

The Hershowitz/Levy Family

Foreword by Cindy [Levy] Berman

Gathering information for the family tree was begun in 1969/1970 when I found that my husband could not follow the relationships of my extensive family members spread out all around the world. I decided to hand-write the family relationships on paper, not thinking at that time that it would turn into the hobby it has since become for me. After my two daughters were born, I began to see an even more important reason to continue this project. I wanted my daughters to know who they are and the family to which they belong.

On August 14, 1998, I received a surprise e-mail from my second cousin who lives in Israel, Eitan [Anthony] Levy, son of Hayman and Queenie Levy. I had never met Eitan before, but knew who he was. He explained how he had found my original hand-written family tree in the possession of another cousin living in Israel. When he inquired as to the name of the preparer of the family tree, he was told that this information was unknown. He continued his research into where this copy of the family tree came from and on a visit to South Africa in July of 1998, he finally found the answer he'd been looking for. He met with Chloe and Joyce Bernstein in Cape Town and was told that it was I who had prepared the original hand-written version 29 years before. Unfortunately, I had not thought to insert my name as preparer of the family tree because I didn't think it would travel such a long distance, geographically or in period of time, nor that it would be of that much interest to anyone else. I have since rectified that oversight, and now put my name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, as well as the date last printed, on each copy of the family tree I print.

On October 7, 1998, Eitan traveled all the way from Israel to Mission Viejo, California to meet with my family and me. We had a very emotional albeit pleasant and informative visit together, discussing our common great-grandparents, Siah and Taube Hershowitz.

Since that date, Eitan and I have established an ongoing communication with each other via the computer. He suggested that since we are working in parallel on the same family tree, sharing the same great-grandparents – Isaiah and Taube Hershovitz/Levy – we should work together, exchanging, adding, correcting and updating information as we go along. For the history that is recorded in the following pages much credit and appreciation must be given to Cousin Eitan for all his diligent and steadfast investigative work performed in acquiring this information, not to mention his knowledge of the Hebrew, Yiddish, and Russian languages, contributed by him, including a visit to the town of Skuodas (Shkud), Lithuania in 1999.

The following is a brief accounting of the Hershowitz/Levy Family as is known at this time.

The Hershowitz/Levy Family Story
by Cindy Berman and Eitan Levy – 2001

Isaiah Bender (son of Zussman) Hershovitz
and

Taube (daughter of Joel)

As far back as is known, the Hershowitz family came from a town in Lithuania known as Shkud or Skuodas, where they lived in the mid-1800s. Isaiah (Siah) Bender Hershovitz (son of Zussman Hershovitz), born in 1843 in Lithuania, and his wife Taube (daughter of Joel – maiden name unknown), born in 1847 in Lithuania, lived in this town. From information gained on the Internet from a list of payers of *Box Tax living in Skuodas in the year 1892, the following was found:

GIRSHOVICH SHAYA well-to-do; cabman; 4 in household.

It is not certain if the “4 in household” refers to males (Shaya, Morris, Hayman, Joel Sussel) or to total (then probably Shaya, Taube his wife and two children – omitting Morris who had perhaps changed his name to Levy by then to avoid conscription and was already married and not living in the same household). *The Box Tax, referred to before, was a specific Jewish tax paid by the whole Jewish population, except for some higher professionals and perhaps merchants. It was a tax on every pound of Kosher meat sold by a butcher and purchased by a Jew, and on every animal slaughtered. In the 1892 list there appears the name of Shaya Girshovich. In the family tree he was called Siah Bendet Hershovitz. The letter “H” does not exist in Russian, and the Hebrew/Yiddish “H” was always written and pronounced using the Russian “G”. So it is possible that the name might have been Girshovich. Siah, Shaya, Shaia are the same name depending on the pronunciation and whether you are talking Yiddish or Hebrew. On his gravestone in Maitland, Cape Town, his first name is written in Hebrew as Yeshayahu which abbreviates to Shaya and in English as Isaiah which abbreviates to Saiah.

