



2011

## Big House Scrapbook

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The Big House  
33 Ticonic Street

## **The Big House/Temple/Store/Camp -- Stories about The Siblings Together**

### **WENDY MILLER ON THE LEVINE WOMEN AND THE ATTIC:**

**My inner knowings about the women in our family – nana Frieda, aunts Ann, Betty, Evelyn and Bibby – came through dress up, play and collection. I loved to play in the attic on Ticonic Street. As a matter of fact, for my Masters thesis art project at SFSU I wrote a ritual performance for four women’s voices about my nana’s attic and its relationship to memory, connection and family history. Even though we lived on Johnson Heights, we were always at the Big House for something. And whenever mom and dad went on buying trips for Levine’s with uncle Ludy and uncle Pacy, my sisters and I moved to Ticonic St. to be with nana. I had a second set of friends in that neighborhood.**

**But my greatest joy was going up the back set of steps, and then up the second set of back steps to the attic (never in the summer though because it was like an oven then!). There I would sit, alone, with my sister or cousins Marjy or Peter, on the edge of the top step and open the deep deep drawers which were filled - old jewelry boxes, costume jewelry, my first introduction to Bakelite pins and bracelets, scarves, purses, hats and hat pins, monogrammed handkerchiefs, gloves, fur stoles, and fancy high heeled shoes. There was such elegance up there in the dust! And being clothiers, these women stored their things well. I would come downstairs, sometimes dressed up, sometimes just carrying my chosen treasures, and nana would tell me: “Oh, that pin belonged to Evelyn. She bought it at Bonwit Teller when she went to .....” or “That was Ann’s suit, the one she wore to ....” Looking back, I seemed to have loved aunt Evelyn’s taste the most or maybe it was that more of her things were stored there than those of her sisters. To this day, many of my pins, hat pins, and old bracelets come from there. Aunt Glenyce or Sara Lee always recognize them right away, and it makes me feel great!**

There was an elegance in our family that for me seemed to have translated into a respect for oneself, a pride in how you present yourself to the world. I know that nana and aunt Bibby dressed very well, with hair done, nails manicured, jewels on, all the way up to their dying days. Perhaps the same is true of aunt Ann, aunt Betty, and aunt Evelyn. It leaves me with a sense of awe and belief that nana was right when she told all of us in her 'Ayah' Maine accent – "You are from the finest Jewish family in the state of Maine."

#### **SUSAN ALFOND ON THE BIG HOUSE:**

Of course the center of the Levine story is the 'big house.' Aunts Frieda and Evelyn and Uncles Ludy and Pacy spent their adult lives there. Uncle Howard and Aunt Gisele lived there with their family for some time as well. The 'big house' was the center of the family and my mother Bibby lived there until she was 28. My mother loved visiting the 'big house.' Even after she was married and had a family of her own, my mother would go almost daily to visit her brothers and sisters. She adored her siblings and in turn they worshipped their baby sister. "My Bibby" they used to say when she entered the home. Bibby was spoiled and indulged as the 'late in life' baby and being her daughter, I was spoiled too. I was so shy on those visits and would want to hide behind my mother's legs but soon, they would pry me away. They would pinch my cheek and stroke my head and say repeatedly, "We love you. We love you." With all the attention and the candy they offered, I came to love going to the 'big house' too! Many of my early memories center around moments in the house:

Aunt Frieda attended to the business of the house. It seemed that my Mother and I were there each week when someone would ring the bell to come and pay their rent. If tenants didn't pay, Frieda would go out in her housecoat and yell to them that they had to pay in full by next week.

#### **SUSAN ALFOND ON COUSINS:**

Because I went to boarding school at the age of ten, I didn't have friends in the Waterville area. Lucky me, I spent most of my time with my dear cousin, Sara and later, Wendy and Julie. After they moved to Johnson Heights in Waterville, I would spend many

weekends playing with Sara, Wendy and Julie. During the winter, I would go to their house on a Saturday night. On Sunday, my brother Teddy, Sara and I would go to the movies. The popcorn was only ten cents! Our parents would give us strict instructions: "Don't talk to anybody; Don't look at anybody; Hold hands; We will pick you up at the front door; Come right out and we'll be there." I had so much fun! If I had been home, my father would be having me do – who knows – cartwheels! I was happy to go to the movies. We wore camel hair coats with brown velvet collars and bonnets. Teddy had a European boy's hat. Going to the movies at that time was a big event. I loved spending the weekend with Uncle Howard and Aunt Gisele. They slept late in the morning, giggled and laughed. We had so much fun.

#### **SUSAN ALFOND ON THE TEMPLE:**

Every Jewish holiday, we went to the old temple. The women sat upstairs and the men downstairs. For the women, the service became a social gathering. They would arrive in their new fall clothes and talk during the service. Eventually the rabbi would say "shh" because the women were so loud. We kids would run around the temple and would get cinnamon rosebud cookies from Aunt Lillian. (Lillian wasn't a relative but was an 'aunt' to all the kids.)

