sarah: (?, 1972)

Davey, Sailey, Elaine (1930,)

Alawicius: (?, ?)

daughter?

Meyer: (?,?)

son, son, Helene

Irving: (1906, 1963)

Carl (1939,), Michael (1941, 2013), Ronald (1942, ?), Harvey (1945,)

Morris: (?, 1983)

Shelia (1934,), Roy (?, 2012)

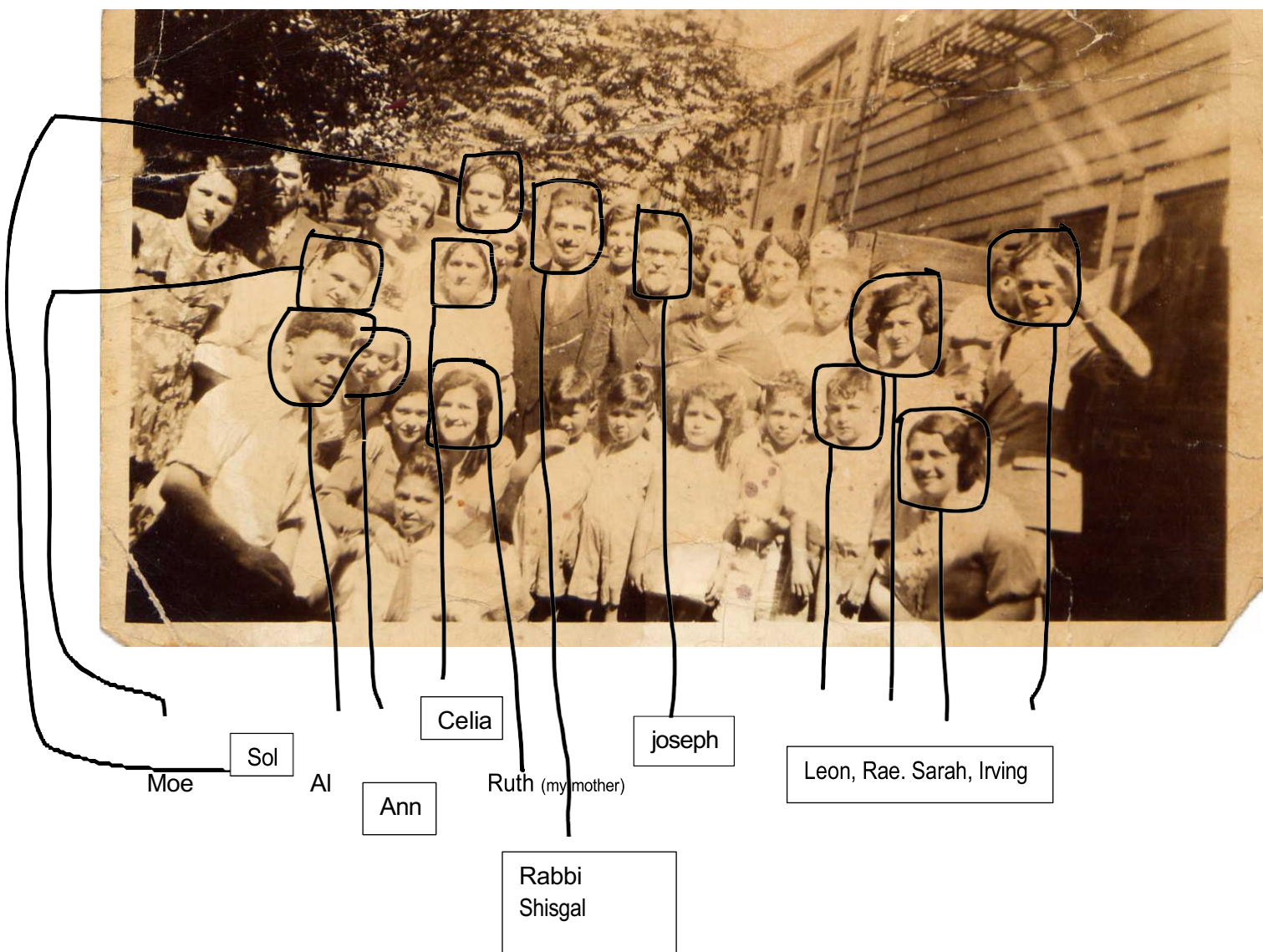
Sol: (1908, 1983)

