

PERSONS OF INTEREST

Many immigrants in the United States in the mid to late 1800's were minimally educated and were considered unskilled laborers. Our Austrian and French families seemed to have been better educated and were able to prosper more than other family immigrants. Many were able to become merchants or proprietors of their own businesses. The Alsace French families spoke French and German.

In Europe our early German ancestors were millers, mechanics or manual laborers. Our Italian ancestors were masons, plasterers, tailors or grocery store proprietors. Our Austrian ancestors were butchers, cigar makers or liquor store proprietors. Our French ancestors were cattle brokers or peddlers.

1. LEOPOLD HUTTER: Butcher to Real Estate Investor



Leopold (Leo) Hutter was born in 1843 to Jakob Hutter and Theresia Mahrer in Smrzowitz, Bohemia, Austria (which is now Smrzovice, Czech Republic). He immigrated in November 1867 to New York at the age of 24.

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.

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 kept his promise to his brother Simon and he helped him immigrate to New York in 1869. He also assisted with the immigration of a sister, and many nieces and nephews.

Leo first married German native wife Caroline Heilbrunn in 1869 in Manhattan, NY. They had two children Amelia and Alfred. After Caroline's death he then married French native Sarah Blum at the Windsor Hotel in Bellaire, Ohio in October 1889. They had two children, Estella and Gertrude. After Sarah's death he married German native Johanna Barasch Leipziger in 1898 in Manhattan, NY.

Upon arriving in Manhattan, New York he first worked as a butcher's helper for \$1.00 per week. In a few years time he opened his first butcher shop, and then became the proprietor of several more shops in the Yorkville area. He employed some of his relatives.

In an 1886 article in the NY Herald, Leo was also mentioned as being a Bondsman. By the 1890's Leo was working in the Real Estate Business in Manhattan. He was a well-known Realtor and property speculator investor. His name was mentioned often in real estate transactions in the New York Times. Leo's son, Alfred, joined Leo in the business for a few years.

Leo was part of a group of men who formed a new Jewish Orthodox congregation called the Zichron Ephraim. In 1889 a parcel of land was purchased on 67th street (between Third and Lexington) in the amount of \$48,500. The building of the synagogue was estimated to cost \$50,000. He was a trustee along with his friend Jonas Weil.

Leo was also part of the start-up of the Lebanon Hospital in Manhattan. It was a non-sectarian hospital originating from Jewish Philanthropists for the poor. Jonas Weil was its first President. Leo was the Treasurer and had originally donated \$500 in 1895. In 1895, his wife Sarah's brother, Abraham Blum, became the Rabbi Chaplain for Lebanon Hospital.

Leo died in Manhattan in January 1909 at the age of 65. In the March 31, 1909 issue of the New York Tribune newspaper there was a list of the 22 properties owned by the estate of Leo Hutter that sold for over \$286,000.

A copy of Leo's Probated will in 1909 was found on ancestry.com. He bequeathed over \$10,000. It was an important document in that he listed his sisters', brothers', and his nieces and some nephews' names. He bequeathed \$1,000 to the Lebanon Hospital to keep a free bed in the hospital in his name and \$500 to the Zichron Ephraim Society to support their free Hebrew School.

Sources:

History of the Bronx Borough, City of New York by Randal Comfort (North Side News Press 1906).
Genealogybank.com - Newspaper articles.

2. ALFRED HUTTER: Miami Fishing Boat Captain



Alfred (Fred) Hutter was born in 1882 in Manhattan, New York. He was the son of Leopold Hutter and Caroline Heilbrunn (mentioned in the Section 1).

He first began his career working with his father in the Real Estate field in Manhattan. Fred married Lillian Husted in Manhattan. They did not have any children.

After his father's death he worked for his cousin, Jacob Hutter as a salesman for Ben Wertheimer & Company. The company was a manufacturer of hat frames, and held a few patents on their designs. Fred traveled for the company.

In the mid 1910's Fred began to travel to Miami, Florida and started a seasonal fishing charter boat business. He had moved to southern Florida with his wife Lillian by the late 1920's. He was a member of the Miami Anglers Club. This club was established in 1915, and one of its missions was to establish a new set of rules for catching fish in a sportsman like manner. At one point he was the dean of Skippers of the Miami Rod and Reel Club.