Three sons were born to Siah and Taube: Morris in 1871, Hyman in 1876, and Joosa/Sussel (Joel) in 1878. It is not known for certain if Siah and Taube had any other children besides these three sons, however, it is believed by some in the family that there may have been a sister or two who remained and died in Lithuania. Records were recently found on the Internet in the registers of the Poor Jews Temporary Shelter in London that a Mr. Sch. Hirschowitz (aged 57) and his wife Taube (aged 55) stayed there for three days, from 6/19/1901 to 6/21/1901 on their way from Lithuania to South Africa. They left England for South Africa on the ship GAUL. The ages tie up exactly with the ages at death (from the tombstones in South Africa), so it's almost 100% certain that this refers to our ancestors. Siah died on November 2, 1927 and is buried in Maitland Cemetery in Cape Town, South Africa. Taube died on December, 10, 1919 and is also buried in Maitland Cemetery in Cape Town, South Africa.

Morris (son of Isaiah Bender) Levy
and

Esther (daughter of Shmuel Zundel) Bloch

Their oldest son, Morris was born in 1871 in Shkud, Lithuania. All males living in Russia/Lithuania in those years were required to serve in the military. Either to facilitate getting out of Russia/Lithuania to avoid the military, or perhaps when he went to the United States, as it is believed he did at perhaps the age of 17 or 18, the Hershovitz surname was dropped and he then became known as Maishe Leibe ("Lay-beh") and Levy (which in Yiddish is pronounced Lay-vy). It is believed that immigration officers in the United States may have simplified his name from Maise Leibe Hershovitz to Maishe Levy, and then he or immigration may have changed his first name to the more English-sounding Morris. As said before, Morris traveled to the U.S., however, this fact is not positively known and there are no specific places or dates known to confirm this, beyond the fact that he was said to have not liked America and he traveled on to Dundee, Scotland from where he wrote to the family of Esther Bloch, born in 1871 in a town called Kurland, Lithuania, asking for her hand in marriage. It is also a belief that Esther and Morris may have been distant cousins to one another. Esther traveled from Lithuania to Scotland to join Morris where they married in Dundee in 1890. Sometime in 1893 Esther returned to Lithuania (it is not known if she returned there with Morris or alone) for the birth of their first child. Philip was born in July 12, 1893 in Lithuania.

After the birth of their first child, Morris, Esther and Philip settled in Cape Town, South Africa where Rebecca (Betty) in 1894, Isaac (Jack) on April 11, 1896, and Alfred on March 7, 1898 were born. The Levy family traveled back to Scotland where another son Jesse was born in Aberdeen on March 12, 1900, and then once again, and finally, they resettled in Cape Town, South Africa where Sarah (Chloe) on July 6, 1902, Rachel (Ray) on December 2, 1903, and Charles on May 16, 1908 were all born. Morris died on May 30, 1948 and is buried Cape Town.

Hyman (son of Isaiah Bender) Levy
and

Lily Kuhlmann

Siah and Taube's second son, Hyman was born in 1876. He may have been born in a town called Lourits, Lithuania, and moved to Shkud at the age of 4 or 5. In 1896 at the age of 20 he left home via Liban to Hull and then took a train to London. He stayed there for 7 days and then went to Southampton. Money was sent to him by his brother Morris from S.A. to travel on to South Africa. He was met by Morris who put him up at his house in Cape Town. Like his older brother, Hyman changed his surname to Levy. For a year he became a traveling salesman selling drapery.

