

FAMILY STORIES

In December 2010, my interest in our Ancestors' history was ignited after looking through some family photographs with my parents Emil Bruno and Leonore Daube Bruno. Around the same time, I watched the television episodes of the show "Who Do You Think You Are?"

Both of my parents had some family tree information and stories told to them by their parents that helped me begin my search. But were there any facts to support those stories?

THE BRUNO FAMILY:

STORY:

The Bruno family was from Civita, Cosenza, Calabria, Italy. Salvatore Bruno (b.1854) and wife Maria Cataldi (b.1856) had four children: Pasquale (b. 1878), Andrea (1881), Caterina (b.1886) & Angelo Maria (b.1888). Maria Cataldi died in Civita and then Salvatore and the children immigrated to New York in 1898.

Salvatore had remarried in New York. He worked as a Hod Carrier, carrying bricks up ladders, in the construction business.

FACTS:

Salvatore and Maria had six children, two died as infants. The two deceased children were Mariangela (1876-1881) and another Angelo Maria (1884-1885), Maria Cataldi was 32 years old when she died from childbirth complications in November 1888 six days after giving birth to her son Angelo Maria.

Salvatore Bruno, son Angelo Maria (age 3) and a Maddelana Bruno(?) immigrated in May 1891 to Manhattan, NY. Andrea (16) and Caterina (13) immigrated in May 1898. Pasquale (22) immigrated in 1901.

Salvatore married Teresa Cerreto in 1895 in Manhattan, NY. She was born in Cassano Al Ionio, a town nearby Civita in Italy. They did not have any children. Salvatore was indeed a Hod Carrier and Masons Helper as per the Federal Census records. Other relatives were Masons and Plasterers.

So if Salvatore was living in New York by 1891, then who was taking care of his three children still living in Civita? I believe that the grandmothers, Mariangela La Cattiva (1819-1894) and Caterina Gentile, (1826-1909), were the guardians of the children.

STORY:

Andrea Bruno (b.1881) was apprenticed as a Tailor in Italy, and he worked as a Tailor for ladies wear in the garment district of Manhattan, NY. His wife Rosa Aiello did piece work in a clothing factory in Manhattan. My original assumption was that Andrea Bruno & Rosa Aiello met while working in the clothing industry in Manhattan.

FACTS:

In 1900 the family of Salvatore Bruno was living in a tenement at 330 East 109th street in Manhattan, NY. Rosa Aiello's mother Maria Capaccio (widow of Vito Aiello) was living at 310 East 109th Street with her sons' family. Many of the families from Calabria were living on East 109th Street. Therefore, I believe the families probably knew each other from the neighborhood.

STORY:

Our first known ancestors from Civita, Cosenza, Italy were the parents of Salvatore Bruno: Andrea Bruno & Katharina Ciglia.

FACTS:

Salvatore's parents were actually, Pasquale Bruno & Mariangela La Cattiva from Civita.

Through Cosenza Civil Records I was able to discover the names of our earliest ancestors:

Andrea Scornavacca (b.about 1760) and Anna Marone (b. about 1765) from Civita.

Pietro Antonio La Cattiva (b.about 1789) and Domenica D'Angelo from Civita.

Francesco Bruno (b.1790) and Rosa Zuccaro (b.about 1795) from Civita.

Leonardo Cataldi (b. about 1790) and Lucrezia Scornavacca (b.1791) from Civita.

Domenico Gentile (b. about 1795) from Frascineto.

*The 1752 land registry records (**Catasto**) showed a Domenica Fazio (b.1702) the widow of a Francesco Bruno from Civita, living in the neighboring town of Porcile with her daughter Caterina (b.1732) and various nieces. Not sure how they are related, but it is the earliest documented record Bruno relatives in Civita.*

THE AIELLO FAMILY:

STORY:

The Aiello family was from Campagna, Salerno, Italy. Vito Aiello (b.1831) and Filomena Capaccio (b.1837) had four children: Raffaele, Tom (Gaetano), Francisco, and Rosa (b.1884). The parents and three children had emigrated from Campagna, Italy in 1888 to Manhattan, NY. Rosa was 4 years old when she emigrated. One son Raffaele stayed behind in Italy.

FACTS:

There were actually five children born to Vito and Filomena; Gaetano (b.1863), Raffaele (b.1864), Annunziata (b.1870), Antonio (b.1876) and Rosa (b.1882). A 1900 Manhattan, NY census record also stated that she had five children.

Vito Aiello and son Gaetano immigrated in 1887 to Castle Gardens, NY. Filomena immigrated in August 1888 under her maiden name, Capaccio, with children: Annunziata (18), Antonio (12) and Rosa (6).

Son Raffaele did indeed stay in Campagna. He and his wife had five children. All three of his daughters emigrated to New York, and married men from Campagna.