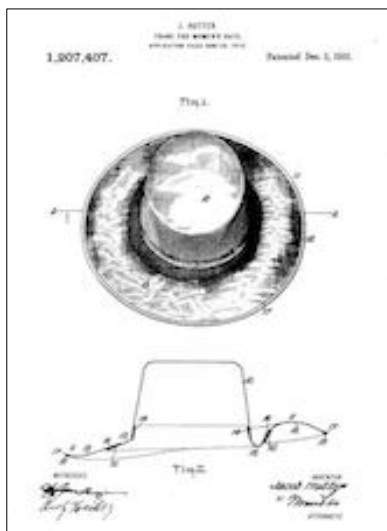
There are a variety of newspaper articles and press releases that mention Fred and his fishing charter boats, the Tramp and the Wahoo. The fishermen at the time were into catching Sailfish and Tuna. As per a 1930 press release from the Miami News Service, Captain Fred Hutter held a record for sailfish catches when he caught a 95-pound sailfish. He was also a fishing guide for Harvey S. Firestone (founder of the tire company), Big Bill Edwards (a football player and official), and Judge George M. Olvaney (a former head of Tammany Hall in NY – headquarters of the Democratic Party).

Miami had grown from a sleepy town of 500 persons in the late 1800's to about 110,000 inhabitants by the 1930's while Alfred and his wife Lillian lived there. Fred died in 1953 at age 71, and Lillian died in 1961 at age 80, in the Miami area.

Sources:

"Images of America: Sportfishing around Miami" by Timothy P. O'Brien and Ed Pritchard
Genealogybank.com

3. JACOB HUTTER: Manhattan Hat Frame Manufacturer



Jacob L. Hutter was born in 1873 in Manhattan, New York to Simon Hutter of Smersowitz, Austria and Hannah Oppenheimer of Germany. He first worked as a Butcher in Brooklyn, probably in his Uncle Leo Hutter's shop.

By 1897 Jacob was a partner in a Hat Frame Manufacturing Company in Manhattan, NY with Ben Wertheimer. The business was called Ben Wertheimer & Co. The business was housed at several locations around Manhattan.

In the early 1900's the business was located at 656 Broadway. Of note is that another hat frame business, Stadecker and Emsheimer, which was also located on Broadway in Manhattan. One of the partners was a Jacob Emsheimer. He was a distant cousin from

Bavaria, Germany who was related to the wife of Jacob Blum from Quatzenheim, France.

Ben Wertheimer passed away in 1916, and Jacob Hutter along with Ben's son Elias continued the business under the same name of Ben Wertheimer and Co. In 1916 Jacob Hutter received a patent for his hat frame design, the "Werthmerit" hat frame.

From 1913 to 1926 the business manufactured hat frames from a red brick building located at 63 W. 39th St. in Manhattan. Today, one can still see the business name of Ben Wertheimer and Co. on the side of building on the side of the building.

Jacob married New Jersey native Theresa Menderson, and had three children. He died at the age of 67 in Manhattan.

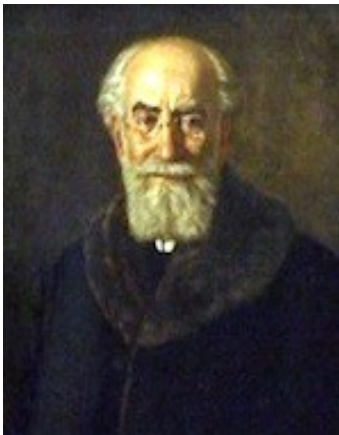
Sources:

Photo Courtesy of US Patent Office (US #2556016 Dec 5, 1916).

The Illustrated Milliner, Volume 17.

www.14to42.net/39street1.3.html - *Photo of the Wertheimer Sign on building at 62-64 w. 39th St., Manhattan, NY.*

4. ABRAHAM BLUM: Rabbi and New York Police Chaplain



Abraham Blum was born in 1843 in Quatzenheim, Alsace, France to Moise Koschel Blum and Jeanette Blum. He began his religious studies at the age of ten, along with learning mathematics and the classics. Between the ages of 13 to 15 he studied at the Talmud Hebrew School in Strasbourg.

