

THINK OF THE GREY: A WHEATMAN FAMILY HISTORY

ASSEMBLED BY VICTOR S. WHEATMAN
WITH MULTIPLE FAMILY AND DOCUMENTARY INPUTS
VERSION 2 - JULY 2018



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Introduction

This is primarily the story of the Wheatmans (nee Weitzman) descended from David and Vella.

This family history is for the children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other relatives with Wheatman blood. This is a narrative seeking what, if anything, is unique about this family. Why? At some point, we ask the question: "Where did I come from?"

Please comment on any of the findings here to expand or correct upon the story, or to correct any errors you may find. I encourage you to use this document as the basis for further research if you are so inclined, and I also encourage you to share this E-book with your family, far and wide.

Methodology

This narrative is derived from multiple sources including shared oral histories heard over the years and discussed with family elders. An interview with Aunt Sylvia Silver, the youngest of David and Vella Wheatman's children, in approximately 1996 brought the family story, which existed only verbally, into substantial focus. We made notes on the paper tablecloth, reproduced here (figures 1 and 2).

Substantial details were also collected by "Uncle Mike" Blumenthal, on my Mother's side, which helped fill out our story.

I also directly interviewed family members to tease out information that would help keep the family "alive" in our memories. Steve and Paul Silver, Sylvia's sons, and Lynn (Marilyn) Berman (Lillian's daughter) were most helpful and are recognized here.

VERA WESHIN
 TO W...
 DAVID
 2 STICK
 1 BIRTH
 more groups
 Less search in Canada
 Montreal papers, Granches
 And she will sign contracts
 Westwood RedLife Sp...
 when applied to US ~~was~~ said
~~that~~ was poor Russian - worked
 5 days before allowed in US.
 July 1900 - saw parents
 in port in Canada

Figure 1 Notes from a Meeting with Sylvia Silver

example a Moldovian with whom I worked had family resources who reported the existence of a book of all buried Jews in Moldova. Other resources included academics who replied to inquiries, other researchers and family member remembrances. And so, a mish-mash of inputs were used to inform the document you have now.

Where Did the Name "Wheatman" Come From?

The name Weitzman can have multiple variations but still be speaking about a distinct, multi-generational linked family. One researcher told me that the Vaysman family lived in Moldavia in the beginning of 19th century. Moldavia (as pronounced in English and Russian) and called Moldova (Romanian language), overlaps and abuts territory called Bessarabia. There are many variations of the spelling: Weitzman, Weisman, Weissman, Visman, Vaisman, Veytsman, Veitsman and Wajzman. There is some indication that members of this family may have migrated in the distant past from elsewhere, specifically Germany. However, based on the heavy eastern European look of the older members of the family, I suspect we were primarily eastern Europeans going back several generations. My own ethnicity estimates using DNA confirm this. Your mileage may vary.

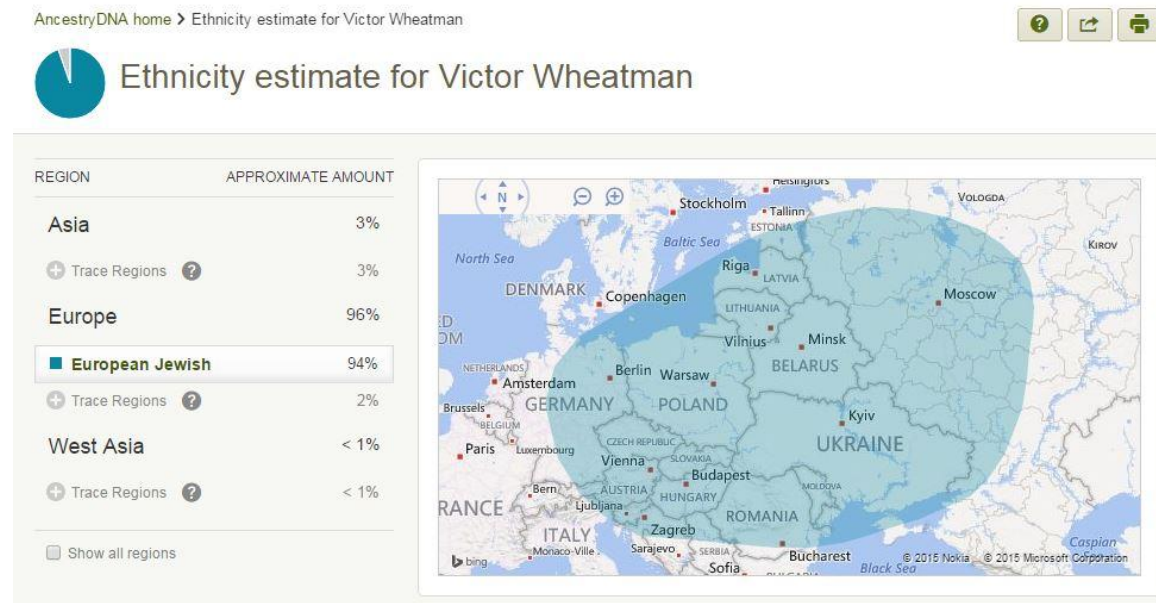


Figure 3 Vic Wheatman's DNA Ethnicity

Weisman, Weitzman and its variations (called "Soundex") can all indicate the same family tree and a common heritage. All of these different spellings come from the root Veits, or the German Weitz, originating in Yiddish for "Wheat." Accordingly, the translation of Weitzman is "Wheat Man." But Weitz also translates as "White." David Wheatman's brother Phillip did move to Canada taking the name White.

David took on the Wheatman name after arriving in the US so he could get painting and decorating work. He feared that a Jewish name would lead to discrimination. I remember hearing that all Wheatmen knew each other, or of each other. But whenever I travelled on business (which was a lot), I'd search local phone books and occasionally find a Wheatman I didn't know. Now, with the Internet, it's possible to find Wheatmen all over the world -- so the statement about the name being unique is not accurate. The name "Wheatman" is also found in England and in families that migrated from England.

From Where did the Wheatmans Come?

David and Vella (Steinberg) Weitzman left Bessarabia (which they called "Russia" and which today is part of Moldova) well after the Kishinev Pogrom¹ of April 1903 and continuing anti-Semitism.

Moldova was part of the Pale of Settlement, a western region of Imperial Russia with varying borders, that existed from 1791 to 1917, in which permanent residency by Jews was allowed and beyond which Jewish permanent residency was mostly forbidden. Bessarabia became part of Russia in 1812. Before that it was the Principality of Moldavia, a tributary of the Ottoman Empire.

David left in 1910, going to England first. It was during the cited pogrom that much of the Jewish population in Kishinev was killed, injured or driven away, but the family apparently lingered several years in Moldova.

Kishinev (Russian) or Chişinău (Romanian) was the main town in Bessarabia. Fifty thousand Jews lived in Kishinev in 1900, which was 46% of the total population. Kishinev was the 5th largest city by Jewish population in the Russian Empire after Warsaw, Odessa, Lodz and Vilna.

¹ For more information see: <http://fighthatred.com/1744/the-kishinev-pogrom-of-1903-chaim-nachman-bialiks-poem-vladimir-zeev-jabotinsky-and-the-organization-of-jewish-self-defense/>

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

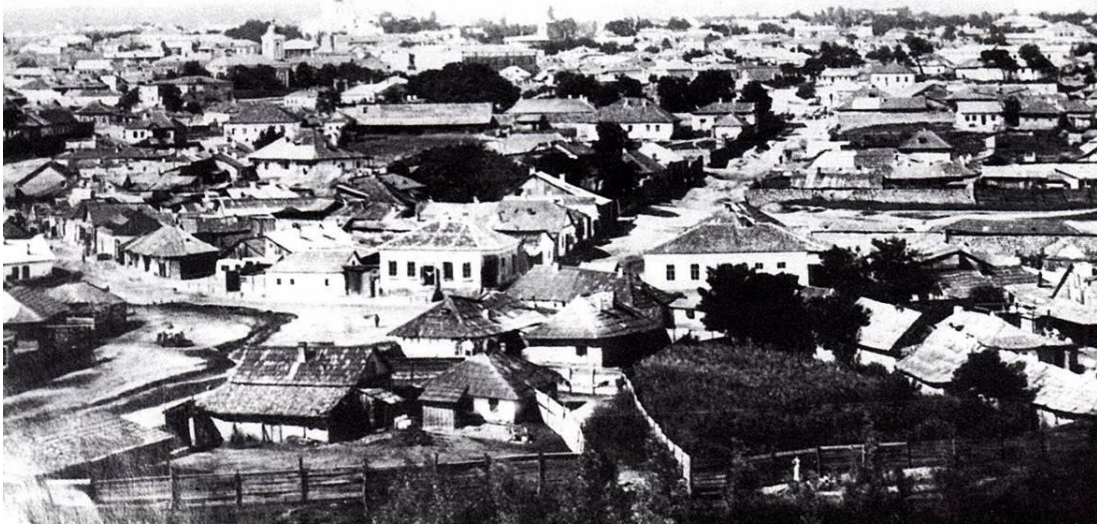


Figure 4 Kishinev Early 1900s

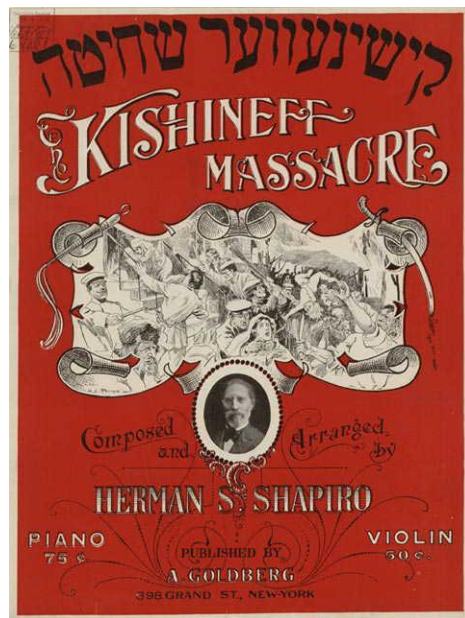


Figure 5 Song Book - the Kishinev Massacre



Figure 6 The house at Number 13 Asia Street in Kishinev which was the home of 8 families and a grocery store. It was attacked by the mob during the pogrom. The street was later named Aziatskaya Ulitsa.

Some documents suggest the area was actually Romania which is very close to Moldova -- and in 1918 Bessarabia became part of Romania where it remained until 1940. The official language of Moldova is Romanian although people living there would say they speak Moldovan.

The Jewish community compiled a book with 23,430 records of Jews buried in Kishinev's cemetery. Over seven thousand were still unidentified as of approximately 2012 but the work has continued. This might be helpful in finding the family's graves and the information on those graves revealing their parents names.

The Wheatman home geography changed substantially over the years and often was generalized as "Russia." Today, Moldova is the poorest European country and largely agricultural. Part of the country is 'breakaway' with rebels declaring a separate, unrecognized, Soviet Socialist Republic.

Mike Blumenthal was married to my maternal Aunt Dorothy. He was not a Wheatman nor a blood relative. While he compiled a family history focused on primarily on his lineage, he also recorded David as born in Odessa in 1888 and Vella in "Keshinev" (Chişinău) in 1890. A border-crossing document (figures 14/15) shows David as born in "Kisshmuf, Russia" as recorded by the immigration clerk. Yet other family members also believe David was born in Odessa. Some believe it was Siberia. But this document clearly indicates Kishinev.



Figure 7 One Variation of the Regional Map. Note the identification of Bessarabia as a shaded area, and the labeling of an area as the Odessa oblast (a Russian administrative area). Then there is the city Odessa.