#### **SUSAN ALFOND ON THE "LEVINE SISTERS - FASHION AND SHOPPING!"**

My mother dressed up everyday: skirt, heels, stockings, pocketbooks, hats, lipstick, nails, and hair. I loved to watch her get dressed and she would ask me what I liked and didn't. She was quite vain and very proud; she never let you know if anything was going wrong. I think that's a Levine trait. She always went to the dressmaker twice a week to either take clothes in or out. I swore when I got older that if I lost or gained weight, I would throw my clothes out! I disliked the long trips to the tailor. My mother used to go with my father to New York for the shoe show and it

seemed like it took her a month to pack. She brought an extra trunk with her for the clothes that she bought while in NY.

The Levine sisters were shoppers! They all had to have the same clothes or items. When we visited Aunt Ann in Newton and Aunt Betty in Brookline, we talked about jewelry and antiques. For example, they all had the same doll collection. If one of them purchased something new then they would all have to run out and get the same item. They knew all the wholesale and bargain places and I remember going to Filene's basement, Loehman's and Jordan Marsh.

#### **MORTY BLOOM ON FRIEDA, LUDY, PACY AND EVELYN (AS TOLD TO ERIC BLOOM):**

When Morty and Sara Lee got engaged in 1954, Sara Lee wanted to give Morty "The Grand Tour" of Waterville to see the camp, store, Ticonic St, family, etc...At this point, he had already met Frieda and Evelyn in Brookline, Ma. (that's another story). I don't think he had met Ludy, Pacy, Bibby, Howard, or Gisele. He remembers the first thing Aunt Frieda had said to him was to "feel as if this was your own home and feel free to take any thing you want out of the frig." "They were such warm people". After they were married, Morty and Sara Lee went on a three week July honeymoon. That summer in August they went to Maine and I think that began our August summers in Maine as a family (Kaplan, Cushner & Bloom). Morty was part of the Levine family and he had such affection for all of them. Eric's Insight: I think once you married into the family, you were part of the family; that does not occur in all families. The Levine's had a lot of respect for people!

#### **SARA LEE BLOOM ON AUNT FRIEDA, EVELYN, LUDY, PACY AND BIBBY (AS TOLD TO ERIC BLOOM):**

Sara Lee spent alot of time in Waterville because she went there on all her school vacations. Her Dad Eddie would put her on a parlor car at North Station in Boston, tip the porter to watch his baby until she arrived in Waterville. Glenyce would meet her at the station

and when she was older someone from the store would pick her up and take her to the big house. She would help Aunt Frieda collect rents, get dynamite sandwiches (at the bar room across from the house) with Evelyn, wrap gifts at the store during the holiday season and spend time with Grandpa, the boys, Bibby, Glenyce, Gisele, & Howard. She felt close to all of them because they all made her feel so special. She would also spend time with the extended family like Aunt Frieda Libby & Uncle Mike Levine, Aunt Leah Rosenthal, cousins Merton, Irene, & Donna Levine, cousins Sherman and Audrey Sapersein, cousin Arlene Rosenthal and be with Lillian Brisk. Did she have a good time!

***ERIC BLOOM AND MOM SARA LEE BLOOM ABOUT NANA BETTY AND WATERVILLE:***

*Whenever nana was planning a trip to Waterville, she would tell us: "I'm going home." Papa would reply: Betty, I have taken care of you all these years. This is your home(..meaning Winchester St..)" She had such a connection to her Waterville roots.*

**ERIC BLOOM ON SUNDAY DINNERS AT CAMP:** Sunday Dinners were a ritual. My Mom and Auntie, along with Nana, always prepared a large hot dinner, even when it was 95 degrees out and everybody was SHVITZING! Uncle Ludy, always the gentleman kept his tie on in that heat. Remember at one time , we had no air conditioning? Aunt Frieda, sometimes, would bring her baked beans and Aunt Gisele would bring dessert like her creme carmel. We could have upwards between 30 or more people which consisted between family and friends. Mom & Auntie would try to make something that Grandma Levine might have made like brisket, potted chicken or turkey, etc. The best part of the dinner, in my opinion, was when one of the siblings, Ann, Frieda, Ludy, Betty, or Pacy would say the famous line: " just like mama's". Then the reminiscing would begin. It was a whole lot of fun having all those relatives at camp.