He then entered college in Saverne, but he had to return home when his father became ill. He graduated from a local Hebrew school at the age of seventeen. He then worked as a Rabbi in Bliesbrucken, Lorraine, France for six years. He immigrated to New York in 1866 along with two younger Blum cousins.

He worked as a Rabbi in Dayton, OH (1868-1869), Augusta, GA (1869 & 1886), Galveston, TX (1870-1886), and Los Angeles, CA (1886-1895). He was the first Jewish Chaplain for the New York City Police and Fire Departments from 1911-1921. He also served as Chaplain for a variety of Benevolent Societies in Manhattan.

While working in Dayton he began teaching languages at local high schools. He was proficient in French and German, and quickly learned English. This side career was continued in each location he moved to.

In 1871, Abraham was hired as the first ordained rabbi of the B'nai Israel Congregation in Galveston. He obtained a medical degree from a local college, and was a member of the Texas State Medical Association. He was part of a circuit-riding rabbi program that

operated in Texas. He helped start religious schools in Ft Worth (1871), Brenham, Waco, and Brownsville. He served in Texas for 14 years before he moved to California.

About 1896 he became the Superintendent of Lebanon Hospital in New York City. His younger sister, Sarah Blum, was married to Leopold Hutter one of the founders of the hospital. He was appointed as the Jewish Chaplain for Bellevue and Allied Hospitals in New York. He served as Chaplain to a dozen state hospitals in New York State.



Abraham married **Hannah Henriques** in New Orleans, LA. She was a native of St. Croix, West Indies. Her grandfather had emigrated from Totosa, Spain to the West Indies (St. Thomas and St. Croix) by 1814 before moving to New Orleans.

Hannah served as principal of the religious school in Los Angeles. She had an active role in coaching the confirmands on their speeches. When Abraham died Hannah took over his place as Jewish Chaplain of state hospitals, such as Bellevue.

Abraham and Hannah had three sons who were born in Galveston, TX and Los Angeles, CA. Abraham died at the age of 77 in 1921 in Manhattan. Hannah died at the age of 90 in 1944 in Los Angeles.

In June 2011, Abraham was honored during a public ceremony by the New York City Police Department, along with 2 other Jewish Chaplains, as they celebrated 100 years of Jewish Chaplains.

Sources:

www.isjl.org)

www.cbigalveston.org/our-history

www.jmaw.org/blum-los-angeles-jewish/ Jewish Museum of the American West.

Year Book of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Volume 32

Blum, Rabbi Abraham; Rabbi Abraham Blum: From Alsace to New York by Way of Texas and California; Part 1; Western States; Clar, Reva & Kramer, William M.; 12/1

- *Part 2; Western States; Clar, Reva & Kramer, William M.; 12/2*
- *Part 3; San Francisco; Clar, Reva & Kramer, William M.; 12/3*

Hannah Henriques Blum: Third Rebibitzen of Los Angeles, California by Dr. Norton B. Stern, Western States Jewish History spring 2009.

5. CARMEL MYERS: Hollywood Silent Film Actress



Carmel Myers was born in San Francisco, California in 1899 to Isidore Myers of Poland and Anna Jacobson of Austria. Her father was a Rabbi in Los Angeles who was connected to the emerging film industry in California.

She began her career in 1916 with a small part in "Intolerance". She left Hollywood for New York to work in theater for a few years.

She then worked for Universal Studios where she became a popular actress of "Vamp" roles. She was in the movie "All Night" with Rudolph Valentino.

In 1925 she was in the movie Ben-Hur as the Egyptian vamp Iras. She appeared in leading roles in the 1920's and then had an assortment of supporting roles starting in the 1930's.

By 1942 she had signed on with MGM studios and worked on movies such as "Broadway After Dark". For a short time in 1951 she had her own show called the "Carmel Myer's Show" doing interviews. She then had a career in Real estate and had her own perfume distribution company.