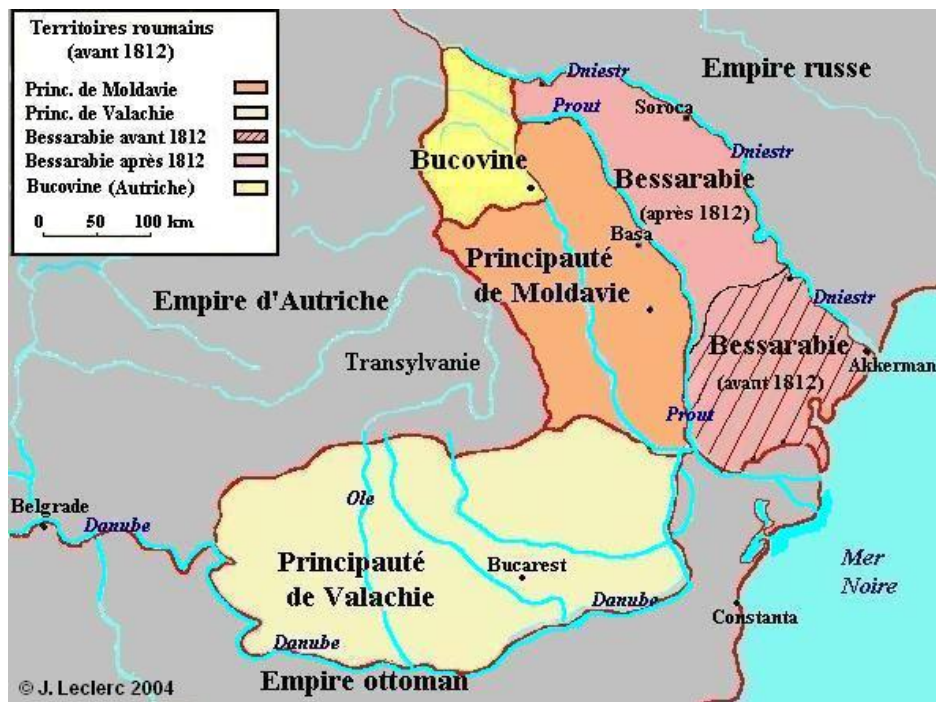


Figure 8 Another variation of the Regional Map

Some more historic background: The first Jews in Moldova were Sephardic. Ashkenazi Jews from Poland and Germany came into the area in the 16th century. Between the 16th and 18th century, the area was under Turkish rule and then the Russians took over. Around 1812 Russian Czar Alexander I invited Lutheran German immigrants to Bessarabia. Many came for religious freedom and to develop land that was offered to them, land that was conquered from the Turkish Empire. However, between 1870 and

1875 developed "Russian Slavic Nationalism." That meant that everything that was not Russian was either persecuted or at least not very well tolerated. And then there was the anti-Semitism.

The Kishinev pogrom took place in the capital of Bessarabia on April 6, 1903 after local newspapers published articles inciting the public to act against Jews; 47 or 49 Jews were killed, 92 severely wounded and 700 houses destroyed. The anti-Semitic newspaper *Бессарабец* (Bessarabetz, meaning "Bessarabian"), published by Pavel Krushevan, insinuated that a Russian boy was killed by local Jews. Another newspaper, *Свет* (Svet, "Light"), used the age-old blood libel against the Jews, alleging that the boy had been killed to use his blood in preparation of matzos.

The Murder of David's Father

According to the family history, David's father was killed by "Cossacks" in front of a church or a synagogue after he was pointed out to them by a Rabbi or possibly a Priest in 1908. David's Father was supposedly identified as a labor union or guild organizer or perhaps a Zionist, or maybe he was seen as a trouble maker -- we don't know. According to one version of story, the Rabbi or Priest had a gun pointed to his head and was ordered to identify the Jew or else he himself would be shot. After the Priest/Rabbi did so, he was shot anyway. In relating this story, Nathan Wheatman asked "If he [the Rabbi] knew he was going to be shot anyway, why did he do it?"

An alternative version of the story is that David's Father petitioned the Rabbi of the temple he and others were working at for a raise. The Rabbi didn't like that request, called the Cossacks, and David's Father was taken out and decapitated.

Assuming it was a Rabbi involved, this is the reason David did not Bar Mitzvah his sons. Subsequent generations - particularly his children, perhaps influenced by their wives -- did follow the Jewish traditions. It's also possible this family story was conflated with anti-Semitic activities around that time. For example, there was also a Pogrom in nearby Odessa. But as the map above shows (figure 5), a large area was called "Odessa." So, it's possible this event happened during the Odessa Pogrom. Speculating (but informed by history of the pogroms), perhaps a priest was involved and David became unreligious in general. According to the New York Times in that timeframe, the mob was often led by priests.

David and Philip's Parents

One of the challenges researching family history is to go back as far as you can. "Hitting a Brick Wall" is the phrase used when reaching the seemingly end of available relevant documents in the search. But more and more records are becoming available and even existing records can hold desired details. But you just have to find them.

This is David Wheatman/Weitzman's original application for a social security number which I ordered from the Social Security Administration. He filed when he was 48 years old on May 7, 1937 during the depression. It shows his address on Bryant Avenue in the Bronx, and states he is unemployed. But most interestingly, it names his parents as Saul Weitzman and Anna Steinberg (which was probably Shtenynberg in the original Hebrew/Yiddish). Astute observers will note the curious fact that Vella's father was Itzack Steinberg. Perhaps they were cousins?

A57333-01

U. S. SOCIAL SECURITY ACT APPLICATION FOR ACCOUNT NUMBER	
115-12-2168	
1. NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) DAVID	2. NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) WHEATMAN
3. ADDRESS (STREET AND NUMBER) 1052 Bryant Avenue	4. CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE Brx, N.Y.C. N.Y.
5. OCCUPATION (NAME OF EMPLOYER) Unemployed	6. (NAME AND ADDRESS OF PREVIOUS EMPLOYER)
7. AGE (AT DATE) 48	8. PLACE OF BIRTH Bessarabia, Russia
9. DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR) 4-5-1888	10. NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) Anna Steinberg
11. SEX (MALE) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/>	12. COLOR: WHITE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEGRO <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>
13. IF REGISTERED WITH THE U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, GIVE NUMBER OF REGISTRATION CARD Not registered	14. IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY FILLED OUT A CARD LIKE THIS STATE no
15. DATE May 7, 1937	16. SIGNATURE (PRINT) David Wheatman

DETACH ALONG THIS LINE

Figure 9 David Wheatman's Social Security Application

The Journey

Somehow, David Weitzman got to Hamburg and travelled alone on the Hamburg/America line, to the major U.K. port city of Grimsby, then probably across Great Britain to Liverpool (directly across from Grimsby) where he took the Laurentic to North America. The document below has some other details requiring translation from German.² The Hamburg/America line was established by a Jew and required less documentation for travel than other conveyances. For example, leaving "Russia" required proof of military service among other documents.

² For information on immigration via Hamburg, see <https://www.gjenvick.com/Immigration/Emigration/1903-10-08-EmigrationToTheUnitedStatesViaHamburgGermany.html>



Figure 12 The Laurentic of the White Star Line

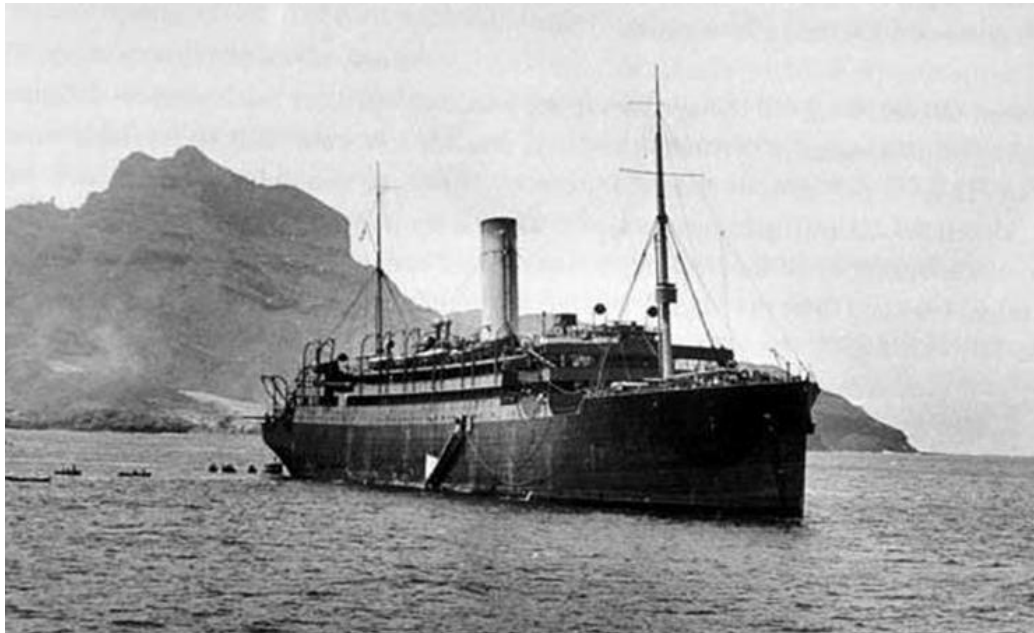


Figure 13 The Laurentic of the White Star Line

According to Canadian records, David travelled on the Laurentic of the White Star line³ from Liverpool England. This confirms that at least part of the family passed through England. The children after Ben and Roberta/Bobbie/Rose were born in Canada.

Later, from Canada, David developed sponsorship and traveled to NY in exploratory journeys looking for work. This document from January 1921 shows David Weitzman, crossing from Montreal into the US. He was going to stay with a friend, Harry Mayer, whose address is given. David is listed as a painter (although later he claimed to be a decorator or interior decorator in census records), and he travelled either with his "wife, Rosie" as written or with his wife AND Rosie -- which is their first born, later known as Bobbie.

Records record Bobbie's name as Rose Barbara. David reportedly liked to 'show her off' as any proud papa would. Vella and Bobbie did not talk for many years because Bobbie always pushed herself as David's companion and made him take her everywhere with him. Grandma resented it and they had a falling out but eventually reconciled.

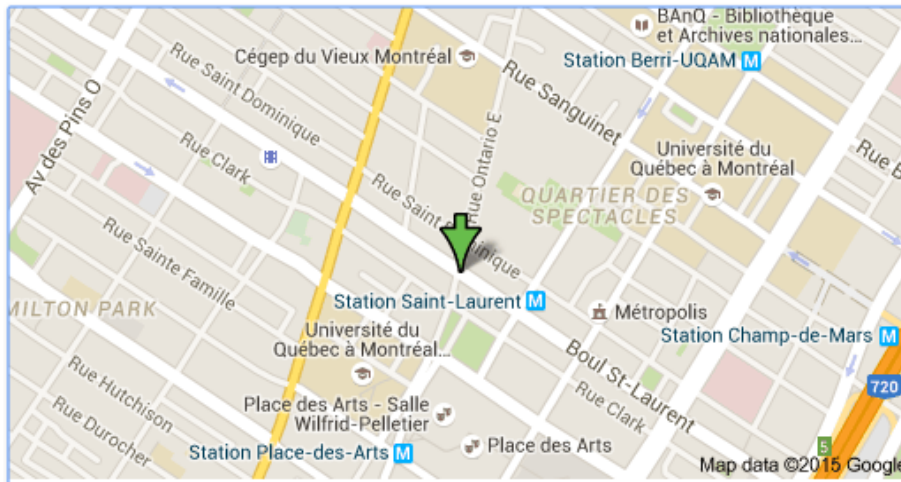
The family lived on St. Laurent Street in Montreal. One relative reported that David worked for the Canadian Pacific Railroad for a time. My father Nathan lived in Montreal until he was approximately 8 years old. As this is French-speaking Quebec, Dad learned French. When he came to the US, he was taunted by classmates calling him "frenchie."

In my early teens, my Father drove the family from New York State to Canada and the Montreal neighborhood where the family lived. I believe the University or maybe the Museum was being built at that time; some streets were blocked off. Dad wanted to drive to the house but the street was roped off due to construction. Then, at about 7PM, a bulldozer spun around, went up the sidewalk and flattened the house in 30

³ The ship was in some ways experimental, testing a new propulsion system. It was built by Harland & Wolff, LTD in Belfast, was 550 feet by 67 feet. She had two masts and one funnel. Propulsion was by a triple screw using triple expansion engines and steam turbines. It moved at 17 knots. She held 230 first class passengers, 430 in second and 1000 in third. It was "laid down" as the Alberta for the Dominion line, but was transferred to the White Star Line before completion. Its maiden voyage was between Liverpool and Quebec-Montreal but first arriving at Nova Scotia. It was sunk on January 1917 off the coast of Ireland after hitting a mine, with the loss of 350 passengers. It was the sister ship of the Megantic. Another ship using the same name came later. The White Star line also owned the Titanic later on.