## **A STORY ABOUT TATI (SARAH'S FATHER) (AS TOLD TO ERIC BLOOM BY HIS NANA BETTY):**

Tata is the word for father in yiddish, but in the Levine Family they used their own endearing version of Tati. The Levine children called their step-grandmother bubbe (Jewish term for grandmother). Tati would come to the house/store at the corner of Maple & Ticonic St and later to "THE BIG HOUSE", quite often, unannounced. In those days nobody locked their doors. To make his presence known, he would bang his walking stick on the floor to get attention. Tati was not an easy man; he had a strong and demanding personality, but that did not matter to Grandma Levine because that was her Tati. She would take care of him like cutting his toe nails. (See Glenyce's story under genealogy). He had a slight jealousy for Grandma & Grandpa Levine because of their successes in business. In his will, he left Grandma Levine \$1.00.....When Uncle Johnny (DUTCHY LEVINE), his son, married Aunt Florence (who was not Jewish), he sat shiva (mourned him). They never spoke again; that's how things were in those days with people of that generation..... The Levine's are, really, seven generations in this country if you count TATI.

Let's use Aunt Frieda's Family as the Example:Tati..Sarah..Frieda..Howard..Sara..(Jeremy/Ben/Joslyn)..(Bianca/Adam).

## **ERIC BLOOM ON LEVINE CAMP TRIVIA FACT:**

Grandpa Levine bought the "LEVINE CAMP" from a Dr. Winchester. Winchester Street in Brookline, Massachusetts was named after Dr. Winchester; this was a coincidence. As you know, Winchester Street is where my Nana, Betty & Papa Eddie Kaplan, lived their entire married life.



## **SARA LEE BLOOM & TEMA CUSHNER ON COUSINS LOUIS & CELIA SHIRO (AS TOLD TO ERIC BLOOM):**

**Louis Shiro was Grandma's 1st cousin (Tati's nephew, his sister Bessie's son). He had a wondefful personality; He and Aunt Celia, we called her Aunt Celia even though she was a cousin by marriage, were close to Grandma & Grandpa's family. Did he have a good sense of humor? He, always, would use the expression: "Was I born with teeth" because he had no teeth. He fished in front of his camp with just a line and no fancy fishing rods. Remember the fishing hole in front of the Shiro camp? Aunt Celia was a great cook & baker. Her cheesecake was, as they say, "out of this world." They called her "MA SHIRO." They owned The Jefferson Restaurant & Hotel. Everybody called it: "THE JEFF." In later years "The JEFF" was remodeled and cousin Louis & Aunt Celia had an apartment upstairs over the restaurant. (for family history, see Peter Beckerman in Geneological information or Shiro history.)**

## **ERIC BLOOM ON ANIMALS:**

**The Levine Family was great lovers of animals. One day when the siblings were young, they were looking for their pet cat. In the kitchen, where the current stove is located, was a wood burning stove. It seems that the cat got into the stove without anyone knowing. At some point, Grandma Levine discovered that the cat had been cooked!!**

## **MARJORY KAPLAN: Being Childless in the Levine Family**

**Obviously there are enough people with children to insure that the family continues. But what about those of us without children? Who speaks for us? What is our place in this family?**

**There are many of us without our own children. From the elder generation: Uncles Ludy and Pacy, and Aunt Evelyn. Harold Wolfe from my mother's generation. From my generation: me, Larry and Eric Bloom, Bobby Schutzer. I won't go down a generation because those in that generation are still young enough to have their own families. But when you look at this, one factor becomes clear—the majority of us are male. I guess this should have been obvious to me. After all, women are the ones to get pregnant and bear the children. But some of us don't.**

**I don't think anyone starts out wishing not to have their own family. I think this happens because of decisions we make—or don't make; relationships that happen—or don't happen. Timing. Circumstances. Health. Fear and doubt. Some or all of the above. We miss a lot, not having children. We miss the sense of having someone of your own. Sure, we can be great aunts and uncles—and I think people in our family are truly wonderful aunts and**

uncles. There are those in the family, specifically Ludy and Pacy, who played a critical part in keeping the structure of the family together. But we don't tuck the kids in at night. We don't go to parent-teacher conferences. We don't have to drive one kid to basketball practice while simultaneously going to another's softball game. We don't balance the multiple responsibilities of working, parenting and trying to fit in and grow an adult relationship.

Which brings me to the elder generation and the idea that, as Hilary says, it takes a village to raise a child. When Frieda got divorced, Ludy and Pacy stepped into the role of father for Glenyce and Howard. So in a sense, they got to have the day to day experience of having children. They also had the store, and with great generosity of heart, served as temporary fathers to generations of Colby boys. But sometimes I wonder: Did they ever, as they went to sleep beside each other in those single beds, wish things had been different? We'd like to think not—but I don't know. We're so committed to seeing them as the founding fathers, the stalwarts of the family that I wonder if we ever acknowledged that there might have been some regrets, some pain at not having had their own.

