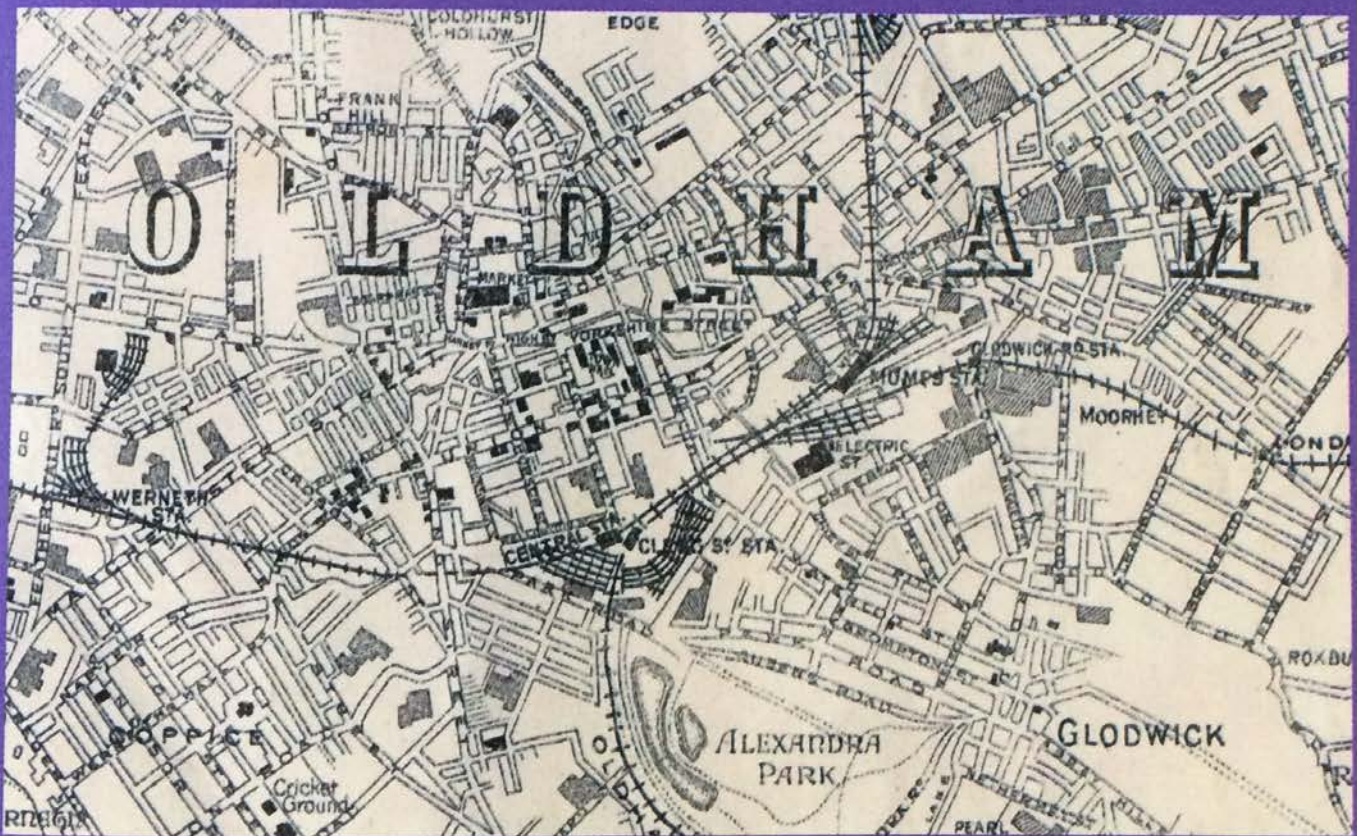


FROM RIGA TO ROCK STREET AND OTHER JOURNEYS

A History of the Oldham Jewish Community



Hilary Thomas

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Photographs kindly provided by Oldham Local Studies and Archives: Tommyfield Market; Phil Cohen building plan; Phil Cohen shop; 1919 street map; Old Post Office; Oldham Hulme Grammar School; Beaver Street School; Clegg Street; Bartlam Place.

FOREWORD

I was privileged enough at the start of my career to work at Liverpool Record Office as one of two archivists employed to catalogue the substantial Jewish Community Archive held there. During that year aided by truly generous volunteers from the community and the records themselves I learnt about the Liverpool community. The Liverpool Jewish community in 2002-3 was in decline; however through the project we found that there were sizeable and growing Jewish populations in several areas in the UK including Manchester.