"He joined up in the Rustenberg Commando under Casper Du Plessis - Paul Kruger's brother-in-law - who was in charge of mounted commando. He was taught to fire a Mauser by the farmers and they moved off to Derdepoort on the borders of Bechuanaland. Part of the commando went to fight at Gaberones. They heard that Plummer was coming up to relieve Mafiking by going through 14 streams and they tried to prevent this. He remained with 40 men in the laager (50 wagons) at Derdepoort. The laager was triangular. Sentries used to be posted outside. Over Friday night he was on Brandwag from 10-12 p.m. He returned at 12 p.m. and went to sleep in the wagon in the

tent and he put his rifle in the tent when suddenly he heard shots - he got up and saw men running with their rifles inside the laager. He got up and got his rifle. The fieldcornet Stofberg (school master) and he met Mr. Haarhof and his 2 sons who showed Pa where to take up his position - on the ground outside the laager and to fire in a certain direction. He informed Pa that they were being attacked by Natives with assegais and rifles. The fighting lasted one hour and they lost all the oxen and horses. The English were also attacking with Maxims but when they found that Natives were attacking they broke off. The natives fired the houses.”

The preceding is an excerpt from a transcript of the handwritten recollections of Sam Levy (son of Hyman Levy) of his father's accounts during the Boer War (1899-1902) in South Africa. The document unfortunately abruptly ends at that point. There is archival proof that Hyman Levy was captured by the British and was prisoner of war #17122. According to the records, he was captured on November 19, 1900 and gave his age as 24. (Thus he was born in 1876.) It appears that Morris Levy paid the British a ransom to release his brother Hyman from POW camp. The third brother, Joosa/Sussel (Joel), Eitan Levy's grandfather, joined the British army and this was a constant source of friction between the two brothers who fought on opposing sides and led to a long-lasting bad feeling, even animosity, between them, for example Hyman didn't go to Sussel's funeral.

Hyman married Lily Kuhlmann, date unknown in Riga, Latvia. They had two daughters and two sons; Ethel born in 1903, Ann born on May 10, 1905, Sam born about 1908, and Morrie born on December 12, 1910. Hyman died on June 2, 1956 and is buried in Pinelands Cemetery, Cape Town. Lily Kuhlmann died June 22, 1956.

Joosa/Sussel/Joel (son of Isaiah Bender) Levy
and

Olga (Leah) Golda Matz

Siah and Taube's third son, Sussel was born in 1878 in Shkud, Lithuania. He too was brought out to South Africa by his older brother Morris, year unknown, possibly close to the same time that Hyman arrived in South Africa. Sussel joined the British Army and fought in the Boer War. The specific dates are unknown. Sussel married Olga (Leah Golda) Matz, marriage date unknown. Olga Matz was born in 1878 in Lithuania. They had three daughters and four sons: Ethel born in 1897, Annie in 1907, Hayman on September 7, 1904, Fanny in about 1908, Joe Seween on August 10, 1912, Eric Barnard on July 20, 1916, and Abe on December 7, 1918.

Ethel married Sol Williams. She died on December 25, 1959 in South Africa.

Annie died in 1934 in South Africa.

Hayman married Queenie Shapiro June 21, 1930. They had a son and daughter.

Eitan (Anthony) born April 27, 1940 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Eitan married

Doreen Glazer (born June 11, 1944) on December 16, 1964 in South Africa.

Fern born November 18, 1942 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. She presently lives in Wales.

Fanny born about 1908 and died in 1929 in South Africa.

Joe born August 10, 1912 in Aliwal North, South Africa, married Ethel Solomons, date

unknown. He died on October 30, 1994 in South Africa.

Joe and Ethel had four children: Shirley born March 15, 1938, Bruce born 1942, David born October 30, 1944, Myriam born December 22, 1950.

Eric

Abe

To this point, this is all that is known of our family history. If anyone should have information that differs from this or is more complete, the sharing of this information would be most appreciated.