We know Aunt Evelyn wished she had her own family. They used to tell us that Evelyn should never have married, she loved her family too much. I wonder if that was true. I wonder if she and Nana Frieda sat down on the beds in the pink room and talked about how divorce sucked, and how Evelyn would have been a wonderful mother and deserved her own family. Evelyn didn't have the resources that Ludy and Pacy did—socially or financially. Did they ever complain that it wasn't fair? Or did they focus on the day to day tasks of coping with multiple generations living under one roof? Who was going to go grocery shopping and who would be home for Glenyce and Howard when they came home from school? Who would take William Levine to the doctor? I think they had so much to deal with running the house and caring for the extended family that the types of questions I've asked myself and that I'd like to have asked them may never have reached consciousness. These questions have to do with pain,

deprivation, and feeling less than. In our family, these issues weren't talked about. If they were touched on, it was briefly, lightly and then get back to the business of living. Ludy, Pacy and Evelyn coped brilliantly with their somewhat unusual lives. And they did this by creating crucial, ongoing, thriving and important relationships with their sibs, parents, and extended family. But this was not without (what I imagine) pain and loss of their personal dreams. So I want to acknowledge their pain

**and disappointment as well as their contributions to the greater good of the family. In the end, they were loved, respected and remembered as valued family members.**

#### **WENDY RESPONDS TO MARJY:**

**SARA RESPONDS TO MARJY: I just read your poignant story. You really hit the nail on the head, didn't you? Your questions are very personal and you should ask Bob Shutzer when you see him. As for Ludy, Pacy & Evelyn---they were so lucky living in the extended family they did because they did have the day to day life with kids--first Bibby, Glenyce & Howard and then with Wendy Julie & I since we too lived with them. They yelled at us just like grandparents would and should--they gave their opinions freely and set some tough rules when we were young and lesser as we aged. They always said that Howard was like a son to them, and I think because they felt that way, they were fulfilled. Evelyn, not so much---she pleaded with my parents to let her adopt Wendy!**

**I think that we all learned the aunt and uncle lessons from them. L & P could not have been fairer and more loving uncles to the myriad of children they considered their own--remember the annual savings bonds and later the dividend checks?**

**AUNT GLEN AS TOLD TO WENDY: Sam Barron and Grandpa were cousins (she doesn't know how but we know it is somehow through grandpa's wife Ada Barron). Morris was Edith Barron's father (he died before Glenyce was in WTVL); Sarah Barron was her mother. Harry and Phillip were Edith and Theresa's brothers. Sam Barron had three sons with his first marriage, Eddie, Leo and Harold. Then in his second marriage to Frances, he had a daughter**

**Ruthie Barron who later married and divorced Peter Lunder's cousin Jerry Lunder. She doesn't know if Morris or Sam were Ada Barron's siblings or nephews. She went on to tell me that Sarah Barron rented a store from us on Ticonic St., the corner of Maple and Ticonic which was where Sarah Levine's first store, just called Levine's was. Sarah Barron lived upstairs. Glenyce, Bibby and Howard would call Sarah Barron on the telephone to ask for cigarettes, Old Gold, of course, and then they would send Skipper (remember, the dog) over to get the cigarettes. Sarah Barron would put them in a brown bag and put it in Skipper's mouth and Skipper would bring it home to them, ever so far to the big house, a mere two doors away! This house where the Barron's store was was the house that all the Levine kids except Bibby were born in. it cost \$5000 to build 33 Ticonic St. When William Levine first moved the store, to Temple Street (before going to Main St), Sarah was busy with her children so she didn't take her store there.**



# A homecoming

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*By* **LARRY GRARD**

*Staff Writer* 06/26/2009

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**BACK IN THE DAY:** Howard Miller, left, Ludy Levine, Levine brother-in-law George Wolff and Pacy Levine in this 1940s photo at Levines store in Waterville.

**WATERVILLE —** It's been 13 years since Levine's closed, leaving a hole in the heart of the downtown. The North End's Levine family homestead is in the family no more, having been sold. And the family itself moved away. When Dorothy "Bibby" (Levine) Alfond died on the final day of 2005, none of William and Sarah Levine's nine children remained.

The Levine's sign is still on the family's former store downtown, but the clothier known as "the store for men and boys," and run for decades by sons Ludy and Pacy Levine and their nephew, Howard Miller, is dark and empty. The memories, however, are bright and full for Miller's three daughters, and likely so for many



of the other descendants of William and Sarah Levine. One hundred of them, for years scattered across many states, will gather in Waterville and in Sidney for a big reunion on the Fourth of July weekend. The family helped grow Waterville.

Waterville lawyer Paul Mitchell said he had patronized Levine's since he was a boy, in the early 1940s.

"The loss of Levine's was a big, big loss to the downtown," Mitchell recalled. "There were four stores that dominated the downtown — Levine's, Sterns, Dunham's and Butler's. They were the magnet."

Winslow resident Leonel Libby remembers Levine's from the inside, as an employee. He was a salesman there from the time he was a junior in high school, in 1953, until the store closed. There is nothing to replace the store or the kind of service it provided, he said.

"You can't go into a store today and get waited on," he noted.

"I was the best seller and I made the best commission," he recalled. "I was nice to everybody who I sold to. I even made deliveries.