Joan (1931,), Chester (1936,)

Ruth: (1910, 1967)

Ellis (1944,), Cecile (1947

Appendix 3: Section 1 Photo Annotated



This picture was taken in 1930 at 865 Park Avenue in Brooklyn, N.Y. Joseph Diamond owned this tenement building." Here is a description of who is in the photo provided by David Diamond to his son Steven,

"Yes, Uncle Alex Diamond is kneeling on the left. Uncle Irving is holding me. The man standing next to zady is Rabbi Shisgal, our cousin. The two children near me are Lee and Rae Taslitt. Sarah Weitz is in the lower right hand corner, Sam Weitz is next to Lee Taslitt. The twin boys, front center, are Herb and Stan Diamond, sons of Meyer and Kate. Meyer and Kate Diamond are standing behind Grandma Fanny; and Meyer is standing to the left of Grandma shaded by the tree. To the right of Kate is Sol Diamond. In front of Sol is his wife Theresa. In front of Theresa is Celia Diamond, my grandmother. Now moving to the right of Celia Diamond is Rabbi Shisgal. To the right of Rabbi Shisgal is Joseph Diamond, my grandfather. Next to the right is Ray Shernow, next is Mollie Taslitt and my aunt Lilly Reine....

Behind Uncle Alex is Uncle Moe Diamond. To the right of Uncle Alex is Moe's wife Ann Diamond. To the right of Ann Diamond is Charlotte Diamond (my sister) and Ruth Diamond (the mother of Ellis Horowitz)...."

"Oh yes, I almost forgot Davie Weitz is sitting in front of Charlotte Diamond

U. S. S. COLUMBIA

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
January 1st, 1921

Dear Harry:-

I've been seriously thinking of being transferred to a Boston ship. By that I mean a ship that belongs in the Charleston Navy Yard. In fact I have already been promised one of them ships if I want one.

My idea of going to Boston is first to get out of New York. Second I was thinking of buying a house with you or some little farm. That is one thing I have got to do. If I don't buy one with you, then I expect I will buy one myself in Ohio or Jersey. Then again if I get up in Boston I ought to be able to drum you up some trade in the Navy Yard. You see if I go to Boston, then the government moves my furniture and family up free of charge. I am allowed 3000 lbs of furniture.

Drop me a line and let me know what you think of it

Regards to everybody

Sam

Clearly there are inconsistencies in the DoBs. We might imagine that Celia gave birth every 2 years which would work out nicely, but one suspects that such perfect timings are unlikely to be true.

NAME	BORN	DIED	REASON
Harry	1892	1963/ 71 years	Pneumonia/diabetes
Samuel	1894	1921/ 27 years	Murdered
Molly	1896?	?	?
Sarah	1897?	1972/ 74 years	Colon cancer
Alex	1899?	1956	Stomach cancer
Meyer	1902	1951/ 49 years	?
Moe	1904	1983/ 79 years	Heart failure
Irving	1906	1963/ 57 years	Stomach cancer
Sol	1908	1983/ 75 years	Emphysema
Ruth	1910	1967/ 57 years	Multiple Sclerosis



A Diamond Reunion in Laguna Niguel on July 1, 2021

Standing: Elle & Miranda, daughters of Dawn Yonah who is seated in front of them along with granddaughter Noga; next to Miranda is Joel Israel, son of Sam Israel who is standing at the far right; next to Joel is our hostess, Karyn Spear whose husband Bill and daughter Emily are also standing

between Sam and Marsha Israel; Seated from left to right are: Dawn Yonah, Sheila Stark, Elaine Israel, Ellis Horowitz (me) and my wife Maryanne

APPENDIX 5: LETTER FROM RUTH HOROWITZ TO IRVING HOROWITZ REGARDING THE BIRTH OF ELLIS HOROWITZ

February 14, 1944

Darling,

Here I am coming along slowly. Our little one is doing nicely dear. Every morning the nurse brings him to me. He has black hair and blue eyes, but then they keep changing, so I can't say who he looks like or will look like yet. He has a cute little nose and small ears. He weighed 7 lbs 4 oz. when he was born. I have a room all to myself honey, the number is 510. The address of the hospital is Stuyvesant Place & East 16th Street or E. 17th Street⁶ as you've been writing is correct. I received both your wires.