See also: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Laurentic_\(1908\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Laurentic_(1908)) and http://www.irishfreemasonry.com/index.php?p=1_112_HMS-Laurentic

seconds. Brother Lawrence wanted to get out of the car to watch but Nathan, in keeping with his personality, dismissively proclaimed that it was gone "so we can go now" and we headed out. But as a working adult, I visited St. Laurent and St. Catherine streets in Montreal several times; the neighborhood tends towards being a red light district as it was then (I was good!), and it is largely intact. But, based on Google Street View, their building, 1726 St. Laurent Blvd, showed as a vacant lot in 2011 and as the site of future condos in September, 2016.



1726 Boul St-Laurent Montréal, QC H2X 2S9, Canada [Get directions](#)

Figure 14 Saint Catherine and Saint Laurent Streets Montreal

Here is some of the architecture, directly across from where their house was.



Figure 15 Architecture of St. Laurent Street Montreal

Form 1-Canada
 LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS APPLYING FOR ADMISSION
 Required by the regulations of Secretary of Labor
 PORT OF Montreal, Can.

Sheet No. 20

No. on List	HEAD-TAX STATUS	NAME IN FULL		Age	Sex	Calling or occupation	Able to—			Nationality (Country of birth, unless stated on this form)	Race or people	Last permanent residence		The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came	Final destination (Should show permanent address)	
		Family name	Given name				Tr.	Mar.	Read			Write	Speak		Country	City or town
1		Helden	Mary	64	f	none	Eng	Eng	Eng	Can	Can	Montreal	201 Baginon St. Montreal	Italy		
2		Berthelot	Robert	38	m	clerk	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal	2278 St. Louis St. Montreal	Los Angeles		
3		Blithero	Martha	26	f	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
4		Gravel	Guy	47	m	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
5		Lafleur	Yvonne	18	f	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
6		Doughty	Barthelme	21	m	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
7		Lafleur	Marie Louise	61	f	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
8		Duvillon	Edgar	19	m	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
9		Chalette	Pectorine	31	f	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
10		Blouin	Napoleon	37	m	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
11		Gordon	Ann	17	f	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
12		Allen	Arthur	36	m	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
13		Braier	Jacob	30	m	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
14		John	Fred	30	m	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
15		Thimot	Denise	25	f	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
16		Lillard	Becilia	45	f	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
17		Macbeane	Cordney	20	m	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
18		Frederick	Frederick	4 m	m	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
19		Witzman	David	32	m	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
20		Gothen	John	10	m	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
21		Schaput	Lucille	45	f	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
22			Olivine	48	f	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
23			Joseph	18	m	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				
24			Patrick	16	m	none	Can	Can	Can	Can	Can	Montreal				

NOT USED
 NOT USED

Total passengers
 U. S. citizens
 Aliens

Handwritten signatures: G.C. Gaumant, J.P. Sullivan, J.P. Sullivan, J.P. Sullivan, J.P. Sullivan

Footnote: * Permanent residence within the meaning of this manifest shall be actual or intended residence of one year or more. † List of names will be found on the back of this sheet.

Figure 16 David, Wife, Rosie entering the US January 1921 Line 24

TO THE UNITED STATES FROM FOREIGN CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY
of the United States under the Immigration Act.

NONE BUT CITIZENS OF CANADA SHOULD BE MANIFESTED ON THIS SHEET.

(COVER)

MONTH OF January, 1921 CLASS E

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33		
No. of card	Whether having a valid passport paid for?	By whom	Whether ever before in the United States and if so, when and where?	Whether going to join a relative or friend, and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address.	Persons of coming to United States										Height	Color of—	Marks of identification	Place of birth			
					Whether a passport	Whether an alien	Whether a subject	Whether a citizen	Whether a resident	Whether a naturalized citizen	Whether a naturalized citizen	Whether a naturalized citizen	Whether a naturalized citizen	Whether a naturalized citizen				Whether a naturalized citizen	Whether a naturalized citizen	Whether a naturalized citizen	Whether a naturalized citizen
1		366395	—	—	—	Transit	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	5.2	red	blue	none	Can.	Toronto
2		360452	440	5 days	—	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	5.3	br	blue	—	Eng.	Boston
3		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.4	br	blue	—	Eng.	Dudley
4		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.6	fair	br	—	Can.	Montreal
5		360451	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.5	red	br	—	—	—
6		360360	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.7	—	—	—	—	—
7		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.7	st.	blue	—	—	—
8		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.2	—	blue	—	—	—
9		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.6	—	br	—	—	—
10		360340	17	1917	18	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	5.6	fair	br	—	—	—
11		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.7	red	br	—	—	—
12		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.7	—	blue	—	—	—
13		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.7	—	br	—	—	—
14		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.1	—	br	—	—	—
15		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.9	red	br	—	—	—
16		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.5	—	br	—	—	—
17		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.4	—	br	—	—	—
18		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.4	—	br	—	—	—
19		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.4	—	br	—	—	—
20		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.4	—	br	—	—	—
21		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.4	—	br	—	—	—
22		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.4	—	br	—	—	—
23		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.4	—	br	—	—	—
24		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.9	—	br	—	—	—
25		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.11	—	br	—	—	—
28		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.3	—	—	—	—	—
29		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.6	—	—	—	—	—
30		361353	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5.4	—	br	—	—	—

0

L-3

Figure 17 Line 24 Part 2 On this page, line 24 continues (nine lines up from the bottom. David reported that he was born in Kishinev. The spelling is off ("Kishmuf") but the clerk was probably unfamiliar with it. This is also where Vella was born.

Although census records indicate that the family migrated from Canada to NY in September 1920, one document shows a crossing between Canada and US in January 1921. It records leaving from the Port of Montreal and entering via Portland, Maine. This document also shows that the name Wheatman came AFTER they were in the US and confirms the spelling of Weitzman.

Here is Aunt Bobbie's Naturalization paper petition, filed in 1938. It shows an immigration from Canada to a small town on the border in New York State on Lake



Figure 19 David Wheatman 1912 Montreal Age 24



Figure 20 David and Vella Wheatman visiting Lake Oscawana, NY

An Artistic Bend

The family stories of life in Moldova are extremely faint in our history. The stories say many in the family were artists and that they did painting work in churches, synagogues, mosques and theaters throughout Europe. This is consistent with the painted churches noted in guidebooks about Moldova. And it is consistent with the boys in the family becoming painters -- predominantly house painters -- although David was more of an artist. Family members described themselves as "decorators" in census documents. His later work in New York included an "Opera House" in the Bronx, which was most likely the Lowe's Paradise theater where he was likely a crew member. I remember his personal style to be almost Jackson Pollack-like as he decorated large playground cement tunnels and climbing structures at New York City Housing Authority projects,

where David's second born son Nathan Wheatman worked. My brother Lawrence suggest the works also resemble the conceptual and minimalistic art of Saul LeWitt. Assuming that the family painted churches in Europe, they likely did the same in North America. Accordingly, examples of their work may still exist in Montreal or New York.

David invented a process like stippling to hide the cracks on the walls of old buildings. The process was called "DaveTex" but it was never patented. There was, until recently, a DaveTex Woolens Company in the same neighborhood the family lived in Montreal, on St. Laurent Blvd. Likely a coincidence.

And so there is an artistic trait in the family. David would make the marbled, Jackson Pollack-like designs on public housing playgrounds. Paul Silver would paint and otherwise alter the finish on furniture which was out of fashion, turning them into more desirable pieces. Paul (who I knew as Sonny) and Steve worked for their Father Al Silver, who owned the Moderama Furniture store in Elmhurst, Queens New York. Other "artists" include my brother Stan Wheatman who was an Art Director for several publishers and my daughter Rebecca, an entertainment graphic artist. There are likely others.

David Wheatman, His Family and His Brother(s)

The family history relayed by relatives suggests that one of David's Sisters (?) or an Aunt was a hunchback and that much of the family was very tall. There are a good number in the gene pool to demonstrate this: Stan Wheatman, Eddie Friedman come to mind. David was also very strong. He could put walnuts between his knuckles and then crush them.

David may have been in the Calvary in the Russian army. Sylvia Silver related that he was given a ticket to run away, to hop on the first boat out of Moldova -- to either Cuba or Canada. Of course, he and other family members wound up in Canada. Although there was a rumor they lived in England, Sylvia discounted that story - indications are they were just passing through. David left for North America from Liverpool. Bobbie and Ben, the oldest children, were born in Moldova in 1907 and 1909 respectively.

As written below, David Weitzman had a brother Phillip who later changed his name to Phil White in Montreal. He was possibly a twin (or even a triplet according to Sylvia) although the birth record we found indicates otherwise. Cousin Lynn/Marilyn Berman (daughter of Lillian) reported her belief that a third brother may have moved to Israel. This migration to what later became Israel resonates with Jewish departures from Eastern Europe during that time - and later. Cousin Lynn reports she may have unknowingly met the third brother in Israel. She wrote:

We visited a Kibbutz called Nof Ginosar and one of the founders spoke to our group. His last name was Weitzman and he was the image of Dave. I was

mesmerized looking at him. I did not know at the time our grandfather had changed the name until I got home and related the story to Sylvia. My husband did write a letter to the Kibbutz but we never heard from him or his family. Here's another little tidbit, Dave was a twin and I don't know if Phil was the other twin or the brother in Israel was.

The third brother may have be "Hime" or perhaps the phonetically same "Chaim." This Kibbutz still exists and operates as a hotel/hostel. I wrote to them and they replied that the message was forwarded to a historian, but there was no further word. Note that the gentleman's name was Weitzman – which was David's too, and is phonetically the same as the first President of Israel, Chaim Weizmann's name. However the President of Israel was born in Motol, Russia (now Belarus) in 1874. This is some distance from Kishinev where our story starts. I don't see a family connection here.

The picture below was shot in Montreal in 1920, just prior to David and family moving to New York. It includes Phil White on the right and his wife Sylvia. Phil was a furrier and/or a supplier of military clothing. Phil's daughter, Claire married in Canada, and Lynn Berman attended, meeting Phil and, of course, Claire. Claire had siblings but we don't have their names. Lynn and Claire kept up a correspondence for many years. Phil died after David. Accordingly, he lived until after 1972 as noted above. Tracing the White family of Montreal or near Toronto where he reportedly died, may turn up some cousins. However our attempts to date have failed to find Phillip or any Canadian family members.

David was multilingual. He spoke Russian as well as Yiddish and Hebrew. He also spoke some French and of course learned English. Lynn remembers how David would take her to a bar and buy her a virgin "old fashioned". Cousin Steve Silver spoke of the time when Vella had a heart attack and was hospitalized at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx. David, out of sorts and crying about "Momma" being sick, was farmed out to family members. After being kicked out of my family's apartment for being drunk and peeing on the floor (this I remember!), David lived with Sylvia and asked her children to open the liquor cabinet to get him "a glazel scotch." Although the cabinet was locked, David showed young Stevie how to remove the hinges to get at the bottles within. He then

poured himself a full water glass of his favorite, Teachers Scotch.





Figure 21 The Wheatman Family, 1920. From top left: Vella, Ben, Roberta/Bobbie, Phillip's wife Sylvia. Bottom from left: Lillian, David holding baby Sylvia, Edith, Charlie, Phillip and Nathan.



Figure 22 David Wheatman Family in Montreal from bottom, clockwise: Lynn, Edith, Nathan, Roberta, Ben, Vella, Sylvia, Charlie and David (Center)

There are strong facial resemblances between my Father Nathan (on the right) and me, and between David and my brother Stanley's son, Gary. Further, on close up, there is a resemblance between Bobbie and my daughter Rebecca.

Great Uncle Philip Weitzman/Favel Weitzman/Vaitsman

Grandpa David had a brother, Phil White, who stayed in Canada. Looking for Phil White in Montreal was like looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack. So, looking for Phil Weitzman in the old country, these documents show his European name: Favel Vaitsman, born 5 July 1890, died 3 January 1973 in Ontario, outside of Toronto. Obviously, that is not Montreal. But first, confirming the that this is Phil, the document here shows his parents had the same first names as Grandpa David's - only here the spelling is Shoil (Saul), and Khana (Anna). Further, the documents give us the names of THEIR parents.