Rosa's copy of her birth record that was requested in 1903 stated her birthdate as September 19, 1882. Her immigration record shows her as being 6 years old. We believed that she was 95 ½ years old when she died, but she was actually 97 years old when she died.

STORY:

The Aiello family owned a Grocery store on Elizabeth St in Manhattan and lived above the store. Sons Tom (Gaetano) and Francisco Aiello owned a sports uniform shop.

FACTS:

The only record to confirm that the family had a Grocery was the 1900 census that showed that Filomena Capaccio was in the Grocery business.

It was Tom's son Frank (Francesco) who was a Tailor for a Sporting Goods Company he owned as per the 1920 census and in the 1925 New York City Directory. In the 1940 census he was a wholesaler of Sporting Goods at 201 E 107th St.

Some of Frank's family members and relatives worked for the company. His Uncle Antonio Aiello, was a Tailor for Sporting goods in 1903 & 1906 at 207 E 110th St. and a clothing Manufacturer in 1910. I believe that it was Antonio who first owned the sporting goods clothing company that his nephew Frank and brother Tom took over.

STORY:

Our earliest known ancestors were Gaetano Aiello & Rosina Unknown and Vincenza Capace & Ocela Unknown.

FACTS:

The grandparents of Vito Aiello were Alessio d' Ajello (b.1772) and Antonia d' Ajello (1765-1810) from Piano di Sorrento, Salerno, Italy; AND Antonino Fasano (b.1772) and Apollonia Santoro (b.1785) from Campagna.

The parents of Filomena Capaccio were Vincenzo Capaccio (1802) and Rosa Vigliani (1801-1856) from Campagna. Her grandparents were Vito Vigliani and Maria Gaetana Carnavale.

THE DAUBE FAMILY:

STORY:

Our first known Ancestors were Simon Daube (b.1670) & Anna Catharina Sauer (b.1672) from Frankenberg, Hesse-Waldeck, Germany.

FACTS:

From a document from the church records in Frankenberg obtained by William Daube, Johannes Daube was the father of Simon Daube, and Alexander Sauer was the father of Anna Catherina Sauer. Simon was from Marburg an der Lahn and probably moved to Frankenberg upon his marriage to Anna Catherina.

STORY:

A Daube family member from Frankenberg, Germany fought in the Hessian Army in America during the American Revolution.

FACTS:

There was a Philipp Daube (b.1858) from Frankenberg, Germany who arrived in North America at age 24 in 1783 as part of the "Hessian Troops in the American War for Independence". He was a Private in the DIT5 (von Dittfurth Regiment). There was an Unknown Daube (b.1756/57) who was 18 when he joined the DIT 3 Regiment in 1775 as a Fusilier. This information was from www.lagis-hessen.de.

THE SCHELTER FAMILY:

STORY:

Adam Shelter (b.1844) married Katherine Fice (b.1849). They had five children: Anna Marie (b.1869), Adam (1874), Peter (1876), Christina (1878), Christopher (1880) and John (1882). The family lived in Brooklyn, New York. The names of the parents of Adam and Katherine were not known.

FACTS:

Johann Schelter and Katrina Schelter were the parents of Christopher (1839), John (1842) & Adam (1844). Various marriage and death records of the sons showed the parents names as Johann Schelter and Kathrina Schelter. The 1860 & 1870 census records state that Katrina was from Bavaria. Schelter is a common Bavarian name.

There was another son named John Schelter (b.1833) that was also listed on the 1850 Federal Census record. On the 1870 census record he stated he was from Baden (Wurttemberg) Germany. Not sure if he was a son or stepson of Katrina Schelter.

I could not find any records of a Fice family in New York. It was the death record of Catherine Feis Shelter that showed her parents' names as Adam Feich and Mary. From this point I was able to determine that the family surname was Feis.

Adam Feis (b.1815) and Anna Mary Schaefer (b.1818) immigrated to New York from Oldenburg, Lower Saxony, Germany in 1853 with children: Jacob (1844), Franz (1845), Johanes (1846), Catherine (1849), Adam (1852) and Marianne (1852). Youngest son Peter was born in 1855 in New York.

STORY:

Adam Schelter (b.1844) was a Union soldier during the Civil War.

FACTS:

Adam Shelter was 19 years old and living in Brooklyn, NY when he enlisted as a private in the Union army for a term of 3 years on Aug 20, 1862. In November of 1862 his regiment was at Camp Viele, Norfolk, Virginia. He served in Company E, of the 158th Infantry of the 1st Regiment of the Empire Brigade of New York Volunteers. He was described as fair, brown hair, blue eyes, and 5'8" tall. He was a Rope maker.

In June of 1863 his muster record showed he was listed as a deserter. In Dec. 1864 he returned to duty and was sentenced to hard Labor at Norfolk Military Prison for the remainder of his term of enlistment. He mustered out of the service in June 1865. It is estimated that 1 in 7 soldiers deserted during the Civil War. The main reasons for desertion were lack of food, poor equipment, lack of military training and poor morale.