Descendants of Zussman Hershovitz

Outline Descendant Tree

Birth/Death Dates	Country of Residence	
1	ZUSSMAN HERSHOVITZ	Unknown - Unknown
+Wife not Known		Unknown - Unknown
2	YESHAYAHU (ISAIAH) BENDER LEVY	1843 - 1927
+TAUBE LEVY		1847 - 1919
3	MORRIS LEVY	1871 - 1948
+ESTHER BLOCH		1871 - 1950
4	PHILIP LEVY	1893 - 1959
+RACHEL RAKOFF		Unknown - 1964
5	DAVID LEVY	1927 - c: UK
+SHIRLEY ANN MacKENZIE		Unknown - c: UK
6	PHILIP JOHN LEVY	1962 - c: UK

6	CATHERINE JEANE LEVY	1964 -	c: UK
6	RUTH RAE LEVY	1967 -	c: UK
4	BETTY (REBECCA) LEVY	1894 - 1980	
	+HARRY GURLAND	1887 - 1958	
5	STANLEY GURLAND	1915 -	c:
	South Africa		
	+VALERIE WHITE	1920 - 1997	
6	SUZANNE GURLAND	1944 -	c: South Africa
	+MICHAEL LAZARUS	Unknown	c: South Africa
7	DEBORAH LAZARUS	1970 -	c: South Africa
7	GIDON LAZARUS	1971 -	c: South Africa
7	ARI BARAK LAZARUS	1974 -	c: South Africa
5	MIRIAM GURLAND	1917 -	c: South
	Africa		
	+RALPH HORWITZ	1915 -	c: South Africa
6	JILL HORWITZ	1940 -	
6	ROBIN HORWITZ	1946 -	c: South Africa
5	JEANNE GURLAND	1921 -	c: UK
	+"KOT" ABE (BARRY) KOTTLER	1919 -	c: UK
6	RICHARD KOTTLER	1948 -	c: UK
	+INGRID SEBBA	1947 -	c: UK
7	DARREN KOTTLER	1974 -	c: UK
7	TESSA KOTTLER	1976 -	c: UK
6	DEBORAH KOTTLER	1950 -	c: S. Korea
	+PAUL SARFATY	1947 -	c: S. Korea
7	ABIGAIL SARFATY	1977 -	c: UK
7	CHLOE REBECCA SARFATY	1981 -	c: UK
5	NAOMI GURLAND	1927 -	c: South
	Africa		
	+SIDNEY STERN	Unknown - 1957	
6	JONATHAN STERN	1952 -	c: Australia
	+SUSAN SENNET	Unknown -	c: Australia
7	LAUREN BETH STERN	1980 -	c: Australia
7	2. Child STERN	Unknown -	c: Australia
7	3. Child STERN	Unknown -	c: Australia
6	MELINDA STERN	1954 -	c: South Africa
	+PHILIP SHAPIRO	Unknown -	c: South Africa
7	SIMON SHAPIRO	1979 -	c: South Africa
7	BETH SARAH SHAPIRO	1981 -	c: South Africa
5	BARRY GURLAND	1932 -	c: USA
	+RONI	Unknown -	c: USA
6	HAZEL MELISSA GURLAND	1978 -	c: USA
4	ISAAC "JACK" LEVY	1896 - 1977	
	+LAURA GARRET	1907 -	c: USA
5	HOPE LEVY	1936 - 1958	
5	SEYMOUR BENDER LEVY	1940 -	c: USA