Name:	Favel Weitzman / Vaitsman
Gender:	Male
Birth Date:	5 Jul 1890
Hebrew Date:	29 Tamuz
Birth Town:	Kishinev
Birth Uyezd (District):	Kishinev
Birth Guberniya (Province):	Bessarabia
Father's name:	Shoil / Shoiel
Father's Father's Name:	Khaim / Khayim
Mother's name:	Khana / Khane
Mother's Father's Name:	Nisel / Nissel
Registration Number:	M452
Registration Place:	Kishenev
Registration Year:	1890
Film:	2255902 / 1
Image:	800
Comments:	Father was petty bourgeois, mohel was Moishe BRIMER
Archive Information:	NARM/211/11/232

Figure 23 Birth Record Extract for Phil White

The screenshot shows the JewishGen website interface. At the top, there are navigation buttons: ABOUT US, GET STARTED, DATABASES, RESEARCH, and DONATE. The main heading is "Bessarabia Birth Records". Below this, a search box displays the criteria: "Searching for Surname (phonetically like) : VAITSMAN AND Givenname (DM soundex) : FAVEL. 1 matching record found. Run on Tue, 05 Jun 2018 13:03:57 -0600".

Name	Father, Grandfather Mother, Grandfather Mother Maiden Surname	Date of Birth Uyezd Hebrew Date	Town Uyezd Gubernia	Comments	Place Registered Year Record	Microfilm / Item # Image # Archive / Fond
WEITZMAN / VAITSMAN, Favel	Shoil / Shoiel, Khaim / Khayim Khana / Khane, Nisel / Nissel	5/7/1890 29 Tamuz	Kishinev Kishenev Bessarabia	Father was petty bourgeois, mohel was Moishe BRIMER	Kishinev 1890 M452	2255902 / 1 800 NARM/211/11/232

Figure 24 Favel Weitzman (Phil White) Birth Record

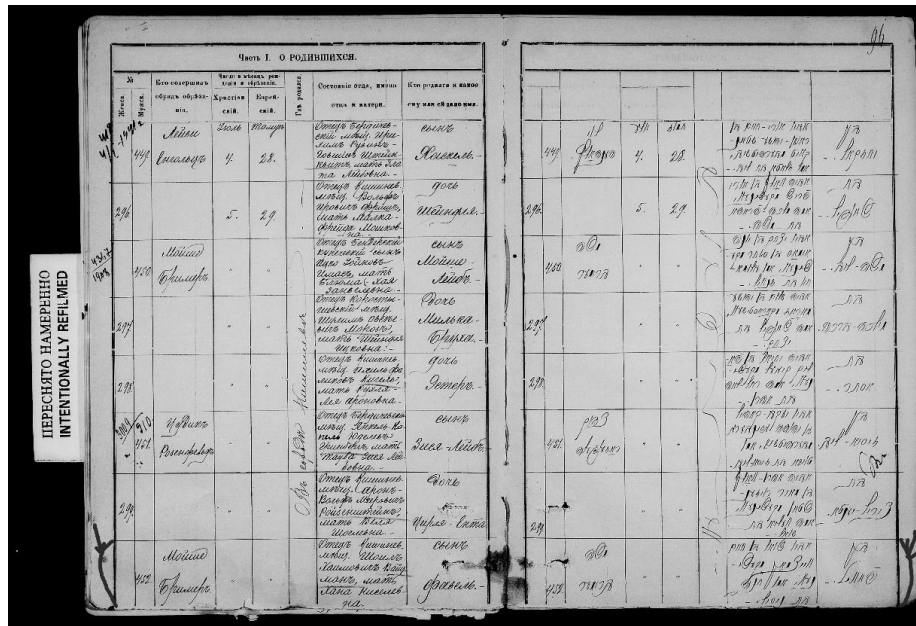


Figure 25 The Original Document Indexed Above

Marriage Place (Town / Uyezd / Gubernia)	Marriage Date (D/M/Y) Hebrew Date	Groom Name BrideName	Groom Father Groom Mother Place	Bride Father BrideMother Place	Groom Age Bride Age	Comments	Rabbi Witness1 Witness2	Place Recorded Year Recorded	Record Type #	Microfilm # Item # Frame# Image # Fond
Kishinev / Kishinev / Bessarabia	14/5/1910	VAYTSMAN, Favel BALANSKI, Yekheved	Sholl						Marriage 108	2292610 4 NARM/211/11/399
Kishinev / Kishinev / Bessarabia	14/5/1910 18 Iyar	VAYTSMAN, Favel BALANSKA, Yekheved	Sholl Kishinev	Yekhel / Yichiel Derenkov district, Cherkassy Uyezd, Kiev Gubernia	20 23	Groom was bachelor, Kishinev townsman, by passport from Kishinev town court dated November 2, 1907, #4578. Bride was maiden, daughter of Derenko district townsman in Cherkassy Uyezd, Kiev Gubernia. Ketubah: 48 rubles in silver paid.	Shmul- David / Shmul- David KLEYNER B. POLINKOVSKY	Kishinev 1910	Marriage 108	2292612 5 00753 39 NARM 211/11/408

Figure 26 Marriage of Favel Vaytsman and Yekhevd Balyanovska-Balanski. Assuming the wife is "Sylvia" this shows her to be from Kiev.

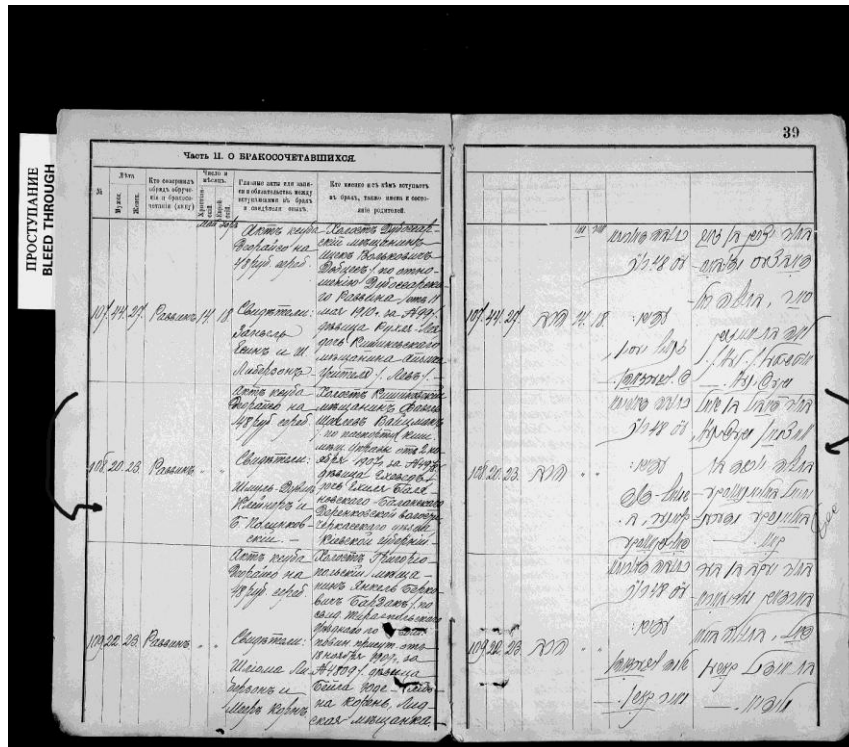


Figure 27 Original Marriage Record

Now, some speculation. Perhaps Phil and his wife (Sylvia) actually did live in Toronto the whole time, or moved there at some point. This might explain why the family portrait we have which includes Phil shows only him and his wife with no children. Of course, a family picture including his children might exist; we just don't know. But if not, then perhaps Phil and Sylvia visited David and his family in Montreal for the picture.

Why is this of interest? Well, it means there may be living cousins in Canada. But so far, I haven't found them.

David and Philip's Parents

One of the challenges in researching family history is to go back as far as you can. "Hitting a Brick Wall" is the phrase used when reaching the seemingly end of available documents relevant to the search. But more and more records are becoming available and even existing records can hold desired details. But you just have to find them. This is David Wheatman/Weitzman's original application for a social security number which I ordered from the Social Security Administration. He filed when he was 48 years old on May 7, 1937 during the depression. It shows his address on Bryant Avenue in the Bronx, and states he is unemployed. But most interestingly, it names his parents as Saul Weitzman and Anna Steinberg (which was probably Shtenynberg in the original Hebrew/Yiddish). Astute observers will note the curious fact that Vella's father was Itzack Steinberg, fueling speculation that they were cousins. It was common for families, and particularly cousins, to intermarry.

AS7333-01

U. S. SOCIAL SECURITY ACT APPLICATION FOR ACCOUNT NUMBER	
115-12-2158	
1. EMPLOYER'S FIRST NAME DAVID	2. EMPLOYER'S LAST NAME WHEATMAN
3. STREET AND NUMBER 1052 Bryant Avenue	4. CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE Bro, N.Y.C. N.Y.
5. OCCUPATION unemployed	6. BUSINESS ADDRESS - IF FREELANCE EMPLOYEE
7. AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY 48	8. PLACE OF BIRTH Bessarabia, Russia
9. DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR) 9-5-1908	10. MOTHER'S FULL NAME Anna Steinberg
11. SEX: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE (CHECK ONE)	12. COLOR: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> NEGRO <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
13. IF REGISTERED WITH THE U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, GIVE NUMBER OF REGISTRATION CARD not registered	14. IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY FILLED OUT A CARD LIKE THIS, STATE DATE no
15. DATE May 3, 1957	16. SIGNATURE David Wheatman

Figure 28 David's Application for Social Security

What about the Princess Pat Regiment Story?

Nat Wheatman told his sons about how Grandpa David Wheatman was 'impressed' into the Canadian Infantry. Others have heard this as part of the family's oral history. I recall Uncle Ben telling the same story. Or maybe it was about Phil White, David's Brother. Anyway, this echoes the earlier story of David being inducted into the Russian military. The Canadian story was about young men being offered alcoholic beverages, getting drunk and waking up the next morning on a ship bound for battle in Europe. It needs to be noted that this story, with variations, is a fairly common story among immigrants.

The Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry or PPCLI is named for Princess Patricia of Connaught, the daughter of the Governor General of Canada. It was the first Canadian unit to enter the Great War, and was the first unit from Canada to reach the front. It suffered terrible losses. Although formed in Ottawa in 1914 during World War I (The Great War), its Battalions were mostly located in Western Canada but there were other similar military units elsewhere in Canada, including Montreal.

Knowing of fisherman's genes in this family, it COULD have been a tall tale based on some truth, but embellished or conflating the Princess Pat brigade with a Montreal

military unit. The unit had about 5000 members and there's a roster. Alas, no David Weitzman is listed. Good story though.

Vella Steinberg Weitzman

Vella's Journeys

This purser document shows Vella travelling with the two oldest, Kishinev-born children Rose (Barbara), and Ben (18 months old) travelling to Canada. She is going to meet her husband and intends to live in Canada permanently. Note that the spelling of these names is different from what we expect, but we have relatively high confidence this is them. Reisel can translate to Rose for example.

The image shows a historical document titled "INSTRUCTIONS TO PURSERS" and "Page No. 4". It is a large table with multiple columns containing names, ages, genders, and other details of passengers. A white arrow points to a specific row in the table. The document is a purser's document showing Vella and two children entering Canada.

Figure 29 Purser's Document showing Vella and two children entering Canada.

The image shows a close-up of a handwritten document. The text is written in cursive and includes names like "Weitzmann", "Reisel", and "Reisel". There are also numbers and other markings.

Weitzmann	Reisel	20	M	to husband	permanent	no
"	Reisel		3	S	"	"
"	Reisel		1/2	S	"	"

Figure 30 Blowup of Purser's Document

Looking for Vella's family. I wrote to a Moldovan (living the the US) who has published the Valysman family history. You recall I thought this might have been the actual family name, transformed into Weitzman on immigration documents. Turns out Vaysman is a common name in that part of the world. The author notes there were many Vaysman families in Kishinev. Her Vaysmans moved to Kishinev from Bendery, another Moldavian city. Because Vaysman is very popular Jewish name she believes that some of Kishinev Vaysman are related but most of them just probably have the same last name. One of

her Vaysmans moved through England to South Africa and he spelled his name Weissman. But she doesn't think our families are directly related.