My interest in Jewish history has remained with me and when I began work in Oldham I found that we held no archive collections relating to the Oldham Jewish community. This was a disappointment but with a large and vibrant community in Manchester, only eight miles away, it was not surprising. A look at the 2011 census for Oldham illustrates the diversity of Oldham, a factor which makes the town such a vibrant place, yet only 108 people who chose to state their religion identified as Jewish.

Up until now there has been little historical research identifying the Jewish community in Oldham and the contribution it has made to the town. Oldham's history since the 1840's has been one of in-migrations to meet industrial demand for cheap labour. It is interesting to consider where a Jewish community fits historically into a growing and prosperous Oldham.

This publication is key to our understanding of a hidden community's contribution to the prosperity of Oldham. It fills a gap within the historical record of the town and as a publication created by a member of the Jewish community with input and recollections from relatives and individuals from Oldham's Jewish community it is invaluable.

I would like to thank Hilary for all the hard work and enthusiasm she has exhibited throughout this project. It has been a joy to work with her and I have so enjoyed hearing and sharing stories of the community as they have come to light through her research. I hope that great enjoyment and enlightenment is experienced by everyone who reads this book as well as a desire to become their own detective and creator of history.

Jo Robson
Archive Officer, Oldham Local Studies and Archives

FROM RIGA TO ROCK STREET

INTRODUCTION

No records regarding Oldham's Jewish community appear to have survived. Like so many small communities no longer in existence, details of its Jewish life are sparse. Apart from a few short items in the Jewish Chronicle during the 1920's and 30's and listings in the Jewish Year Books between 1910 and 1938, little else remains. To write this story I have used records that are in the public sphere. I have been very fortunate that the Oldham Local Studies and Archives on Union Street houses a marvellous collection which includes Electoral registers, Census records, Trade Directories, Rate books, Watch Committee Minutes, Market Registers, early local newspapers and several thousand photographs. Joanne Robson and her staff at the Archives have been most helpful and enthusiastic throughout the months of my research. I have also been able to gain access to useful material from the collection at the Manchester Jewish Museum through the kind offices of Alexandra Cropper. Various websites including Ancestry, FindMyPast, FreeBMD, Lancashire and Yorkshire BMD, The London Gazette, MDCS Burial records and the Jewish Chronicle archive have all been useful tools. A highlight of this research has been the oral histories. I have made contact with dozens of people who had links with the town. Some grew up there, some lived elsewhere but had business links, others settled in the town as refugees from Nazi persecution. Listening to all these stories has helped me paint a picture



Melvyn Flacks

of the life of this small Jewish community. When I first embarked on this project I was contacted by Melvyn Flacks whose family had strong links with Oldham for several decades. Melvyn had a wealth of material which he generously shared with me. Sadly he passed away last June. I dedicate this introductory chapter to his memory.

The town of Oldham stands amid the Pennines between the rivers Irk and Medlock. It is approximately seven miles from Manchester. Much of the town's history is concerned with cotton

spinning and the manufacture of spinning and weaving machinery. The town's history is a paradigm of that of many industrial towns in Lancashire. In the nineteenth century, Oldham became the world's manufacturing centre for cotton spinning. In fact by 1851 over 30% of the town's population was employed within the textile sector. By 1888 the population of the town had reached 130,000. Other industries included coal mining, engineering and hatting. In a district of the town called Bottom o' the Moor there were several millwrights, machine tool makers and iron and brass foundries. By the mid 1930's the cotton spinning industry had declined sharply and Lancashire had lost some 38% of its pre-war trade.¹ It was not a healthy place to live due to the pollution from the hundreds of factory chimneys, but in common with other towns such as Bolton, Blackburn and Wigan, it attracted a small number of Jewish immigrants and hawkers. There were a few Jewish families living in the town from about 1870 but it was not until 1910 that there was any mention of a congregation. In the twenty eight years or so of its existence, the Oldham congregation never had an actual synagogue. Over the years the small community met for the main festivals and the occasional Sabbath service in three different venues, a room in a tailoring premises, a room over a furniture store and finally a room in a building on Clegg Street.