She was married to St. Louis, MO native Isidore Kornblum (1895-1996) from 1919-1923. In 1929 she was 30 years old when she married Los Angeles native and Lawyer Ralph Henriques Blum (1890-1950) in Los Angeles. He was the son of Rabbi Abraham Blum and Hannah Henriques (mentioned in Section 4).

The couple had one son Ralph and adopted two daughters. Son Ralph is a writer living in California. The couple had been married for 21 years when Ralph died at the age of 59 in 1950 in Los Angeles.

Carmel then married New York native Alfred Schwalberg (1898-1973) in New York. He was an accountant for the Movie Industry. She died at the age of 81 in 1980 in Los Angeles.

Sources:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carmel_Myers

genealogybank.com

6. STELLA BLUM FRANK FUCHS: 1956 Grand Canyon Plane Crash



Stella Blum was born in 1885 in Bellaire, OH to Henry Blum of Quatzenheim, France and Ida Luchs of Harrisburg, PA. She married Harrison J.L. Frank in Bellaire, and had two sons. After her first husband died Stella Blum Frank married German native Walter Fuchs.

Stella and husband Walter Fuchs were both passengers who died in an airplane crash on June 30, 1956 over the Grand Canyon, AZ.

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

In July 2014 the National Park Service installed a plaque near the site of the crash, and declared it a National Historic Landmark site.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1956_Grand_Canyon_mid-air_collision

<http://doney.net/aroundaz/grandcanyoncrash.htm>

7. LEON BLUM: First Jewish Premier of France



Leon (Andre) Blum was born in Paris in 1872, to August (Abraham) Blum of Westhoffen, Alsace, France and Adele Maire Picard. August Blum and his brothers owned a Wholesale Silk and Ribbon Company, called the "Blum Freres".

Leon 's family line and ours were both descended from the Abraham Fromel Baruch (b.1725) in Westhoffen.

Leon and his four brothers were educated in Paris. He trained as a lawyer, but first gained public attention as a drama critic. He joined the Socialist party in 1902. He first served as an executive secretary to the Socialist leader Marcel Sembat during World War I. He then was elected to parliament in 1919. The French statesman was the first Socialist, as well as the first Jewish, premier of France.

Leon, as leader of the largest party in the Chamber, became premier in June 1936. During 1936-1937 his government enacted into law the 40-hour week and paid vacations.

for workers, nationalizing the major armaments industries, and bringing the Bank of France under public control.

Leon resigned in June 1937, when the Senate refused to grant him full powers to deal with the fiscal crisis after the Spanish Civil War. After serving as vice premier in the succeeding government, he headed a second, short-lived Cabinet in March 1938.

In 1942 he was deported to Nazi prison camp at Buchenwald, Germany. He was freed by Allied troops in 1945. His younger brother Rene Blum (1878-1943) was deported to Auschwitz, and was killed by the Nazi's. Rene was a renowned French and American writer and Theater producer. He was the director of the Ballet Russes in Paris.

Leon was an author of many newspaper articles, and while in prison he wrote "À l'échelle Humaine: For All Mankind" which summarizes the philosophical bases of his lifelong effort to reconcile the fundamental tenets of Marxism with the moral and intellectual exigencies of humanism.

After the war Blum was in poor health but he presided for a month, beginning on Dec. 16, 1946, over an all-Socialist caretaker Cabinet. He also served as a vice-premier in August 1948.

He was married three times: first to Mary Elise Bloch (1896 to 1931), then to Therese Pereyca (1932 to 1938), and last to Janet Blum (1943 to 1950). He had one son, Robert (1902-1975). He died in 1950 in Jouy-en-Josas, France at the age of 77. He married his last wife in Buchenwald prison. Janet died in 1982 at the age of 83 in Jouy-en-Josas.

Sources:

judaisme.sdv.fr for Leon Blum (includes photograph)

Leon Blum: The Formative years 1872-1914 by William Logue

Leon Blum: Humanist in Politics by Joel Colton

René Blum and the Ballets Russes: In Search of Lost Life by [Adam Kirsch](#)

8. Camille Elikan: Merchant Murdered in Long Beach, CA



Camille Elikan (of Long Beach, CA was murdered on November 23, 1894 at the age of 36. As he was closing up his Dry Goods Store one evening he was attacked by two men.