Adam applied for military pension benefits in Sept 1897, as per the Military act of June 1890. In 1906 he received an \$8.00 monthly pension for his service during the civil war. He was listed as being injured from the war.

THE HUTTER FAMILY:

STORY:

Leo (Leopold) Hutter was born in Blschofteinitz, Bohemia, Austria in 1843. Leo left home after an argument with his father who was angry with him for using some proceeds from the sale of cattle to buy a suit for his younger brother Simon (b.1846).

Before he left Bohemia, he had promised Simon that he would send money to him to bring him over to America if he did well. Simon promised Leo that he would send him money if he needed to return to Austria.

Leo immigrated to New York at age 16 and worked as a butcher on the lower east side of New York City.

He was married three times. He probably married his second wife Sarah Blum, our ancestor, in New York about 1900.

FACTS:

Leo Hutter was born in 1843 in Smrzowitz, Bohemia, Austria (now Smrzovice, Bohemia, Czech Republic).

He immigrated at the age of 24 in November 1867. As per an article on the History of the Bronx, he worked as a butcher's helper for \$1.00 per week. He later owned several butcher shops and employed some of his relatives.

Leo married his first wife Caroline Heilbrunn in 1869 in Manhattan, NY. He married second wife, Sarah Blum, at the Windsor Hotel in Bellaire, Ohio in October 1889. He married third wife, Johanna Barasch Leipziger in 1898 in Manhattan, NY.

Read more about Leopold Hutter in the PERSONS OF INTEREST SECTION.

STORY:

The names of Leo's parents were unknown. He had five siblings: Ignatz, Josef, Karoline, Simon, and Rosie. Leo brought over his brothers, one sister, and many nieces and nephews from Austria (now Czech Republic). He returned a few times to Austria to visit his parents.

FACTS:

Jakob Hutter (b.1799: Loucim) and Theresia (Ester) Beck (b.1805: Dobrikov) had eight children: Ignatz (1827), Josef (1834), daughter (1836), Karoline (1836), Elisabeth (1840), Leopold (1843), Rosie (1845) and Simon (1846). The family sold cattle at the Kdyne cattle fairs, which sold to merchants in Bavaria, Saxony & Wurttemberg, Germany.

The parents were not legally married according to the local civil laws. Many of the children of Jewish families were born out of wedlock since their parents could not afford the fees that were imposed to them to marry. Ex. One marriage (as per jewishgen.org) had to pay 300 guilders plus taxes to get married in 1848.

Leo helped his brother and sister immigrate: Simon in 1869 and Rosie in 1870. Siblings Josef, Ignatz & Karoline stayed in Bohemia. Josef's daughters Julia, Pauline and Mary immigrated between 1889 and 1902. Ignatz Hutter's children Simon, Jacob, Rosie, Mary, and Annie immigrated between 1879 and 1886.

Leo's Uncle, Josef Hutter, (b.1807:Loucim) and some of his family members had also immigrated between 1865 and 1900 to Manhattan, NY.

Unfortunately, all other family members who stayed in the Czech Republic were killed in the Nazi Concentration camps during World War II.

STORY:

The only known ancestors' from Bohemia were Leopold Hutter and his siblings as per a short history prepared by his daughter Stella Hutter Popper.

FACTS:

Through records found on www.badatelna.eu and www.portafontium.eu our earliest ancestors from Western Bohemia, Austria were:

Lobl Markus Hutter (b.Abt. 1725: Janovice) and Juditha Salomon (b. Abt. 1730: Loucim).

Mathias Mahrer (b.1718: Velhartice) and Barbara Ester. (b.Abt.1725: Velhartice).

Jakob Beck (b.Abt. 1730) and son Jacob Beck (b.Abt.1760) from Dobrikov.

Lazar Beck (b.Abt.1730: Dobrikov) and Sara Porges (b.Abt.1740).

THE BLUM FAMILIES:

STORY:

Sarah Blum (b.1858) was from Quatzenheim, Alsace, France. She had married Leopold Hutter who was living in Manhattan, NY. She and her three brothers Abraham (b.1843), Henry (b.1851), & Isaac (b.1856) had immigrated to the United States and had lived in Bellaire, Ohio.

Brothers Henry and Isaac owned a Dry Goods Store in Bellaire, OH. Leonore Daube Bruno remembered that the Bellaire Blum family sent clothing to their family, and at one time a prom dress for her to wear when she was in high school.

It was not known why the family left Quatzenheim or if their parents were buried in Bellaire, OH or Wheeling, WV. It was unknown why the family settled first in Wheeling, WV.