The Jewish Year Book of 1910 informed us that Oldham Synagogue had ten families. There was no information regarding the venue of the synagogue. The Synagogue president was listed as N Lechinsky and the Honorary Secretary was S Cossack, both of whom had strong business links with the town. The nineteenth century Jewish families worked as drapers, tailors, furniture brokers, waterproof manufacturers and jewellers. By the early 1900's there were several more Jewish furniture dealers, china and glassware retailers, clothing retailers and bespoke tailors living in the town. There were never more than twenty five resident Jewish families at any one time. Many of these families had left Oldham by the late 1930's, most of them moving to Manchester. Only the Adler, Burman, Brown, Cohen and Strang families remained in residence. Making contact with many of their descendants has been a most rewarding experience and has helped to give an insight into the life of this small

1 Oldham, Brave Oldham by Brian R Low

Jewish community. After the decline of its Jewish population, Oldham still had Jewish links due to the numerous market traders, shopkeepers and factory owners who travelled in daily. It has been most interesting to hear their stories. I have found records of the births of sixty eight Jewish children in Oldham between 1870 and 1945, several of whose families have been able to share their memories with me. The contribution of all these people has played an important part in the telling of this story.



*Post Office, now Oldham's local studies library and archive centre.
Picture courtesy of Oldham Archives Collection.*

CHAPTER 1

Early Years

As mentioned in the previous chapter, the Jewish Year Book informed us that Oldham had a congregation comprising ten families in 1910, reducing to nine thereafter until 1925 when the town no longer appeared in the publication, apart from 1936, 1937 and 1938. There was no mention of an Oldham community in earlier Jewish Year Books probably because there was no synagogue. However, I have found more than twenty Jewish families living and working in the town between 1870 and 1900, some of whom stayed for a short time, others for over sixty years.

Solomon and Hannah Cohen were living at 6 Berry St at the time of the 1871 Census.¹ He was a forty-two year old travelling jeweller. Hannah was thirty-six, both were born Prussia/Poland. They had five sons; Elkan, aged nine, David seven, Eli five, Jacob three, all born in Manchester and Philip five months born in Oldham. His birth and that of his sister Henrietta in Oldham in 1872 were recorded on the LancsBMD website. Hannah's maiden name was listed as Davy. The marriage of Solomon Cohen and Hannah Davis/Davy took place at Manchester Great Synagogue in 1861.² The Cohens stayed in Oldham for about five years. Their sixth child Abraham was born in Manchester in 1875 as were Rachel in 1878 and Ada in 1883.³ The 1881 Census listed the family at 30 Julia St, Strangeways Manchester. Solomon was still in the jewellery trade and Elkan was working for a hatter.⁴ By 1891 they had moved to 6 Bury New Rd Salford.⁵ Solomon was described as a retired jeweller. He died in 1898 and was buried at Crumpsall. By the time of the census of 1901 the widowed Hannah was living at 264 Bury New Rd where she and Philip were running a haberdashery and hosiery business. Eli, Jacob and

1 1871 census RG10/4096

2 Lancs BMD website

3 Free BMD website

4 1881 census RG11/4020

5 1891 census RG12/3213

Abe were described as clothiers, David was working in a solicitor's office and Henrietta was unemployed.⁶ Elkan had previously emigrated to South Africa where he died in 1946. He was buried at the Chevra Kadisha cemetery in Johannesburg.⁷ By 1911 David was a solicitor, married with three children, living in Howe St Salford. Hannah and six children had moved to 233 Upper Brook St, Chorlton-on Medlock. All were working as shop assistants or clothiers. Apart from Eli who was divorced, none of the others had married. Hannah died in 1912 and Philip in 1914. Both are buried at Crumpsall.⁸ Eli, who confusingly was also known as Elkan, married Rachel Raffael in 1902 at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue. Due her adultery they divorced in 1907.⁹ Eli/Elkan appears as an accountant/ cashier in the Kelly's 1929 Directory in business at Imperial House Oxford Rd Manchester. He died in 1938, leaving £460. Probate was granted to his brothers Abraham and Jacob, overall manufacturers.¹⁰ Eli was buried at Philips Park Jewish cemetery in Miles Platting.

Around the time that the Cohens left Oldham, four Jewish families arrived in the town. Two were tailors, **Isaac (John) Foote** and **Lewis Levy**, one a watchmaker, **Eli Cohen** and one, **Charles Barnard** opened an emporium selling furniture, jewellery, china, glassware, musical instruments and fancy goods of every sort. **The Barnard family** appeared in the 1881 Census living and trading at 5-7 Mumps.¹¹ Charles was thirty, furniture dealer born in Chatham, Kent; Deborah his wife was thirty-two born London; Kate daughter five born in London; Daniel David son three born in Oldham. There was also a nurse and a domestic servant in residence. On 30 December 1881, an advert appeared in the Jewish Chronicle :- "Resident nursery governess wanted for two young children, must be a good needlewoman. Apply Mrs Barnard, 5 Mumps, Oldham." Deborah nee Levy and Charles Barnard had married in 1874 at Southwark. Their first child Benjamin was born in 1875, but died that year. Kate was born London 1876, Daniel David in Oldham in 1878, Benjamin born and