BUT the researcher dug into JewishGen's database to find Vella: Velie Shteinberg, shown here.

Bessarabia Birth Records

Searching for Surname (phonetically like) : SHTEINBERG AND Givenname (phonetically like) : VELIE AND Town (phonetically like) : KISHINEV 2 matching records found. Run on Tue, 12 Jun 2018 18:25:36 -0600						
Name	Father, Grandfather	Date of Birth	Town	Comments	Place Registered	Microfilm / Item #
	Mother, Grandfather	Hebrew Date	Uyezd		Year	Image #
	Mother Maiden Surname		Gubernia		Record	Archive / Fond
SHTEINBERG, Velie	Istko / Yitzkhok, Nukhim / Nokhum	13/2/1890	Kishinev	Father was Petty Bourgeois	Kishinev	2255902 / 1
	Tsizha / Tsizshe, Ber	5 Adar	Kishinev		1890	663
			Bessarabia		F64	NARM/211/11/232
SHTEINBERG / SHTEYNBERG, Ber	Vel'ya / Vel'ye, Yitskhak / Itsko	2/1/1910	Kishinev	Mother from Kishinev Mohel -Moshko GOLDENBERG	Kishinev	2292604 / 4
		5 Shevat	Kishinev		1910	4
	SHTEINBERG / SHTEYNBERG		Bessarabia		M5	NARM/211/11/376

Figure 31 Vella's Birth Record, and what looks like Ben, the second born

Velie was not a common name in the old country. Velie/Vella's Father's name was Istko or Itskhak (close to what we already had) who was identified as a petty bourgeois (i.e. "middle class.") Vella's GRANDFATHER'S name was Nukhim which I think is equivalent to Nathan, my dad's name. Vella's Mother's name was Tsisha and her Grandfather was Ber. Tsisha most likely was changed to Anna, and there are two other Anna Steinberg's showing up in our family history, one being David's Mother, the other having signed Aunt Bobbie's naturalization papers in 1938. There are several birthdates given for Vella in the documents, due to a lack of proper recording, because of how records were filed, or because of the fact that Jewish Birth certificates used the Hebrew calendars. This document confirms she was born in Kishinev.

Below we show her two younger sisters, Nekhama and Golda, also born in Kishinev.

SHTEYNBERG, Nekhama	Itsek / Yitskhok, Nukhim	12/3/1893	Kishinev	Kishinev	2255903 / 3
	Chizshe, Berek / Ber	7 Nissan	Kishinev	1893	398
			Bessarabia	F107	NARM/211/11/235

SHTEYNBERG, Golda	Itsko, Nukhim	//1898	Kishinev	Kishinev	2292603 / 3
			Kishinev	1898	
			Bessarabia	F211	NARM/211/11/371

Figure 32 Vella's Sisters Nekhama and Golda

EXAMINATION RECORD

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

Name in full Weitzman, Willa

Occupation None Age 30 Sex F Marital status W

Read Yidd Write English Nationality Canada Race Jewish

Last residence 1726 St. Lawrence Montreal alien came Father, Itzak Stenberg, Kachinor, Rumania

Destination 6 E 122 St N.Y. City

To whom going Husband David Ticket 200 Passage paid by self Money shown \$150

Ever in U.S. From _____ to _____ where _____

Date last departure _____ Port last departure _____ Birthplace Kachinor, Rumania

Landed at Quebec on 1911 per S.S. Montezuma If in prison, almshouse, etc. _____

Height 5-4 Weight 128 Complexion med

Hair Dark Brown Eyes Blue Identification _____

Class E aboard E4 line 612 Imm. or nonimm. _____

Date manifested Jan 21 1921

Head tax 2.10 Ch. No. 124992

If visited Rum If transit, via _____

S.S. line, ticket No. _____ per S.S. _____ issued at _____ date _____

Previously examined at _____ date _____ Previous disposition _____ Records by Tammill

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the above described person was examined by me on Jan 25, 1921, and found to be free from disease.

Mulligan
U.S. Public Health Service

Figure 33 Vella's Health Examination Record Before entering the US

Vella and the youngest two children came from Europe to Canada 1911 on the S/S Montezuma, owned at the time by the Canadian Pacific Railroad. She came into the US with the family on January 25th, 1921. Before entering the US, she was examined for disease as this document shows.



Figure 34 The S/S Montezuma of the Canadian Pacific Line steamship

The below manifest shows Vella ("Walla") crossing the relatively short distance from Montreal to St. Albans Vermont (very close to the border and Rouses Point, NY cited above) in February 1921 with members of the family. The manifest shows that different names were first used for the youngest family members. Vella is listed as 30 years old; Rosie is 13 and Ben is 10. This shows Vella's Father's name, Itzack ("Issac") Steinberg, of Kishinev, Romania. Close enough.

Form 1—(Optional)
 LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS APPLYING FOR ADMISSION
 Required by the regulations of Secretary of Labor

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
 Sheet No. 26 A to L M to Z

PORT OF MONTREAL

1 No. on List	2 HEAD-TAX STATUS	3 NAME IN FULL		4 Age	5 Sex	6 Color or complexion	7 Able to—		8 Nationality (Country of birth, place of birth or subject.)	9 Race or people	10 *Last permanent residence		11 The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came		12 Final destination (Should state permanent address)	
		Family name	Given name				Read	Write			Country	City or town	Name	Address	State	City or town
1		Benjamin	Francis	30	M				Romania		Montreal	St. Albans, Vt.	Chicago, Ill.	Ill.	Chicago	
2		Schubzon	Isaac	28	M				Romania		Montreal	St. Albans, Vt.	Chicago, Ill.	Ill.	Chicago	
3		Shanowski	Isaac	25	M				Romania		Montreal	St. Albans, Vt.	Chicago, Ill.	Ill.	Chicago	
4		Madoff	Isaac	14	M				Romania		Montreal	St. Albans, Vt.	Chicago, Ill.	Ill.	Chicago	
5		Walla	Isaac	30	F				Romania		Montreal	St. Albans, Vt.	Chicago, Ill.	Ill.	Chicago	
6		Ben	Isaac	10	M				Romania		Montreal	St. Albans, Vt.	Chicago, Ill.	Ill.	Chicago	
7		Rosie	Isaac	13	F				Romania		Montreal	St. Albans, Vt.	Chicago, Ill.	Ill.	Chicago	
8		Nathan	Isaac	8	M				Romania		Montreal	St. Albans, Vt.	Chicago, Ill.	Ill.	Chicago	
9		Charlie	Isaac	7	M				Romania		Montreal	St. Albans, Vt.	Chicago, Ill.	Ill.	Chicago	
10		Lillie	Isaac	2	F				Romania		Montreal	St. Albans, Vt.	Chicago, Ill.	Ill.	Chicago	
11		Juna	Isaac	2	F				Romania		Montreal	St. Albans, Vt.	Chicago, Ill.	Ill.	Chicago	
12		David	Isaac	2	M				Romania		Montreal	St. Albans, Vt.	Chicago, Ill.	Ill.	Chicago	

Figure 35 Vella Crossing into the US with Children

The names Wedda or Wetta likely refers to Edith, and Juna to Sylvia. There were two babies stillborn between Edith and "Lillie" (Lillian, also "Lilac"). The second page, not shown here, says that David lived at the time at 6 E. 112 Street in New York (Manhattan) which was demolished and replaced by a high-rise or a public housing project.

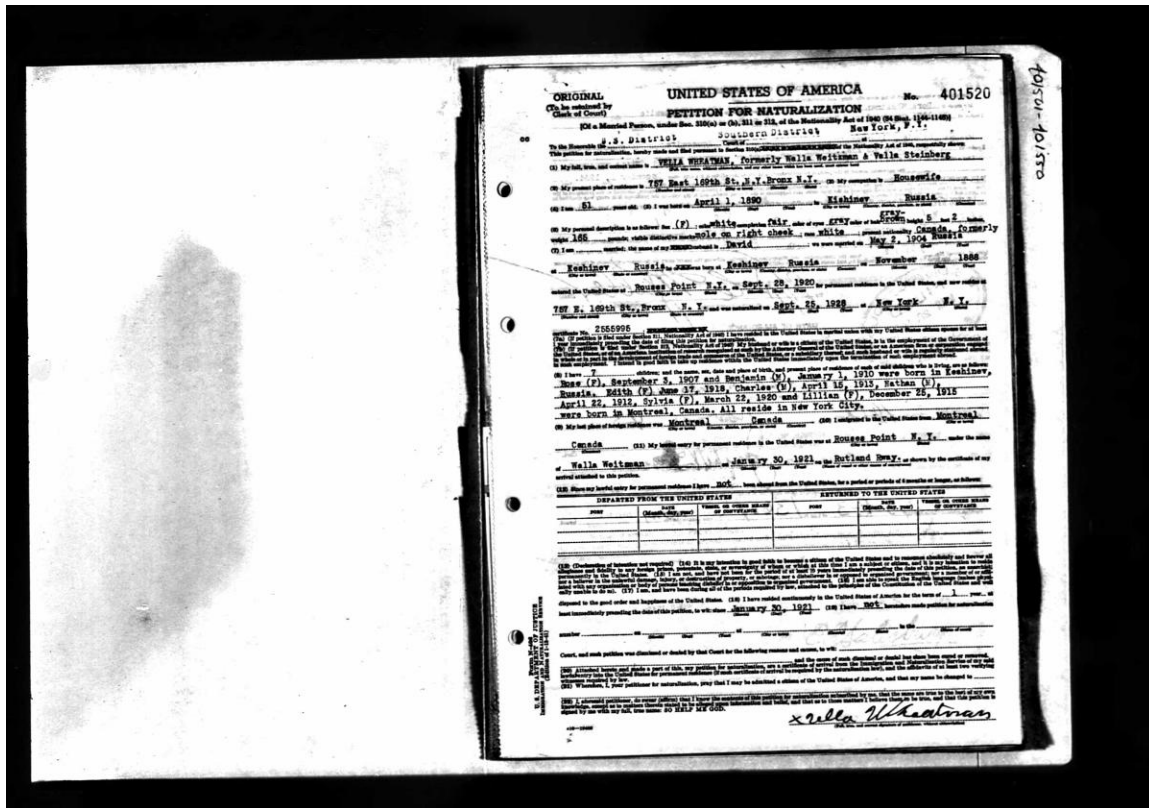


Figure 36 Vella's Naturalization Papers

These papers show she also went by the names Walla and Valla, phonetically very similar.

No. 5575747

Name WHEATMAN, VELLA

residing at 757 East 169 Street, New York, Bronx, N.Y.

Age 53 years. Date of order of admission November 16, 1943

Date certificate issued November 16, 1943 by the

U. S. District Court at New York City, New York

Petition No. 401520
1010365

Vella Wheatman
(Complete and true signature of holder)

Figure 37 Vella's Petition for Citizenship

Vella in the United States



Figure 38 Vella on the Right and her Cousin in St. Louis

The picture was likely taken in St. Louis although the Wheatman family lived in Montreal at the time. The photographers name and St. Louis address are stamped on the back. Vella looks to be in her 20s. There were cousins named Lieber or Lieberman who lived in "St. Louie" as Vella would say. In addition to St. Louis, Vella had cousins in the Bronx, one named Golda and other cousins possibly in Detroit.

It was nothing for Vella to leave a week or so of cooked meals in the fridge for David and go on a trip somewhere. She was a true feminist, long before that word existed, according to Lynn.

At some point, Vella briefly took the name Winifred because she thought it sounded sophisticated. Elsewhere, Vella is recorded as "Bella," a phonetic version as recorded by clerks, but also Walla was used at one time.

During some family gatherings at Grandma's Bronx Apartment Grandma would make Matzo balls (heavy!) and other ethnic foods. She would speak about how, after a typically heavy meal, the men were "all starched out" and needed something to do.