"I did everything. I cleaned the storefront windows and put in the new displays, I painted and I handled the upstairs apartments. In the end I took care of the store. I had the key and everything."

Now, the Levine family is embarking on a new enterprise — one intended to reflect how the family's history became so entwined with that of their city. Cinematographer Francois Choquet, described as an extended-family member, will have three cameras and a sound crew here to film the reunion activities for a documentary.

"This is the beginning of something that my sisters and I are working on, and that's 'The Levines of Maine,'" said Sara (Miller) Arnon, daughter of the late Howard Miller.

"It's multi-layered," she said of the film project. "We want to preserve this for future generations." She and sisters Wendy

Cohen of Kensington, Md., and Julie Soros of Soquel, Calif., will try to pack into the documentary all the memories that they can.

“The filming’s the easy thing,” said Arnon, now living in New Rochelle, N.Y. “The editing will take much more time. It’s the kind of thing the public channels might be interested in. We would like to do something that the general public is able to see.”

The sisters have organized the mammoth reunion, which begins with Sabbath services and a reception at Beth Israel Congregation, in Waterville, at 7 p.m. July 3. Between 80 and 100 family members could attend the service, organizers say.

On July 4 and on July 5, they will gather at the family summer camp in Sidney, and then meet at Miller’s old home on Johnson Heights, on July 6.

The Levine uncles and cousins are well-versed in family history, Arnon said, but fifth- and sixth-generation family members might be unfamiliar with the Levine story.

“We have on paper how all of us are related to William and Sarah Levine, at the synagogue,” Cohen said. “I even feel like crying when I’m working on it. Friday night’s service is just going to be amazing.”

Arnon, a 1963 graduate of the former Coburn Classical Institute, joked that it seemed to her like she was one of four children.

“Howard Miller had three daughters and a men’s clothing store,” she said.

In the past, when relatives came to town from other towns in Maine or from Boston, they would convene at Levine’s, in the shoe department. Arnon and her sisters drew lots of attention, she said, when the store was in its hey-day.

“It was a little annoying to never be anonymous,” Arnon said. “But when you move away, you realize how wonderful it was and how secure our lives were growing up there. We were safe anywhere.”

Arnon recalled a weekend at home, when she was a college freshman. She was with friends at a Waterville night spot, frequented by Colby students. Arnon was not of drinking age.

“Someone came in and they were raiding it, and a state representative saw me and they walked right out,” she said. “He canceled the raid because he didn’t want me to be in trouble.”

Arnon said that she and her sisters faced “the daunting task” of organizing family material in their parents’ home, following the closing of the store and the sale of their Ticonic Street home.

She expressed pride in the women of her family, including her mother, Gisele Baroukel Miller, and grandmother, Frieda Levine Miller.

“She divorced at a time when there was no support for single women,” the sisters wrote of Frieda. “She moved back to Waterville from Boston, bringing her two young children home to her family.”

She worked, when many women did not. She became a women’s clothing buyer for Levine’s, but when her Sarah Levine died in 1934, she found that she had a household to care for — her father, two bachelor brothers, her two children and her young sister, Bibby.

In her “spare time,” Frieda Miller bought more real estate, and most of her tenants lived nearby in the North End. She walked the neighborhood visiting tenants and collecting rents,” the sisters wrote in a short history of their family. “As the years went by she came to realize that she had a great many single mothers living in her apartments, and she became a bit of an unofficial social worker as she helped them and their children.”

When Frieda Miller began running the household, however, she had to stop purchasing women’s clothes for the store. From then on, except for a brief time in its last decade, Levine’s was “the store for men and boys.” Larry Grard - 861-9239  
[lgrard@centralmaine.com](mailto:lgrard@centralmaine.com)

**ERIC BLOOM'S RESPONSE TO THE SENTINEL ARTICLE: [Central Maine news from Kennebec and Somerset counties | Morning Sentinel of Waterville, Maine 04901](#)**

**Great Job!!!!!! Can't wait for the reunion!!!!.....Wish our descendants could see this! God would Uncle Ludy get a kick out of this!... He would be making photo copies left and right!.. Course Not!...Sure Would!..... Christ Sakes!.... We're a hell of a family!....Best Family in the State of Maine.**