Everybody honey has been very nice. Joe was still here when the baby was born. He came with Florence Saturday afternoon and brought me a beautiful mirrored box with a box of candy in it. Then my sister Sarah, Jack, Elaine and Al were here. They brought candy. Oh yes, Florence brought a box of nuts and candy. Then Sophies mother and sisters Julie and Sarah were here and brought me dates and Halavah. Oh honey, if you were here you'd have so many good things to eat. They all managed to get in and also to see the baby with Joe's help. The fact that he was in uniform they didn't refuse him a thing and so when he asked to see the baby they all went with him and saw the baby too and everyone was thrilled. Honey Florence and Joe have been wonderful. We have become very friendly and gonna stay that way. Oh yes, I must include Gloria here. She's been very sweet. On Friday when I got the real pains Sophie called her. She came right over. That day started out with a real snow and blizzard. She called the taxi phone, there wasn't even an answer. She went over to a policeman and told him why she needed a cab and he said I'll get you a cab or a police car, don't worry. He got us the cab and we got to the hospital safely and in time. They gave her my clothes to take home and she left her phone number to be called when the baby arrived. This was about 2:00PM and at 9:30pm our little one was here. The doctor called Gloria immediately and she passed on the news. On Sunday honey your mother came with Florence and brought some flowers. Sarah and Jack came again with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Ann came along with more good things. Also Phil, Frieda and Sophie with more. I sure had two very exciting visiting days.

⁶ **Note:** these letters were written while Ruth was at Mount Sinai Beth Israel hospital in lower Manhattan. The hospital was originally created to serve immigrant Jews living in tenement slums in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. For details see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Sinai_Beth_Israel

Sunday night Gloria came with another girl and that completed my Saturday and Sunday visiting time. Your wires arrived so you were here in part also.

Now honey, Florence no doubt wired you about the red cross not doing anything from this end first, so honey talk to your chaplain. The baby is to be circumcised Saturday, maybe he'll do something for you. If you can't manage it for the Briss, then try to get time for the Pidyon-Aben⁷, which comes due one month later. Papa, honey I know I don't have to tell you to do all you can because I am sure you will and good luck to you.

So long my dearest one. I'll keep hoping for you. With all our love to you darling, baby's and mine

Your very own,

Ruth

p.s. you can call me Thursday night ask information for the number dear. I don't know it.

Pps: The husband of the lady in the next room is mailing this letter for me. He's in uniform, that is why they let him in today.

So long dear

The hospital phone number is Algonquin 4-4700, check with information anyway.

February 15, 1944

Honey,

My sister Sarah brought me your letters #115, 116 today. Your mother was here today too. She and Sarah went to see the baby. They saw him through the glass of the nursery. He's getting sweeter every day. Your mom said he looks just like you did when you were a baby. I've been trying to determine who he looks like and couldn't, but your mother knows how you looked when you were small so that's it. Oh honey, I wanted to tell you, as I was going to the hospital the mail came and I received an announcement that Marilyn Leach had a baby boy born Feb 5th, his name is Ronald Jacob. I'm going to write her.

Honey our little one is quite an important fellow. We're making the arrangements for the Briss. My brother Moe printed cards. Ann's mother baked cookies. Sophie's mother is baking

⁷ Pidyon haben or redemption of the first-born (if male and not by Caesarean) is a mitzvah in Judaism whereby a Jewish firstborn son is "redeemed" by use of silver coins from his birth-state of sanctity, i.e. from being predestined by his firstborn status to serve as a priest.

honey cake. Sarah is making Mondel cake. Your mother is making strudel and I'll be buying the whiskey and of course will take care of whatever expense it will entail.

How are you honey. How are you making out with the furlough dear. I wish you have success. Honey if it will help you to have bought the bond, then of course I'm happy about it.