6 1901 census RG13/3725

7 JOWBR/JewishGen

8 MDCSBurial Records

9 Ancestry Divorce Records

10 National Probate Calendar; Index of Wills

11 1881 census RG11/4077

died 1879 in Oldham and Sydney born Oldham 1884.¹² Charles was living in London prior to his marriage. In 1871 he and his brothers Samuel and Lyon were living in Lambeth working as pawnbrokers¹³. Samuel married Elizabeth Levy, sister of Deborah, also in 1874. They were the children of Catherine and David Levy a tailor. Deborah was the youngest of their eleven children. David, her father, died when she was only two.

Charles Barnard appeared in the Worrall's Directory of 1884 at 5 Mumps and at 172 Union Street, Oldham. Also in the Directory at the Mumps address was Daniel Barnard his nephew, a dealer in musical instruments. Charles was born about 1851, son of Amelia and Daniel. The family appeared as early as 1841 in the Censuses. In 1841 Daniel was fifteen, the eldest of the five children of Louisa, a general dealer and the late Samuel Barnard.¹⁴ In 1846 he married Amelia Levy and they settled in Chatham. The 1851 census showed he was twenty-seven, born in Chatham, a licensed victualler at The Railway Tavern, 92 High Street.¹⁵ He and Amelia, twenty-four, had three children ; Samuel, three, Joseph, two, and Lyon, one. Daniel was also listed in the Post Office directory of 1851. By 1861 there were six more children; Charles, nine, Hannah, seven, David, five, George, four, Henry, two and Abraham, four months.¹⁶ Joseph had died in 1860. Daniel appeared as proprietor of the tavern in the Kelly's directories of 1862 and 1867.¹⁷ He turned the skittle alley of his tavern into a concert room thus laying the foundations of the Barnard family's involvement in the music hall and theatrical industry.

He also became highly involved in the civic life of Chatham. Daniel died in 1879. Notice of his will showed he left "less than £7,000." He was buried in the grounds of the Chatham Synagogue. His ornate memorial reads " DANIEL BERNARD, WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE 26th OCT 1879, 9th MARCHESHVAN 5640, AGED 54. HE WAS A NATIVE OF CHATHAM GREATLY RESPECTED BY HIS FELLOW TOWNSMEN.HE WAS ELECTED A MEMBER OF

12 Free BMD website

13 1871 Census RG10/622

14 1841 Census HO107/407

15 1851 Census HO107/1610

16 1861 Census RG9/478

17 Kent History Forum Website

THREE CORPORATE BODIES, THE COURT LEET, THE BOARD OF HEALTH AND THE FIRE BRIGADE WHOSE FOUNDER AND CAPTAIN HE WAS AND WHO SHOWED HIM THE LAST HONOUR BY FOLLOWING HIS REMAINS TO THE GRAVE. DEEPLY REGRETTED BY HIS SORROWING WIFE AND CHILDREN.¹⁸

ADVERTISEMENTS

1884
[WEEKLY]

FURNISH YOUR HOUSE
FROM TOP TO BOTTOM AT THE
DOMESTIC BAZAAR
5 and 7, Mumps, Oldham.

DRAWING ROOM SUITES.  DRAWING ROOM SUITES.

In the SHOW ROOMS will be found the Largest Stock of New and Second-Hand Furniture in any single establishment in the Borough of Oldham.



WEDDING GIFTS AND PRIZES. CLOCKS, WATCHES, AND JEWELLERY.
Gift Chimney Glasses in all sizes and patterns.

Second-Hand **PIANOS** BY THE BEST MAKERS At Half Price.  Second-Hand **PIANOS** BY THE BEST MAKERS At Half Price.

All kinds of Feather and Wool Bedding. 300 Bedsteads for Sale.

ADDRESS—**C. BARNARD,**
Furniture Manufacturer, &c.
5 & 7, Mumps, Oldham.

BICYCLE WHEEL CARRIAGES.