**AUNT GLEN AS TOLD TO WENDY: Sam Barron and Grandpa were cousins (she doesn't know how but we know it is somehow through grandpa's wife Ada Barron). Morris was Edith Barron's father (he died before Glenyce was in WTVL); Sarah Barron was her mother. Harry and Phillip were Edith and Theresa's brothers. Sam Barron had three sons with his first marriage, Eddie, Leo and Harold. Then in his second marriage to Frances, he had a daughter Ruthie Barron who later married and divorced Peter Lunder's cousin Jerry Lunder. She doesn't know if Morris or Sam were Ada Barron's siblings or nephews. She went on to tell me that Sarah Barron rented a store from us on Ticonic St., the corner of Maple and Ticonic which was where Sarah Levine's first store, just called Levine's was. Sarah Barron lived upstairs. Glenyce, Bibby and Howard would call Sarah Barron on the telephone to ask for cigarettes, Old Gold, of course, and then they would send Skipper (remember, the dog) over to get the cigarettes. Sarah Barron would put them in a brown bag and put it in Skipper's mouth and Skipper would bring it home to them, ever so far to the big house, a mere two doors away! This house where the Barron's store was was the house that all the Levine kids except Bibby were born in. it cost \$5000 to build 33 Ticonic St. When William Levine first moved the store, to Temple Street (before going to Main St), Sarah was busy with her children so she didn't take her store there.**

SOME                      WOLMAN/ROSENTHAL/SAPERSTEIN                      HISTORY/  
CONNECTIONS

**AUDREY SAPERSTEIN:** We were visiting Sherman and Linda in AZ a few weeks ago, and Sherman showed me the announcement of your family reunion planned for this summer. Thank you for mentioning me. I really appreciate it. I would love to attend, but that weekend is when my family will be coming to RI to spend the week at the beach.

I thought I would mention to you that I have a few photos and the copy of a document that might be of interest to you, and if you would like me to, I could photocopy them and send them to you. They are as follow:

- a copy of the manifest of the ship on which William's sister, Leah, my grandmother, traveled to get to this country and eventually Waterville. She had with her her daughters Ida(Wolman), Rose (Saperstein), and her son Lewis Rosenthal. Also listed as a daughter was her sister Freida Libby. Also on that ship was her brother, Kalman, although his last name is listed as Lerner, but practically everything is misspelled.
- A photo William's father
- A photo of Willam's mother.
- A photo of William and Leah's sister and her family, who chose not to leave, and were never heard from and could not be located after WWII.
- A photo of the Rosenthals circa 1912??

**ERIC BLOOM:** Sumner Fanger is Julius (Tati's) Great nephew. Sumner's mother, Ada Wolman Fanger, was his niece. Ada Wolman Fanger's mother was Annie(Hanki) Levine Wolman Cook. As you know, Julius & Annie were brother and sister. Don't confuse Sumner Poorvu and Ada Poorvu Guterman( Sister & Brother....Children of Harris Poorvu & Annie Shein Poorvu.....Step Grandchildren of Julius(Tati))..... with Sumner Fanger & Ada Wolman Fanger (Grandson & Daughter of Samuel Wolman & Annie(Hanki) Levine Wolman Cook).

Harold Wolman lived in Lenny & Tema's apartment, 70 Winchester St. in Brookline for 2-years, when Lenny (with Tema) was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia.

**WENDY MILLER:**

Here it is in a nutshell:

- The Wolmans are on William's side and married into Sarah's side. Three Wolman brothers married three Levine sisters: Louis Lezemalch Wolman married Mary Gella Levine; Samuel Wolman married Annie

Henki Levine (who later married her second husband, James Cook); and Aaron Levine's grandfather Samuel Levine (Tati's brother) married Bessie Wolman so actually there were three sibling marriages between the Wolmans and the Levines.

- The Shiros are on Sarah's side as Israel Louis Shiro married Bessie Levine, their son Louis Shiro married Celia and is Marcia Beckermans' mother.

- The Louis Lester Levines (Judy Brody, etc.) are on Sarah's's side, through Tati's second marriage – half siblings

- Aaron Levine and Melvin Lane's families are on both sides because Freyda Liba (William's side) married Mike Meyer Levine (on Sarah's side) -Freyda Libby brought over Mike's nephews but not his niece, Aaron's sister Jenny. Aaron Levine's grandfather Samuel Levine is Tati's brother, and he also married a Wolman: he married Bessie Wolman so actually there were three sibling marriages between the Wolmans and the Levines. As well, their son Mike Meyer Levine married onto William's side by marrying Freda Libby, Wm's sister

**Clarification on a few cousin's names and relationships (questions from the Blooms to the Millers, clarified through Miller girls talking with Myrt and Gordon)**

- 1) Dr. Wolman the dentist (Aunt Bibby bought his house) Benjamin Wolmon, son of Arl and Bessie Liefer. His father and Gordon's father were brothers (Lezemelach and Arl, called him Jimmy). They lived at 38 Burleigh Street. They had the paper store where Larsen's is. They lived in Palmyra.

- 2) Pop & Sarah Wolman - Sam, Gordon's dad's youngest brother and his wife. He died when he was 60 of stomach cancer. She just died. He was living in Calais Maine in the scrap business. He was working with Gordon's dad until Gordon returned from the service; then he stated his own scrap and steep business.

- 3) Chic Wolman (owned the tobacco store where Michaud's Jewelry Store is located on Main St In Waterville). His name is Charles and he is Arl's son.