Figure 39 Vic Wheatman and Jeffrey Love in front of Grandma's Apartment Building

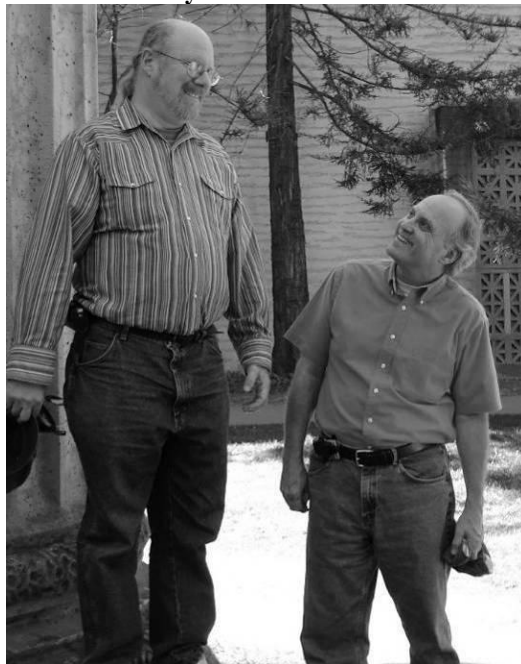


Figure 40 Recreating the Scene 60 years later



Figure 41 Barry and Victor - hide and seek outside Grandma and Grandpa's Bronx Apartment

When asked, "Pop, are you hungry?" Vella would answer for him "He's not hungry." David would yield with the lament "What do you want from me?" They first lived in the Bronx but later moved to Forest Hills. Vella, as many women of her era, would hide money lest David spend it on drink, leaving the family nothing or very little. I remember my mother Helen speaking about a roll of bills hidden in Vella's bra. Money was also hidden behind a sewing machine.

Vella is remembered as a nurturing woman. She and David would travel to Florida in their later years by train.

Despite having several cousins elsewhere in the county, Vella left many family members (the Steinbergs) behind in Europe. We know her Father's name: Itzak Shteynberg (Steinberg). In the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, a line of poets and authors emerged on the cultural scene in Bessarabia, many of whom were to play an important role in Yiddish and Hebrew literature, including, among others Eliezer Steinberg and Judah Steinberg who were possibly related. Unfortunately, we could not confirm that.

Vella spoke of going to buy a loaf of bread for the family while in Europe, but being so hungry that she ate just a little bit, then a little more, until it was all gone by the time she got home.

Vella and David

David and Vella had an arranged marriage, she was 16, he 18. He was in the Czars army/Calvary as a horseman. Vella did not want to marry David, and wanted him to run away so they wouldn't get married... but he didn't and they were married in either April, 1906 or, according to Vella's Naturalization petition reproduced above, in May, 1904.

According to the family oral history, David went AWOL and supported by his brother Phil (White) booked passage to Canada, later sending for Bobbie (Rosie), Ben and wife Vella.

The facial features some family members have is due to a mixing of the races going back generations when the Ashkenazi Jews went through "Add Mixture" , i.e. a mixing of the races. The blue eyes and white skin of the family, along with the distinctive eyes and brows, demonstrate this mixing. There may be a specific term for this look which I'm calling Slavic-Turkish-Mongoloid or Hunnic (i.e. like Attila the Hun) or Ural–Altaic which



suggests heritage from further east. Think of Charles Bronson. or Oscar



Homolka. According to my DNA analysis, there is 3% Asian influence in my blood!

The family moved to NY in late 1920 but more probably early 1921. They bought a house on Rosedale Avenue in the Bronx. David may have lost or sold the property as a result of the crash of 1929.

Rosedale Avenue (14-3595), east side, 75 feet south of Lafayette Avenue, 25 by 100 feet; David Wheatman to Anna Blum, 320 East 167th Street.

Figure 42 Transfer of the Wheatman House on Rosedale Avenue

The family lived very close to each other. The Wheatman family formed a painting company and traveled as far as Chicago in search of work during the depression. True to form, Grandpa David grabbed the money made painting and bought alcohol. The family joked that David was preserved in alcohol. I remember his sons giving "Pop" bottles of Scotch, and they enjoyed drinking with him.

Think of the Gray

Steve Silver noted that David was a walker. Even on the highway, David would ask whoever was driving that they stop. He would get out and walk while the car followed at maybe 5 miles per hour. He would take Steven on walks around the block and say to him "Think of the gray, not white, not black, but gray" as a kind of meditative lesson for the young man. David had a '55 Buick. His last car was a 1959 two-toned black and red two door ford with a three-speed manual shift. Perhaps due to his age or his inebriation, would drive at 3 miles an hour. People would yell at him things like "did you bring your lunch?" My Father Nathan (supported by others) asked David for the keys to sell the car when it became clear he shouldn't drive anymore.

Family Circle

The family remained close until later years when as is seemingly the custom, some of the sons, daughters and even the third generation moved to Florida, at first seasonally, then permanently. But even in Florida, they remained at least geographically close to each other.

Regular Family Circle meetings took place before these moves at Aunt Sylvia's house. These meetings helped maintain family ties. The members jointly discussed their aging parents and contributed to help support David and Vella. This was a time when Social Security and other benefits were not available or insufficient, and there was little savings from the work David was able to do in later years.



Figure 43 Family Circle - from left clockwise: Charlie, Al Friedman, Bobbie Friedman, Vella, David, Helen Wheatman (my Mom), Ben and Allen (Ben's son) on the floor. Nathan likely took the picture.

Amsterdam Avenue.

WHEATMAN—Vella, beloved wife of the late David, devoted mother of Barbara Friedman, Benjamin, Nathan, Charles, Lillian Schwartz, Edith Moss and Sylvia Silvers, loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Services Friday 12 noon at Garlicks "Parkside," Queens Blvd. and 66 Ave., Forest Hills.

WITTMAN—Joseph. Valorous Lodge #1063 F.&A.M. sorrowfully records the passing of a beloved member. Masonic Services

Figure 44 Vella's Death Notice

WHEATMAN—David, beloved husband of Vella. Devoted father of Barbara Friedman, Ben, Nathan, Charles, Lillian Schwartz, Edith Moss and Sylvia Silver. Loving grandfather. Services today 12 noon, Garlick's "Parkside," Queens Blvd. & 66th Ave., Forest Hills.

VETTER—Katherine (nee Ammann). Feb. 11,

Figure 45 David Wheatman's Death Notice

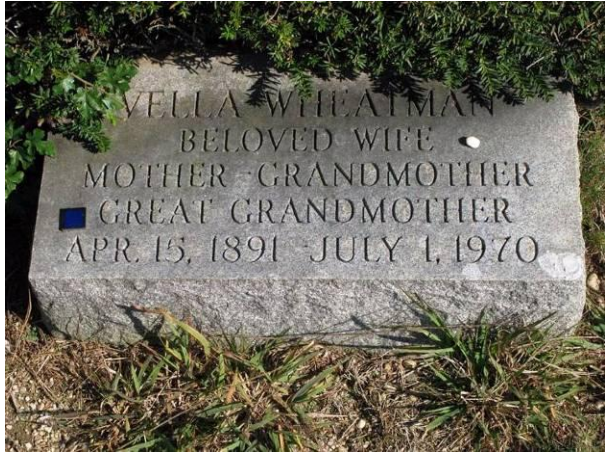


Figure 46 Vella's Gravestone

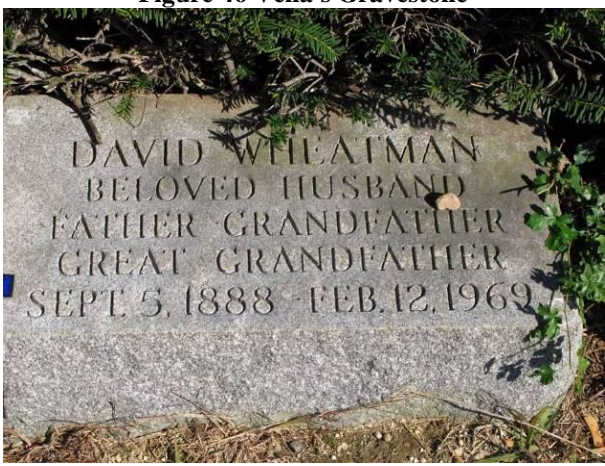


Figure 47 David's Gravestone

Meet the Wheatmans - A Partial Family Album

When I started cutting and pasting pictures the pictures below of the family drawn from my collection, from those sent to me, primarily by Lynn, and those I copied from Facebook, I soon realized what a daunting task it would be. The family tree has over 100 members -- and counting!

Accordingly, and in the interests of "getting this done" here is but a selection of Wheatman photographs.



Figure 48 Stan Wheatman (Nathan's Son), Charlie Wheatman, the author 1996



Figure 49 Elise Isopo, Barry (Charlie's son), Kathie and Yvette Wheatman-Sims



Figure 50 Elise, Laurie Fields-Sandy Kirshner and Yvette



Figure 51 Kayla with her daughter Laurie



Figure 52 Kayla, Laurie FSK, Aubrey



Figure 53 Charlie Wheatman's Grave



Figure 54 Steve, Paul and Sylvia Silver



Figure 55 Allison, Laura Wheatman Hill (Vic's Daughter), Eric, Gary (Stan's Son) , his wife Laura, and Dylan Wheatman (Lawrence, Kansas)



Figure 56 Dylan Wheatman

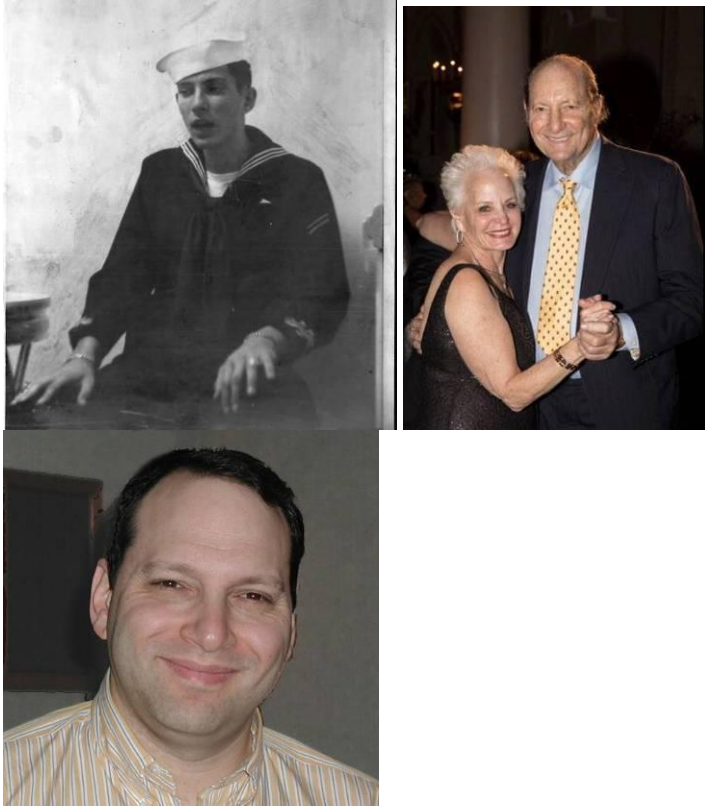


Figure 57 (3 pictures) Eddie Friedman, Ed with Eileen, and David, Ed's son



Figure 58 David Wheatman, Ed Friedman and Stan Wheatman



Figure 59 Allen Wheatman



Figure 60 Jeff Wheatman (Allen's Son)



Figure 61 Wheatman Women (probably the 1960s) from left, clockwise: Marilyn (Lynn), Sylvia, Bobbie, Edith, Vella, Carol (Marilyn's daughter), Edith and (bottom) Jill (also Marilyn's Daughter).