They shot him as they robbed him of his satchel, which contained 5 moneybags of silver and gold worth about \$300.00. His store was located on Pine Street across from the Post office in the growing town. He lived above the store and next door to the Lowes family.

He was engaged to Ethel Lowe, daughter of William W. and Belle Lowe from Nebraska. The Lowes owned a variety

of real estate in Long Beach. They built the first store in 1884, as well as a Post office and school for the community. Mrs. Lowe was the person who suggested the name of Long Beach to replace Willmore City as the original name of the town.

As reported in the Nov 24, 1894 Los Angeles Herald, Camille was born in Hagenbach, Bavaria, Germany. In 1877 he was living in San Francisco and working at the Mission Woolen Mills. Two of his maternal Aunts and their families were also living in San Francisco: The Leopold Cahn Family (S.F. Woolen Mills) and the Abraham Blochman Family (Merchants and Bankers).

By 1892 Camille was living in Long Beach, and the Blochmans' had moved to San Diego. His cousin Rabbi Abraham Blum had also moved to the Los Angeles area by 1886. He was buried in San Diego, at the tomb of his uncle, Abraham Blochman. The Blochman and Cahn families was from Ingenheim, France.

The two men arrested for his murder were Lucien Healey and Ethan Feeler. Mr. Healey had worked for Elikan and knew where his money was stored. Both men were convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison as reported in the Los Angeles Herald on January 19, 1895.

Sources:

Photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Herald.

Murderous Intent?: Long Beach, CA By Claudine Burnett

Newspapers.com Los Angeles Herald

Genealogybank.com

9. SIMON, ELIAS & GABRIEL BLUM: Merchants and Ranchers in Martinez, California



Simon, Elias and Gabriel Blum were born in Oberbronn, France to Marc Blum and Rachel Hirsch. Their grandmother was part of Neuwiller-les-Saverne, France relatives.

Simon immigrated at the age of 16 in 1850, and then moved to San Francisco and Martinez, California. His brothers joined him in California within a few years.

On the 1860 census records the brothers were listed as merchants with real estate assets of \$25,000 and having a personal estate of \$20,000. In 1870 Simon had real estate holdings worth \$50,000 and a person estate worth \$30,000.

In 1882 the firm of S. Blum & Brothers sold over one million dollars worth of general merchandise retail goods. They also had a grain firm in Martinez, and two more stores in Lassen County, CA. T one time they had 11 warehouses for their businesses.

“ In 1892, a newspaper reported that forty-five schooner loads of hay, amounting to 12,000 bales, had been shipped that season from the Blum warehouse. In 1895, the Blum firm began manufacturing brick at Pacheco, CA.

Eventually, the Blum brothers were operating eleven warehouses, four in Martinez, four in Pacheco, and one each in San Pablo, Brentwood and Byron. These were used mainly for grain and hay storage.”

The firm donated land for the Contra Costa Hospital, Simon Blum became a director of the Bank of Martinez when it was first organized. He was also on the city council.

Simon died at the age of 79 in 1913 in Martinez, CA. Gabriel died at the age of 86 in 1925 in Martinez, CA. Elias died in 1902 at the age of 70 in Strasbourg, France.

Sources:

<http://www.jmaw.org/blum-martinez-jewish/> *Jewish Museum of the American West*

10. MOSES BLOOM (Moise Blum): Iowa City Merchant, Mayor and Congressman



Moses Blum was born in Westhoffen, Alsace, France in 1832, the son of Lazar Blum and Sara Elikan. He was listed in his grandfather's (Moyse Elikan) notice of estate land sale in a Hagenbach, Germersheim, Germany newspaper.

Since he had changed his name to Bloom, this was a link in finding additional documents for him, as well as for his siblings. Some of his siblings stayed in France, and others settled in Chicago, Philadelphia & Deadwood, SD.