	+BRENDA GAIL MANN	1939 -	c: USA
6	KIMBERLY ANN LEVY	1966 -	c: USA
	+BARRY SILVERMAN	Unknown	c: USA
7	DANIEL ISAAC SILVERMAN	1998 -	c: USA
7	SOPHIE SILVERMAN	1999 -	c: USA
6	EDWARD ALAN LEVY	1967 -	c: USA
6	MATTHEW WILLIAM LEVY	1969 -	c: USA
6	JASON ANDREW LEVY	1973 -	c: USA
5	"CINDY" THELMA LEVY	1945 -	c: USA
	+KENNETH ALLEN BERMAN	1942 -	c: USA
6	JENNIFER AMY BERMAN	1973 -	c: USA
	+PAUL WILLIAM MACMILLAN	1975 -	c: USA
6	MICHELE ANDREA BERMAN	1977 -	c: USA
4	ALFRED LEVY	1898 - 1964	
	+PEARL SALKINDER	1912 - Unknown	
5	BERNICE LEVY	1942 -	c: South Africa
	+ISIDORE "ISSY" SPECTOR	1931 -	c: South Africa
6	ALON SPECTOR	1974 -	c: South Africa
6	AVIVA SPECTOR	1976 -	c: South Africa
4	JESSE LEVY/LERY	1900 - 1984	
4	SARAH "CHLOE" LEVY	1902 - 2001	
	+HYMAN ELIAS BERNSTEIN	1900 - 1986	
5	JOYCE (SYLVIA) BERNSTEIN	1931 -	c:
	RACHEL LEVY	1903 - 1951	
	+SAM LIZERBRUM	Unknown - 1973	
4	CHARLES LEVY	1908 - 1971	
	+HANNAH OBLOWITZ	Unknown - 2000	
5	MARIAN JOY LEVY	1944 -	c:
	+COLIN ISAAC COHEN	1939 -	c: South Africa
6	MELANIE JOY COHEN	1973 -	c: South Africa
5	MAURICE LEONARD LEVY	1949 -	c:
	+ANNETTE AUDREY BENKENSTEIN	1959 -	c: South Africa
6	TALIA LEVY	1984 -	c: South Africa
6	SIMON LEVY	1988 -	c: South Africa
3	HYMAN LEVY	1876 - 1956	
	+LILY KUHLMANN	Unknown - 1956	
4	ETHEL LEVY	1903 - 2000	
	+ROBERT KAHN	1901 - 1971	
5	ERIC KAHN	Unknown -	c: USA
	+HEIDI KUCHLING	Unknown -	c: USA

6	STELLA KAHN	1970 -	c: USA
6	PETER KAHN	1974 -	c: USA
*2nd Wife of ERIC KAHN:			
	+YONA	Unknown -	
6	ASHLEY KAHN	1960 -	c: USA
6	RUSSELL KAHN	1962 -	c: USA
5	SELWYN BARRY KAHN	1936 -	c: South Africa
Africa			
	+ANGELA	Unknown -	c: South Africa
6	LEROY KAHN	1974 -	c: South Africa
6	KYLE KAHN	1976 -	c: South Africa
5	TESSA KAHN	1941 -	c: South Africa
Africa			
	+JACK MARKS	1937 -	c: South Africa
6	ADAM MARKS	1972 -	c: South Africa
6	ROBIN MARKS	1975 -	c: South Africa
4	ANN LEVY	1905 -	
	+JOSHUA (SAM) GEFFEN	Unknown -	
5	JEFFREY GEFFEN	1927 -	
	+DOREEN ALTSHULER	1932 -	
6	YEHUDIT GEFFEN	1955 -	
	+ELI AKUKA	Unknown - Unknown	
7	KEREN AKUKA	1976 -	
*2nd Husband of YEHUDIT GEFFEN:			
	+SAMMY AZRAN	Unknown - Unknown	
7	RACHEL AZRAN	1984 -	
6	YOEL GEFFEN	1958 -	
	+RUTH OVADIA	Unknown -	
7	SHAI GEFFEN	1982 -	
7	GAL GEFFEN	1983 -	
*2nd Husband of ANN LEVY:			
	+JULIAN BERMAN	1911 - 1992	
5	PAMELA BERMAN	Unknown -	
	+MORRIS PHILLIPS	Unknown -	
6	ANDREA PHILLIPS	Unknown -	
	+ROLAND	Unknown -	
7	Daughter 1 ROLAND	Unknown -	
7	Daughter 2 ROLAND	Unknown -	
6	BELINDA PHILLIPS	Unknown -	
	+GRANT GIBOR	Unknown -	
5	LESLIE BERMAN	Unknown -	
	+RIVKA	Unknown -	
6	MICHAL BERMAN	Unknown -	
6	LIORA BERMAN	Unknown -	
6	TAMI BERMAN	Unknown -	
*2nd Wife of LESLIE BERMAN:			