- 4) Sybil Wolman Smith who grew up in Waterville, but as an adult lived in Brookline, Ma. Her father Meyer was Lewis Wolmon's (Gordon's father's) brother. Gordon's dad put his niece Sybil, Florence Wolf and Pop Wolmon through Colby.

- 5) Rose Frucht (Husband: Dr. Simon Frucht lived in Brooklyn, New York and were friendly with Aunt Ann & Uncle George Wolff: Rose Wolmon Frucht was Arl's daughter. She was his second child, the first one was

deceased, then three more were deceased, then they had Ben who built Bibby's house. He was the 6th child. The 7th child was Laura.

Eric and Sumner:

**ERIC BLOOM** : I was browsing through various records on family members on The Documenting Old Maine Jewry Web Site; so many of our relatives were born in Lithuania. Their birth records never stated the town or city. We said Vilna as the city; but we know it was some town outside of Vilna. The said town(Shtetl) is Divinishuk(Dieveniskes). Uncle Ludy had said the name of the town, on a tape that cousin Peter Beckerman had recorded, but I could not understand what Uncle Ludy had said. I discovered the name when looking at the Cousin Lewis Rosenthal's birth and death records.

S: Eric is 100% correct. The apparent home shtetle for Levine and Wolman does appear to be Dieveniskis or Dievenishock. But they did travel, on foot or otherwise, to other shtetles. Abraham Levine, went to Eishock or Eishiskis where he married Reize Dubitzky. Not a far trip, perhaps 30 miles. They lived there a few years and eventually moved to Shantzy. They had 4 known children, sons, Nathan who lived in Waterville with Mike (Myer) and Freda Liba for some years, for some years, went to Colby at least one year, was called kuka by Ludy, and worked the trains from Boston to Maine during the depression, selling candy and sandwiches;;Leo was a pharmacist in Boston, Waltham, and later Onset, his store in Waltham burned down, and A.P.Levin loaned him the money to open in Onset, he had a son and daughter, son David is a Pathologist in Ct, and did spend some time in Waterville as a visitor; The daughter is named for her grandmother, Reize Another of the 4 sons, was Maximillion, he became a French citizen, survived WWII in hiding, was a chemist, worked for French perfume companies (Bob Rosenthal and Audry Saperstein met him there, and he visited Boston in 1951), and the 4th son who also became a French citizen and had married a non-jewish French lady, did not survive the war. Oh yes, Nathan and Leo changed their last name to Lowell, in the Suffolk Probate Court. And Maximillion shows up as Renee M. Leivin, in France, and was called "Max" by his American relatives (I cannot type in the French accent marks.

**INFORMATION TOLD TO ERIC BY MYRT WOLMAN:** Rosa Wolman Wolf was another child of Louis & Bessie(Bashie) Levine Wolman. She had a daughter by the name of Florence Wolf.

## SOME SHIRO HISTORY/CONNECTIONS

**PETER BECKERMAN:** I have now checked with my mother and Oren and Burt to confirm the following regarding the Shiro-Levine connection which is confirmed by both the Sumner Fanger and Eric Bloom:

Aharon Levine was the father of my great grandmother Bessie Levine as well as the father of her brother Julius Levine (and the father of several others including Abraham, and Samuel, Annie, and Mary (Gella)). [NOTE: pursuant to your inquiry, "Gella" was Mary and not Bessie] Betty Kaplan's real name was Bessie and she was named after my great-grandmother Bessie Levine Shiro.

Julius Levine's first wife was Fanny Trotsky and they had Sarah Levine, John Nathan "Dutch" Levine, and Abraham Levin (my notes seem to show "Levin" and not Levine) (Julius' second wife was Rachel Schein and they had Lewis Lester Levine and Eva).

My great-grandmother Bessie Levine married Israel Shiro in Russia and they had my grandfather Louis Shiro (they also had Fanny Shiro (as far as I've learned, her only name was "Fanny") who married Beryl Kline and they lived in Waterville for some time before moving to Dorchester; and they also had another son but no one seems to know his name and my mother seems to think he left Russia for Africa, but Oren thinks he was killed in Lithuania during a Russian pogrom).

My grandfather Louis Shiro (who came to this country from Russia when he was 12 years old Oren says) married Celia Shiro in Boston. Celia Shiro's parents were Flora and Hyman Wasser who had a furniture store on Cambridge Street in Cambridge.

My grandfather Louis Shiro was first cousin to Sarah Levine and second cousin to William Levine. My grandfather, Louis Shiro, who died in 1954 (he came to Boston originally from Russia/Poland when he was 12 years old, settling in Waterville about 1924), with his wife Celia founded the very famous Jefferson Hotel which became the largest restaurant in the State of Maine from the 1960s to 1975 when my Uncle Oren Shiro sold it. The family got into the restaurant business in 1931 and opened the restaurant at its permanent location on College Avenue in Waterville from 1943 to 1975.