FACTS:

Moise Koschel Blum (b.1811:Quatzenheim), first married Julie (Jedel) Blum (b.1813: Westhoffen). They had two children before Julie died in 1847. About 1848 he entered into a common law marriage with Julie's younger sister Jeanette Blum (b.1823:Westhoffen). The couple had eight children: Raphael (1849), Hirsch (1851), Esther (1854), Isaac (1856), Sarah (1858), Jacques (1860), Gertrude (1862) and Maurice (1865).

Moise Blum died in 1864, leaving a pregnant wife and 5 children. His eldest son, Abraham, immigrated to New York in 1866 along his younger cousin, Goetz Blum. Sons Henry arrived in 1870 and Isaac arrived in 1871, and first settled in Wheeling, WV. Mother Jeanette and children Raphael, Sarah and Maurice (Moise) were also living in Wheeling, WV by the mid-1870's. The brothers owned the Blum Brother's Store in Bellaire, OH in the early 1900's.

Moise Blum's younger brother, Jacques Blum (b.1813) had become a widower in 1864 when his wife Eve Emsheimer died in Quatzenheim. It was his sister-in-law (Pauline Emsheimer) who was the first immigrant of the family. She arrived in New Orleans in 1849, and was living in Wheeling, WV by 1870. Jacques and his eight children had immigrated between 1866 and 1868.

STORY:

Ralph H. Blum, son of Rabbi Abraham Blum (b.1843: Quatzenheim) and Hannah Henriques Blum, was an entertainment lawyer who married Carmel Myers, a silent film actress from Hollywood, CA.

FACTS:

Ralph Henriques. Blum (b.1890) and Carmel Myers (b.1899) of San Francisco were married in 1929 in Los Angeles. He formed the Feldman-Blum Talent Agency.

Carmel Myers started her acting career in 1916, and went on to perform on stage in New York and in films in Hollywood from the 1920's through 1976. The couple and their three children lived in Hollywood, California.

Read more about Carmel Myers in the PERSONS OF INTEREST SECTION.

Read more about Rabbi Abraham Blum in the PERSONS OF INTEREST SECTION.

STORY:

Stella Blum Frank Fuchs, daughter of Henry Blum and Ida Luchs of Bellaire, OH, died in an airplane crash over the Grand Canyon.

FACTS:

Stella Blum (b.1885: Bellaire,OH) was married to Harrison J.L. Frank, and the couple had two sons. After her first husband died Stella Blum Frank married German native Walter Fuchs. Stella and Walter both died in an airplane crash on June 30, 1956 over the Grand Canyon.

Two small airplanes, a United Airlines and a Trans World Airlines, collided over the canyon. All 128 passengers and crew members died in the crash. Both planes had left Los Angeles about the same time on the morning June 30. The United flight was going to Chicago, IL and the TWA flight was heading to Kansas City, MO.

After the collision the Federal Aviation Agency was formed in 1966 to hire and train more air traffic controllers and purchase newer radar equipment. In July 2014 the National Park Service installed a plaque near the site of the crash, and declared it a National Historic Landmark site.

STORY:

The Blum family was related to Leon Blum, the first Jewish French Premier of France.

FACTS:

Andre (Leon) Blum (b.1872: Paris, France) was the son of August Blum (b1831) of Westhoffen, France and Adele Picard. His family and our Westhoffen Blum family were descended from Abraham Fromel Baruch (b.Abt.1725).

Leon Blum was elected as the first Jewish French Premier In 1936 as part of the Socialist movement. He was first elected to the French Parliament in 1919 as part of the Socialist Party, and was active in politics until 1942. He was deported to Buchenwald, Germany as a Prisoner of War during WWII, and died in 1950 outside of Paris.

Read more about Leon Blum in the PERSONS OF INTEREST SECTION.

STORY:

The only known relatives on the Quatzenheim Blum side of the family were Sarah Blum and her brothers Abraham, Henry and Isaac. Their father's name, and the maiden name of their mother and her birthplace were unknown.

FACTS:

Through the 1880 Federal Census records and the Bas-Rhin Department of Alsace, France Civil Records I was able to discover the names of their parents and siblings as well as our earliest ancestors:

Father Moyse (b.Abt.1685) and Mother Reissel (b.Abt.1687) from Quatzenheim, France.

Baruch Abraham (b.Abt.1700) and Mother Hanna (b.Abt.1702) from Westhoffen, France.

Hirschel Naftaly Joseph (b.Abt.1740) and Sophie Meyer (Guttel Levy) (b.1744) from Neuwiller-les-Saverne, France.

Elie Levy (b.Abt. 1694) and son Meyer (Meir) Levy (b.Abt. 1719) from Neuwiller-les-Saverne.

Both sides of the parents' families had adopted the last name of Blum in 1808 when the Emperor Napoleon decreed that all Jewish families had to take a family surname. Prior to 1808 a child was given his or her father's first name as their second name.

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