

Shattel Shattil Family Newsletter Schattil

January, 2000

Newsletter to Re-Unite Family of Mordecai & Miriam Schattil

By Dan Shattil

Welcome to the first edition of our family newsletter. We are descendants of Mordecai and Miriam (Cohn) Schattil of Lithuania. They had nine children, Anna, Isadore, Zelda, Jacob, Victor, Samuel, Joseph, Julius and Israel. Almost a century ago, the children dispersed. Many went to live in Africa. Others settled in the United States.

Communication amongst the different families was sporadic or nonexistent. Many of us did not know the others existed until 20 years ago when we started to re-discover each other.

Judith Stern, whose dad was Ralph Schattil, researched us from London.

Ted Margulis is a cousin that is related to Miriam Cohn who shared valuable information with us.

We have since been in touch with other branches of our family and are still discovering relatives.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share some of this information and to get acquainted. Please help by sharing with us family news (births, marriages,

awards, new jobs, etc.), photographs, relatives we haven't discovered yet, and anecdotes.

The following are receiving this newsletter. If you know of others, let us know.

Leslie Comeroff, Daniel & Jenny Dubowitz, David Dubowitz, Gerald Dubowitz, Leslie Dubowitz, Michael Dubowitz, Natalie Dubowitz-Dickman, Victor Dubowitz, Peter & Shelagh Gastrow, Donna & Gregg Hickman, Lynette & David Hirschowitz, Valerie & Peter Koff, Ted & Shirley Margulis, Gillian & Clive Midgen, Cecil Miller, Victor Miller, Bernice Nowitz, Greta Nowitz, Victor Nowitz, Jean-Claude Poewe, Lorraine Poewe, Sarah Poewe, Norman & Nancy Price, Alexander Shatil, Alexander Schattil, Bernice & Harold Schwartz, Clive Schwartz, Gary Schwartz, Jogail Schwartz, Carole Shattil, Dan & Emily Shattil, Helen Shattil, Jason Shattil, Patrice Shattil, Richard Shattil, Ron & Deb Shattil, Sanford & Gloria Shattil, Siegfried & Arlene Shattil, Steven Shattil, Wendy Shattil, Monique Stern, Tony & Judith Stern, Elliot Stewart, and Sherry & Ronald Stewart.

Leslie Comaroff celebrates 90th birthday with gala party in California

On December 9, 1999, Leslie Comaroff (nee Lena Schattil) was feted by her two grown children, Dr. Norman Price and Bernice Schwartz. About 50 people attended the high-style evening event at Dr. Price's home in Orinda, California. Most of the men sported tuxes and the women wore evening dresses.

Leslie amazed her guests by doing the Charleston during a light-hearted presentation of the significant events in her life. When not tearing up the dance floor, Leslie plays bridge and spins captivating tales of her years growing up in Rhodesia.

While the guest list included friends and family from other branches of Leslie's family, 14 Schattil/Shattil clan-members attended, some of whom had never met the others. This mini-reunion included Norman Price, (Leslie's son); Bernice Schwartz, (Leslie's daughter); Clive Schwartz (Leslie's grandson); Gary Schwartz (Leslie's grandson); Siegfried



Shattil, (Leslie's first cousin); Ron Shattil, (Leslie's cousin once removed); Valerie (Newfield) Koff (Leslie's niece); Joshua Koff (Leslie's grand nephew); Judith Stern (Leslie's niece); Monique Stern (Leslie's grand niece); Gillian Midgen (Leslie's niece); Carole Shattil (Leslie's cousin, once removed); Jordana Price (Leslie's granddaughter), and Jacob Price (Leslie's grandson).

Do we have cousins in Russia?

By Ron Shattil

His name is Alexander Shatil (Шатиль Александру) and he lives in St. Petersburg, Russia. He is Jewish and works as a mechanical engineer for a state agency. I learned of Alexander from a mutual friend, one of his co-workers who was visiting the USA in 1998.

Obviously, Alexander's last name is a hint that there may be a family connection. The spelling difference may simply be a consequence of transliteration between languages. (Our own known relatives use different spellings of Shattl/Schattil/Schattel. Family lore explaining this spelling difference will appear in a later newsletter.)

But other signs point to a kinship. Alexander's father, also named Alexander, was born in Kovno, (now Kaunas) Lithuania in 1875. This is one year after Joseph Schattil was born to Miriam and Mordecai Schattil, also in Kovno. Given the small size of the Jewish population in Kovno in the 1870s, it seems inconceivable that these two families weren't related.

The phonetic name, "Shatil" is very uncommon. Perhaps Alexander is the descendant of a cousin or

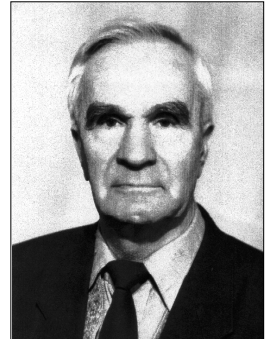
brother of Mordecai?

By the way, the St. Petersburg Alexander Shatil is clearly a different person from the Alexander Schattil who lives in Sydney, Australia and is the son of that same Joseph Schattil who was born in Kovno.

Alexander Shatil recalls that his father had two brothers and a sister. The younger brother went to South Africa and died "during" the Boer War (1899-1902). Emigration to South Africa follows the pattern of our own ancestors, and many other Jewish Lithuanians.

The older Shatil brother was named Ipolit Shatil and lived in Leningrad (St. Petersburg, Russia) but disappeared during World War II. The sister, named Sophia, immigrated to the USA before 1917. In 1932 Alexander received a letter from Sophia showing her and two sons in their late teens pictured against the Brooklyn skyline. We have been unable to find any records of Sophia or her sons.

Alexander Shatil is married and has two sons.



Шатиль Александру

The Shattil/Schattil reunion is coming!

Sometime this year, the descendants of Mordecai and Miriam Schattil will gather to re-unite and, in many cases, to meet one another for the first time.

So far we know of 52 blood descendants of M&M Schattil. Add in their spouses and we'll have a real party! We hope you will be among the celebrants.

This newsletter, expected to be issued monthly, will keep you informed about who, when, where and how.

The date for this extravaganza is still being finalized, but will likely be in fall or winter of 2000 and will be held over several days in California, USA (unless one of you volunteers to coordinate arrangements for the reunion in your area).

Events at the reunion could include:

1. Plenty of time to talk to one another to catch up on lives of seldom seen relatives and to meet long lost cousins,
2. Experience ethnic Lithuanian foods that may

have been eaten by our ancestors,

3. Entertainment, enrichment, games and fun for children and teens. Bring the kids!
4. A survey of family hereditary traits,
5. Presentation of genealogical research on the Schattil line.
6. A family portrait.

To help organize this fun and rewarding project, like researching family history, reminiscing about family circumstances, writing reports for this newsletter, contacting family members, planning events for the reunion, etc., the good news is, YOU CAN! Just contact **Ron Shattil**; ron@shattil.com, or write him at:

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