My uncles Oren, Burt, and Teddy are probably the greatest three-brother athletes in the history of the State. Each was a star in all three of the big three sports both in high school and at Colby with Teddy, the youngest, being chosen as a full All-American in basketball for Colby (his number "10" is permanently retired along with his various scoring records) and played preseason with Bob Cousy and the Celtics; with Burt being chosen as a Little All-American in football for Colby; and with Oren lettering in four sports at Colby, including golf in which he was later State Amateur Champion (along with Waterville Country Club champion several times) and qualified for and played in the Senior National Amateur Championships nine times (Oren, the oldest, considers himself the best athlete of all of them (he, also, was All-State, All-Conference, All-East, etc.) -- and he could be right!). They have all been inducted into and honored by Colby and the various Maine Sports Halls of Fame.

**SARA LEE & TEMA ON COUSINS LOUIS & CELIA SHIRO AS TOLD TO ERIC:** Louis Shiro was Grandma's 1st cousin (Tati's nephew.... his sister Bessie's son). He had a wonderful personality; he and Aunt Celia, we called her Aunt Celia, even though she was a cousin by marriage, were close to Grandma & Grandpa's family. Did he have a good sense of humor. He, always, would use the expression: "Was I born with teeth" because he had no teeth. He fished in front of his camp with just a line and no fancy fishing rods. Remember the fishing hole in front of the Shiro camp? Aunt Celia was a great cook & baker. Her cheese cake was, as they say, "out of this world." She called her "MA SHIRO." They owned The Jefferson Restaurant & Hotel. Everybody called it: "THE JEFF." In later years, "The JEFF" was remodeled and cousin Louis & Aunt Celia had an apartment upstairs over the restaurant.



**ERIC BLOOM:** Bessie Levine Shiro (Louis Shiro was her son).... (Julius Levine was Bessie's brother.....Sarah Levine was his daughter) .... Julius & Bessie's father was Aharon.....William's father was Alexander Ziskin.....Aharon & Alexander were brothers.

Marcia Beckerman Shiro's grandmother, Bessie Levine Shiro, was another sister of Julius as well as was Gordon Wolman's grandmother, Mary (Gella) Levine Wolman.

\*\*\*\* A STORY ABOUT 33 TICONIC STREET(THE BIG HOUSE)..... AS TOLD TO ERIC BY NANA BETTY(\*\*\*\*\* THIS ENTRY AND ALL FORWARD ENTRIES WERE ADDED AFTER THE JULY 2009 REUNION\*\*\*\*\*) : Before 33 Ticonic Street was built, Grandma & Grandpa lived at 3 other locations in Waterville. When they first arrived in Waterville, they lived on Temple St. Then moved to Chaplin Street. I think they lived in the same house on Chaplin St where Tati lived, which was where Noyes Gas was once located; this house has since been ripped down. Then they moved to the middle part of Maple Street. Their next move was to the corner of Maple & Ticonic Streets; this was the first location of Levine's Store. Grandma gave birth to all her children in this house except Ann who was born in Dexter & Bibby who was born at 33 Ticonic Street. This last location must be the first piece of property they owned. When they had enough money saved to move from the first store/home, they were going to buy a house and move to another part of Waterville. They looked at a house on College Avenue( might be Fairfield) which looks like a mini gray brick castle. Currently, this house is a Funeral Home. The other house they were interested in, also, became a Funeral home; it is located at the intersection of Silver and Elm Streets across from The Unitarian Universalist Church. They decided not to purchase either homes because the "NORTH END" was their home. The extended family all lived in the North End, their business was started there and their real estate holdings, at this time, were all located in this area. The best place for them would be TICONIC STREET..... Uncle Ludy, the 4th oldest Child of William and Sarah Levine and the beloved brother of Ann, Teddy, Frieda, Betty, Evelyn, Pacy & Bibby, was the last Levine family member to live in "THE BIG HOUSE".

A STORY ABOUT THE LEVINE SIBLINGS AS TOLD TO ERIC BY NANA BETTY:.....When the siblings were little, they would all take turns cranking the ice cream machine. Each time someone's hand got tired another sibling would step in and crank.....Additionally, they all loved sweets; Nana and Aunt Frieda loved chocolates! I remember when we went to Aunt Bibby's house or camp, she, always, offered us cookies

MOUNT SINAI CEMETERY: When I received my license, I would drive Nana and Papa home, at the end of every summer, from Camp. We always stopped and had lunch and went to the cemetery. It was a ritual! One summer we stopped at Denny's and when we got back into the car the car did not start. Luckily, there was a gas station next door. We received a jump start and was told not to shut the motor off, but to drive straight through to Boston. Nana had to get to the cemetery, so we went, let the car run, looked at the Levine graves, jumped back into the car and never stopped until we got home. Nana, years ago, would take a train to Portland and the family would pick her up, they would have lunch, go to the cemetery, and she would take the train back home. The Levine siblings never missed going to the cemetery!



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