Figure 62 The Isopos (Cousins Barry and Kathie Wheatman's Offspring)

Closing

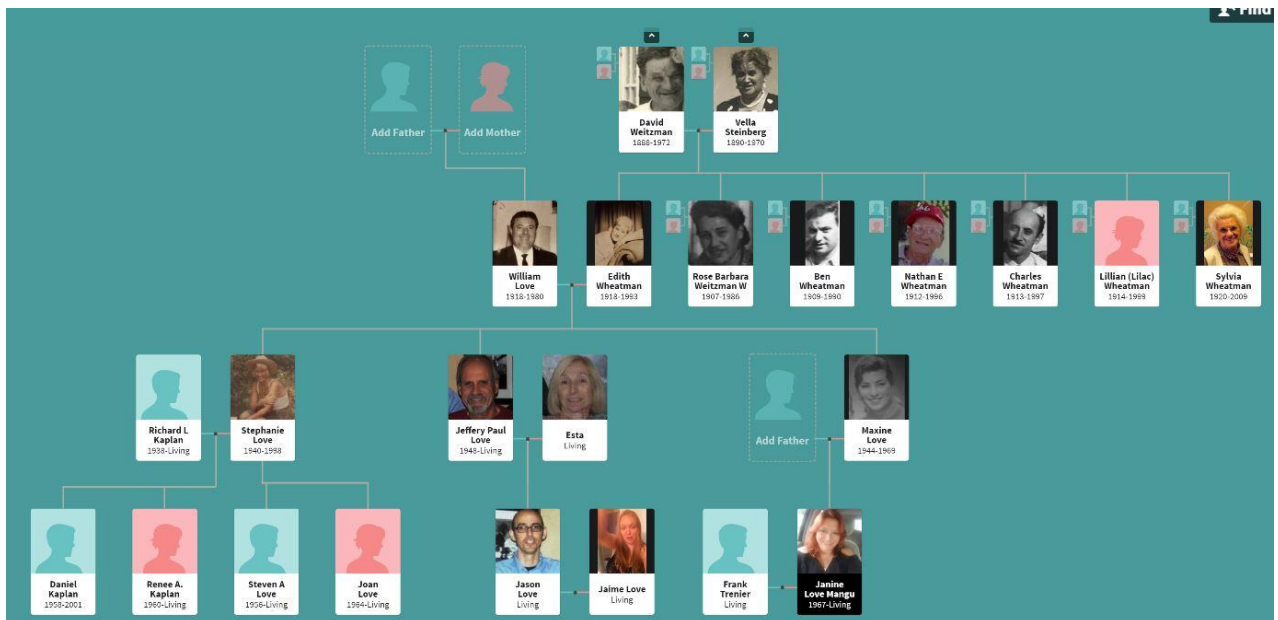
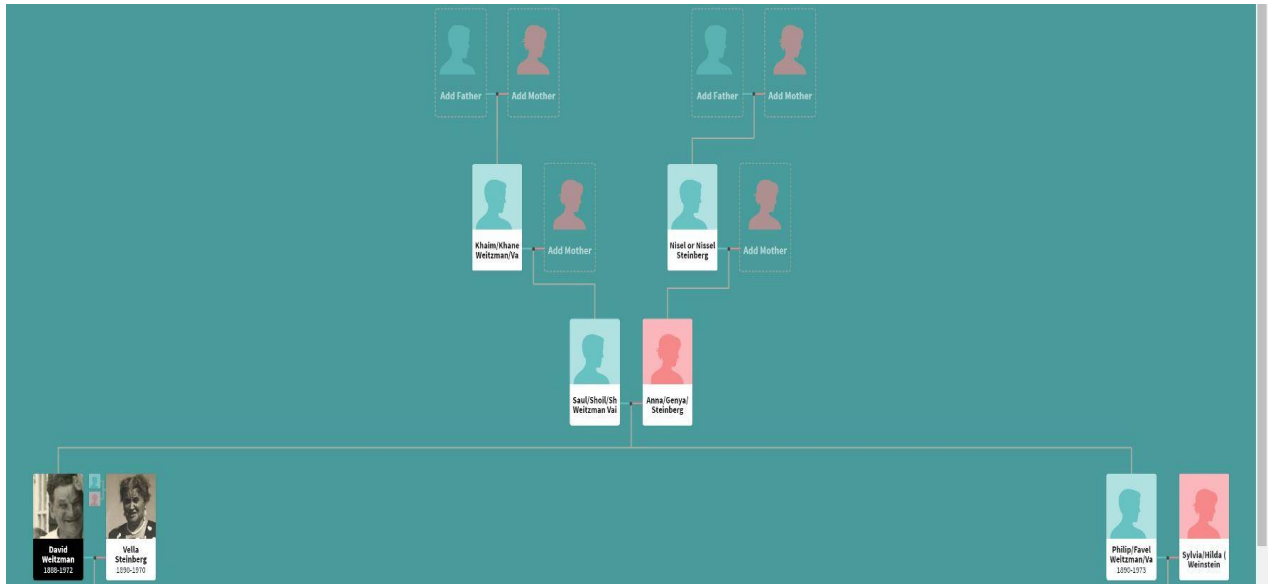
The youngest and last of David and Vella's children, Sylvia, passed away in 2009. The second generation of American-born now are in their retirement age and they too have started to "move on." The original "Wheatman" name is also in decline with few boys carrying the name to be passed on to future generations: Only Eric and Dylan Wheatman, the late Stan Wheatman's grandchildren come to mind. Mostly, it's been girls! girls! girls! born to this and the previous generation. But the "blood" carries forward, as illustrated by in our family tree.

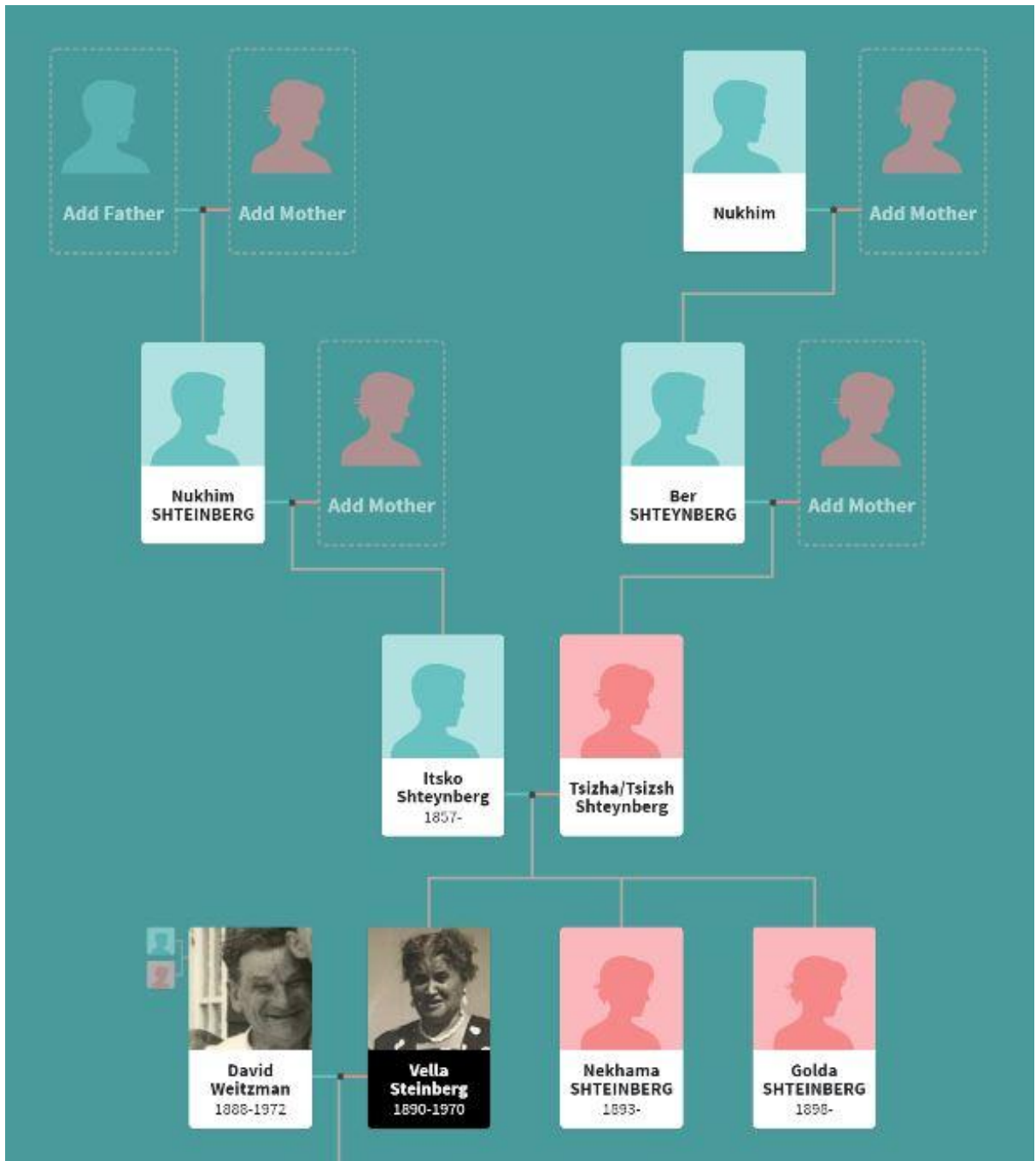


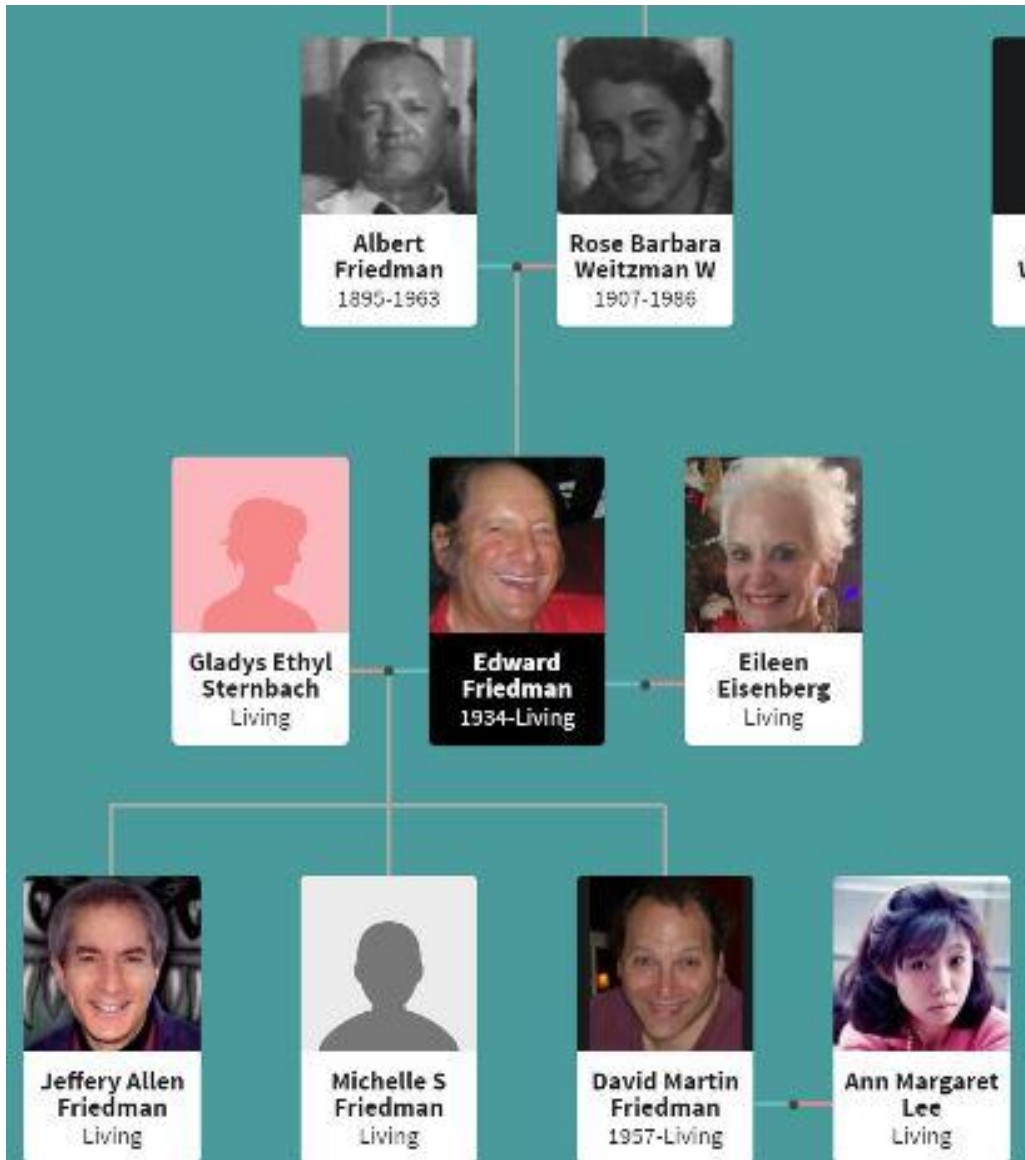
Figure 63 Air Moldova - Want to Take a Ride?