Now my darling I'm hoping that our baby's Daddy will be able to be present at one or both of his parties. It would be wonderful, so good luck dear.

I'll close now. You understand I'm writing these letters while lying in bed ... and a pencil is all I have so excuse how it looks dear.

Lots of love and good luck to you dear. Ruth.

APPENDIX 6: The Story of how Harry Diamond moved his family to Boston as recounted by Steve Diamond

Hello Ellis,

We've not talked about when or why Harry and Fanny moved to Boston, MA from Brooklyn, NY.

My father told me that in 1915 or 16 when he was 23 or 24 years of age Harry was walking down the street and as a pedestrian he was struck by a moving vehicle. I don't remember details of the extent of his injuries, but my father did tell me that Harry had to be out of work for almost two years. At this time Harry had a wife and young daughter (Charlotte) to support. It seems around this time period their son Lester was born and died).

Let me interject: My father told me that Harry's father Joseph had ongoing difficulties supporting his large family and once Harry turned 13 years of age his father took him out of school so he could work and contribute financially to his household. Hence, you may recall that Harry ran away shortly after turning 13 and found employment outside Chicago, Illinois and returned home to New York City one year later. For the next five years until Harry got married he had to continue giving money to his father to help support their large family.

Returning to 1915-16: Harry had no means of making a living (he had been working primarily as a fruit peddler although he took on many various sales related jobs) and sadly his father Joseph was unable (or unwilling) to lend support to Harry and Fanny at this critical point in their lives. It was at this time that Harry's father-in-law in Fall River, MA David Bassin reached out to Harry and Fanny in New York and invited the young couple and their daughter to move up to Fall River and live with them until Harry can get

back on his feet. So that is when Harry and Fanny moved up to the Boston area and Harry NEVER moved back to New York City again.

My father told me that around this time Harry became very close to his father-in-law David Bassin and they remained very close until the elder man's passing in 1921. Harry told my father that when his father-in-law died he mourned deeply feeling he had lost his closest friend. I should add here, that while living with his father Joseph Diamond, Harry never had any interest or inclination to practice the orthodox Judaism of his father. However, my father told me that for a time Harry actually began practicing orthodox Judaism under the influence of his father-in-law who was known to be a learned teacher of Talmud. I need to mention that it was while Harry and Fanny were living with or next door to David Bassin and his wife Lena that their second daughter Rose was born in 1916. My father told me it was Harry's father and mother-in-law that helped care for the child during her struggle with dysentery and it was Harry's in-laws who emotionally and financially supported Harry and Fanny when Rose succumbed to her illnesses at about one year of age. The Bassin's had Rose Diamond interred in the Anshe Dowig Jewish cemetery in West Roxbury, MA where the Bassin's owned many plots.

As time went on during Essie's childhood and years later my father's as well Harry and Fanny travelled south to visit family in Brooklyn, NY at least once a year. For special family occasions I was told that some of Harry's brothers and sisters would travel to Boston to be with Harry's family. I'm not aware of Joseph Diamond and Celia ever making a trip to Boston prior to first Joseph leaving for Palestine in 1931 and later Celia in 1933.

I clearly remember my father telling me that from the time Joseph Diamond moved to Palestine until his death in April 1955, every year Moe Diamond would initiate the taking up of a collection for their father. Moe would approach all his siblings encouraging each to contribute what they could financially and/or in clothing. The only one of the siblings that refused to contribute anything to his father in Palestine was Harry. My father told me that Moe was accepting of Harry's annual refusal to contribute. However Moe, being practising orthodox he told Harry that because he was every year refusing to give charity to his father he would need every year to perform a ritual that consisted of remaining seated on a stool (possibly barefoot but not sure about that part) for a specified amount of time. Apparently this would make amends for Harry's refusal to contribute charity to his father. My father told me that his father once said something to the effect that he'd sit on the damned stool for a week before he'd send any money to his father in Palestine.

So there you have it Cousin Ellis. This is the when and why of Harry and Fanny leaving New York for Boston and what followed as I remember being told by my father.

Sincerely, Steve