+SUSAN (SUKI)		
6	MARK BERMAN	Unknown -
6	DANIELLE BERMAN	Unknown -
4	SAM LEVY	1908 - 1993
+MAISIE Unknown -		
5	SUSAN LEVY	Unknown -
+MICHAEL NATHAN		
6	DANIEL NATHAN	Unknown -
6	TANYA NATHAN	Unknown -
5	ANNE LEVY	Unknown -
+DAVID JERMY		
6	LLOYD DAVID JERMY	Unknown -
4	MORRIE (MOSES) LEVY	1910 - 1990
+BERTHA KAHN		
5	DAWN LEVY	1939 -
+AZRAAI ZAIN		
6	PIA ZAIN	Unknown -
+NA'A Unknown -		
6	MILA ZAIN	Unknown -
3	JOEL SUSSEL (JOOSA) LEVY	1878 - 1950
+OLGA (LEAH GOLDA) MATZ		
4	ETHEL LEVY	1878 - 1946
+SOL WILLIAM		
4	ANNIE LEVY	1897 - 1959
4	HAYMAN LEVY	Unknown - Unknown
+QUEENIE SHAPIRO		
5	EITAN (ANTHONY) LEVY	1901 - 1934
+DOREEN GLAZER		
6	VERED HELENA LEVY	1904 - 1977
+AVIV RON 1960 -		
7	DANIELLE HAGIT RON	1940 - c: Israel
7	Name/Gender Unknown	1944 - c: Israel
6	AVIV JOEL LEVY	1966 - c: France
6	MORAN MICHAEL LEVY	1960 - c: France
5	FERN LEVY	1995 - c: France
*2nd Wife of HAYMAN LEVY:		
+RAY BROWER		
4	FANNY LEVY	1917 - c: France
4	JOE SEWEEN LEVY	1908 - 1929
+ETHEL SOLOMONS		
5	SHIRLEY LEVY	1912 - c: Israel
+NATHAN KANSKY		
6	WENDY KANSKY	1938 - c: Israel
6	SHERYL KANSKY	1942 - c: Wales
+DANI TAL		
7	ADAM TAL	Unknown -
1983 -		

7	BEN TAL	1985 -	
7	RON JOE TAL	1996 -	
6	RUTH KANSKY	1963 -	
6	BRAHAM KANSKY	1965 -	
5	BRUCE LEVY	1942 - 1943	
5	DAVID LEVY	1944 -	
	+BELINDA ARONSON	1955 -	
6	HADAR LEVY	1977 -	
6	YAEL LEVY	1979 -	
	*2nd Wife of DAVID LEVY:		
	+CHERYL	Unknown -	
5	MYRIAM LEVY	1950 -1998	
4	ERIC BARNARD LEVY	1916 -1981	
	+WINNIE EDELSTEIN	1922 -	
5	SHARON LEVY	1946 -	
	+JOE LEIBOWITZ	1943 -	
6	NATALIE LEIBOWITZ	1971 -	
6	JOSHUA LEIBOWITZ	1974 -	
6	DANIEL LEIBOWITZ	1975 -	
5	CHARLES LEVY	1950 -	
	+SHEENAGH SINGER	1954 -	
6	KATHERINE LEVY	1978 -	
6	ANDREW LEVY	1983 -	
5	CECILE ETHEL LEVY	1960 -	
	+RAYMOND COTTON	1949 -	
6	ERIC COTTON	1985 -	
6	RAPHAEL COTTON	1988 -	
6	JENNA COTTON	1993 -	
4	ABE LEVY	1918 -2001	
	+MALIA WEINRONK	1929 -	
5	JONATHAN LEVY	1954 -	c: Israel
	+NAOMI WEINER	Unknown -	c: Israel
6	EFRAT LEVY	1980 -	c: Israel
6	NADAV LEVY	1981 -	c: Israel
	*2nd Wife of JONATHAN LEVY:		
	+DINA ZITONI	Unknown -	c: Israel

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 = generations
 c: = country presently residing
 + = married
 * = second marriage