Moses immigrated to New York in 1849 at the age of 17. By 1860 he was a Merchant living in Iowa City, IA and owned a clothing store called M. Bloom and Co. with his brother Leon (born 1841). His brother Salomon (born 1834) was a merchant of Gents Furnishings in Council Bluffs, IA and by 1893 was single and living in Deadwood, SD.

He was the first Jewish resident to settle in Iowa, City. On the 1860 census he stated he was 28 years old and his personal estate was worth \$4,000. By 1870 his real estate holding were worth \$5,000 and his personal estate was worth \$55,000. His business prospered and he opened two banks in the city.

Moses served in a variety of Political offices, from City alderman in 1860 to Mayor in 1873 to State Legislator in 1877, as well as many local boards and committees. He was married two times (to the Wise sisters), and had 11 children. He died at the age of 61 in 1893 in Iowa City, IA.

Sources:

Wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses_Bloom

History of Johnson County page 786.

agudasachimic.org/about-us/our-history

11. FRENCH CLOTHING MERCHANTS AND MANUFACTURERS:

In the 1800's thousands of Jewish Immigrants met with financial success in the retail business. They settled in cities from New York to Texas to California. Their businesses were well suited to an economy that was transitioning to a market economy of peddling and shop ownership.

Many of the Blum relatives from Quatzenheim, Neuwiller-les-Saverne, and Westhoffen, Alsace, France were retailers, manufacturers, or importers of clothing and general merchandise.

Quatzenheim, France Relatives:

Isaac Blum and Brothers: Dry Goods Store - Wheeling, WV (Isaac, Gustave, Moses, Emanuel, Gabriel, and Ralph Blum).

Blum Brothers Store: Clothing Store - Philadelphia, PA (Isaac, Gabriel & Ralph)

Blum Textile Corp.: Undergarment Manufacturers - Manhattan, NY (Emanuel Blum & son Milton Centennial Blum).

Henry & Isaac Blum: Dry Goods and Home Furnishings - Bellaire, OH. (Henry, Isaac, Ralph and Maurice)

Paul Blum: Importer - San Francisco and Kobe, Japan. He worked with his Uncle **Henri Blum**, who was living in Manhattan, NY.

Adolphe, Charles & Maurice Blum: Cigar Manufacturers - Manhattan, NY.

Raas & Weil: Woolen Manufacturers- San Francisco, CA. Emanuel Rass, born in Strasbourg, was married to Ernestine Blum daughter of Aaron Blum. Emanuel was a founder of the Mount Zion Hospital and the French Hospital.

Gustave Coblentz ; Dry goods merchant in Amador, CA. He was born in Lixheim, France and married to Melanie Blum daughter of Aaron Blum.

Arthur Kline: Curio Merchant & Bookkeeper in El Paso, TX & San Francisco, CA. He was born in Surbourg and married to Florine Blum daughter of Aaron Blum.

Berthold Greenebaum: Gent Furnishings Manufacturer in San Francisco. He was born in Bavaria and married to Nanette Blum daughter of Aaron Blum.

Jacques Blum: Merchant of Ladies furnishings - San Francisco, CA. Son of Aaron Blum.

Westhoffen & Neuwiller-les-Saverne, France Relatives:

Julius Weil: Dry Goods Merchant - Bellaire, OH. Son of Eugenie Blum.

Julius Schwob: Dry Goods merchant - Bellaire, OH. Born in Haut-Rhin, France and married to Celestine Blum.

Isaac Blum: Dry Goods Merchant and then a Lime manufacturer. - Santa Cruz, & San Francisco, CA (born in Oberbronn).

Simon Elias, & Gabriel Blum: Retail Merchants - Martinez, CA (born in Oberbronn,).

Myer Gradwohl; General Store - San Francisco, CA. Husband of Frederique Blum of Oberbronn.

Bloom & Mayer: Clothing Stores - Peoria, IL and Iowa City, IA. Jacques Bloom of in Peoria, IL (born in Itterswiller) owned a clothing store with Max Mayer married to Julia Bloom (a cousin).

Camille Elikan: General Merchandise, Dry Goods & Grocery Stores - Long Beach, CA. (born in Hagenbach, Germany)