The Wheatman Family Tree

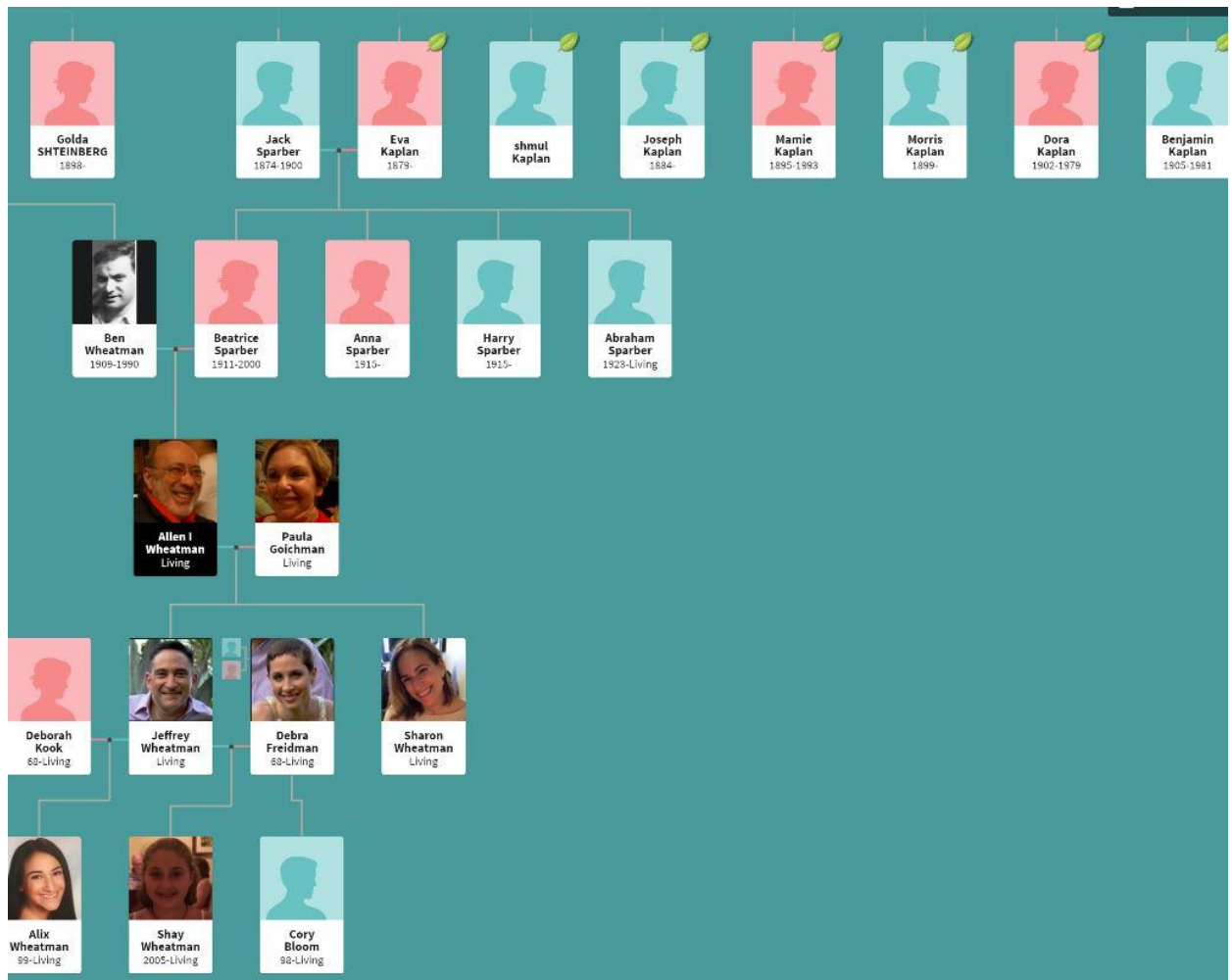
On the following pages is a "cut and paste" of the Wheatman Family Tree. I'm tried to give all members access to the tree on Ancestry.Com via frewe accounts, but you do need to register. Let me know if you cannot access this. You should be able to "click through" to see some of the details including additional documents I've attached to family members. Meanwhile, you can cut and paste this. Posters can be ordered through Ancestry.Com.

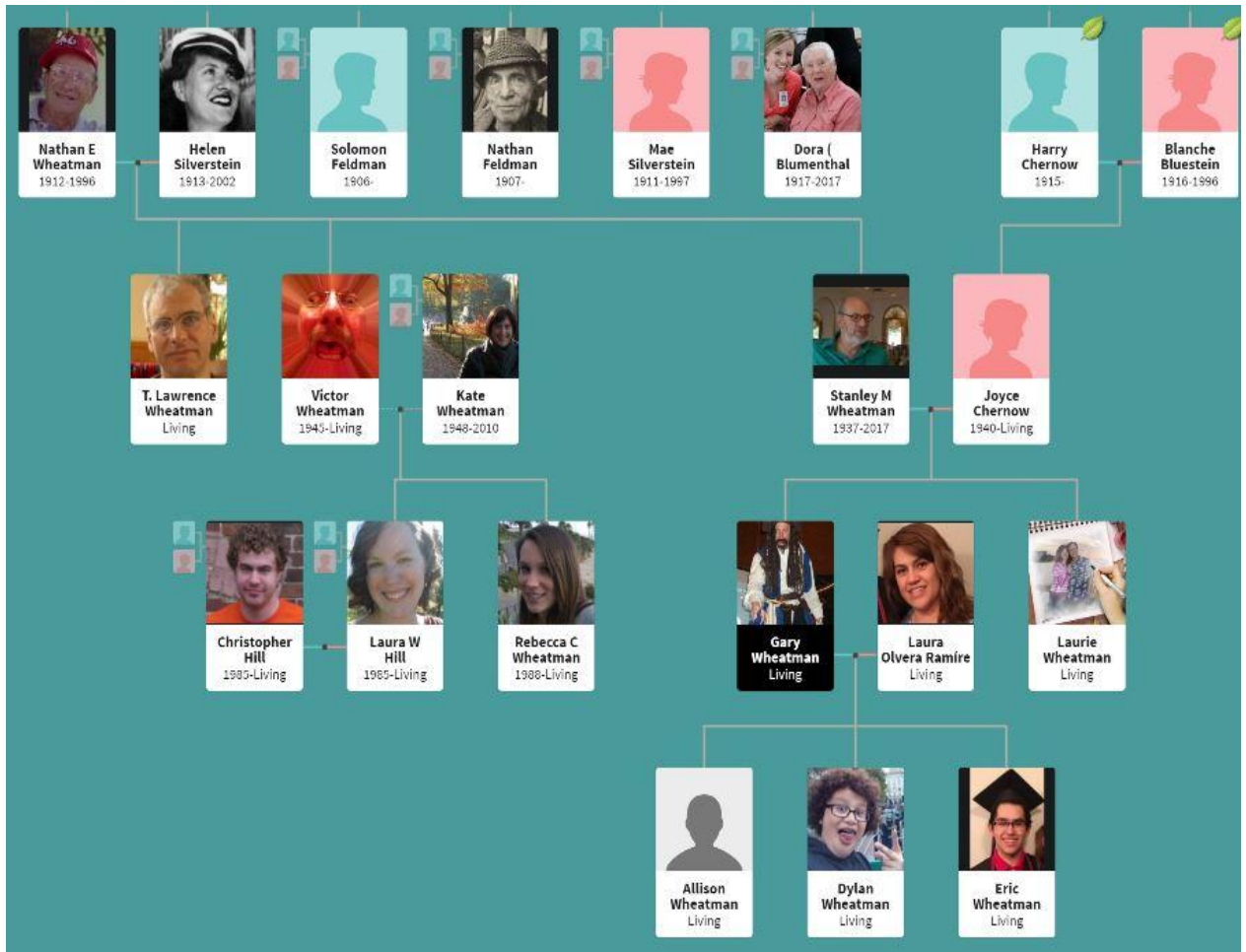


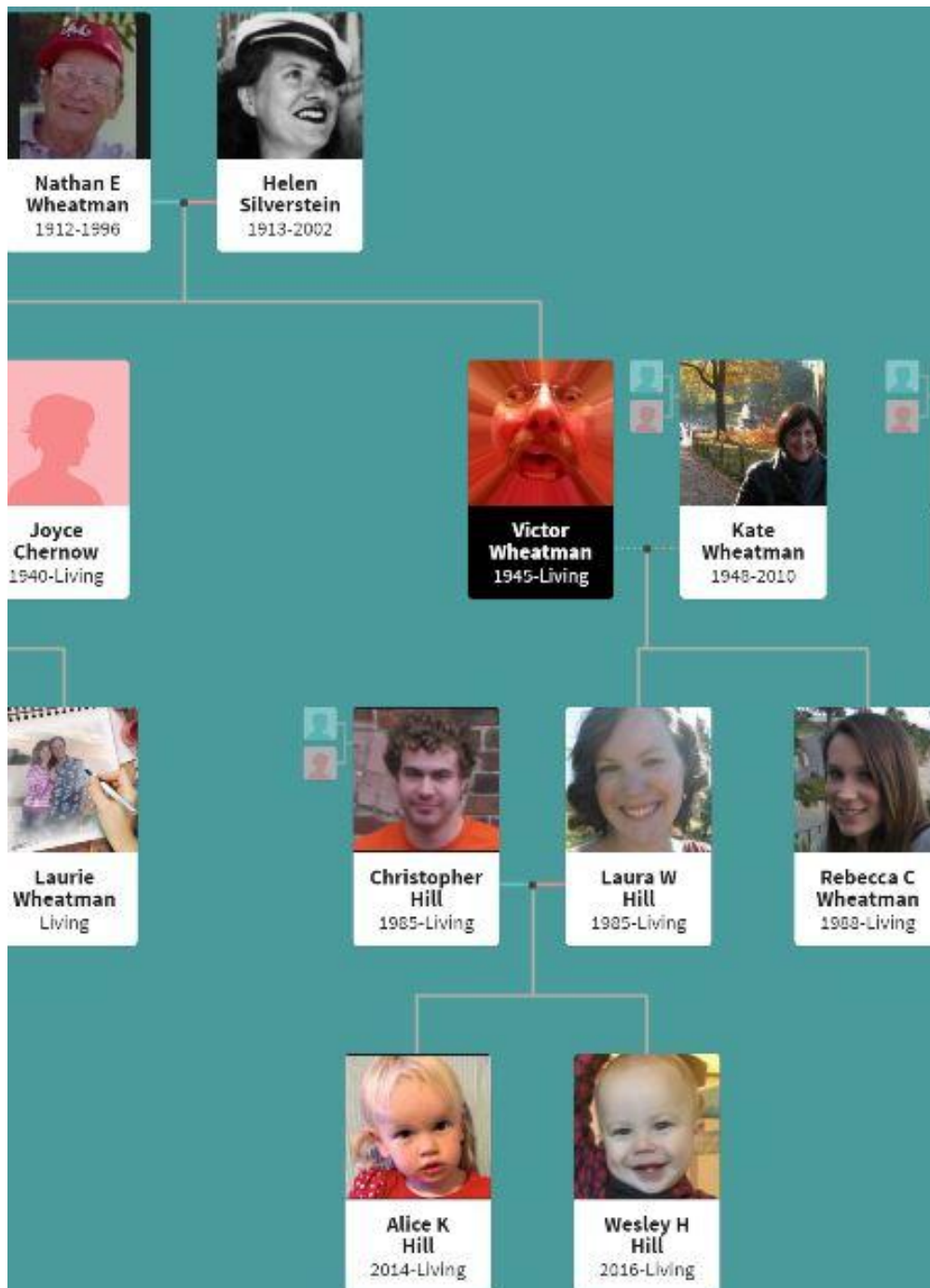












Your comments, additions, and documents/pictures are welcome.