Courtesy of Oldham Archives

¹⁸ Cemetery Scribes Website

The Barnard family left Oldham in the late 1880's appearing in the 1891 Census in Handsworth, Staffs.¹⁹ Their surname is mistakenly transcribed as BOWARD. Charles now 40 had joined the family firm and become a concert hall proprietor, Deborah was 41, Kate 16, David Daniel 13 and Sidney 6. By 1886 the family had moved to Harborne Rd Edgbaston. Charles appeared in the 1896 Kelly's Midland Directory at this address. The 1901 Census also listed the family here as did the Kelly's directories of 1903 and 1904. Charles was the proprietor of the Gaiety concert hall in Birmingham as well as several theatres in the Midlands, London and Kent including the Theatre Royal in Aston and the Theatre Royal in Smethwick. The Grand Theatre and the Empire Palace in Wolverhampton were also part of the Barnard theatrical empire. The Palace of Varieties in Chatham, opened in 1886 on the site of Daniel Barnard's concert hall, was managed by Lionel Barnard. Sidney Barnard managed the Elephant and Castle in Southwark which was a repertory theatre prior to becoming a cinema. Charles's brothers Lyon and Samuel and their sons were also in the business.²⁰ In early 1911 Deborah died, by which time the family were living at Gothic House, Chislett Road in Hampstead. Charles outlived her by some twenty years. He died in Surbiton on 28 August 1931. He left £7,397.²¹

Soon after the Cohens and the Barnards had left Oldham the **Cos-sack** and **Phillips** families arrived from Manchester, both becoming long-term residents of the town. Israel and Rachel Blashercosky (Cos-sack) moved to Oldham in the early 1880's, followed in about 1886 by Rachel's brother and sister in law Barnet and Dorah Phillips and their infant daughter Fanny. The original family name was Crienskie but, in common with many Jewish immigrants, they changed it. The Lancs BMD Marriage Index listed the marriage of Barnet and Dorah nee Cohen in 1883 at the Manchester Great Synagogue. B Phillips and Co, India Rubber and Gutta-percha Manufacturers of 27 Manchester St Oldham appeared in the Worrall Commercial Directories of 1889 and 1891. B Phil-

19 1891 census RG12/2263

20 Chatham from Old Photographs by Brian Joyce and Sophie Miller

21 National Probate Calendar

lips and Co waterproof manufacturers 27 Manchester Street appeared in the 1895 Slater's Trade Directory. In the census of 1891 the family was living at 147 Radcliffe Street. Barnet 31 a waterproof garment maker, Dorah 37, both born in Poland, Fanny 6 born Manchester, Leah Flora 5, Harry 4, David 2, Josephine 11 months all born Oldham.²² There were also two lodgers and a domestic living in the household. The youngest child Charles Robert was born in Oldham in 1892. In the 1901 census the family were living at 27 Manchester Street.²³ There was no mention of Barnet. The 1905 Kelly's Directory listed the business as D Phillips and Co. In the Jewish Chronicle of 17th Sept 1909 there appeared New Year greetings from Dorah and children... again no mention of Barnet. Dorah was described as married woman, a Jewess, head of the family in the 1911 Census. It seems likely that Barnet had deserted them. In this census Dorah was a waterproof dealer, Fanny, Harry and David were assisting in the business. Charles and Josephine were teachers at the local borough school. Leah Flora, known as Florrie, had no occupation. She never married. She died in Oldham in 1973. Harry died in Oldham in 1971.²⁴ He had joined the Royal Navy in 1907 signing up for twelve years. However, according to the UK Royal Navy Seaman's Register, he bought himself out after one year. He was described as 5ft 4ins, with hazel eyes and a fresh complexion. Dorah died on 26 December 1918. The National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills) described her as the wife of Bennett Phillips and showed she left £6,418. Probate was granted to her children Fanny and Charles Robert, a dealer. Charles was the only Phillips child to marry. In 1922 at the Blackpool synagogue, he married Ethel Denby a tailoress, daughter of Dora and Eli Denby a tailor.²⁵ Charles and Ethel had a son Harold in 1925. The family emigrated to Australia. After the death of Dorah it appears that the waterproof business stayed in the ownership of the family. It was listed in Copes Directory of 1924 and 1926 and the Oldham Directory of 1924 at 25- 27 Manchester Street. David Phillips was listed in the 1926 and 1927 electoral registers living at 27 Manchester Street, but in business at 48 West

22 1891 Census RG/3301

23 1901 Census RG13/ 3805

24 Free BMD website

25 Lancs BMD Marriage Index

Street, the former business premises of his uncle Robert Cossack. The electoral registers of 1928, 1932 and 1936 listed Leah, Harry, David and Josephine at Manchester Street. Fanny the eldest child went into umbrella manufacture at 40 Manchester Street as early as 1924. The business appeared in various Trade directories²⁶ and electoral registers as late as 1961. Josephine Phillips died on 26 December 1940 at the Prestwich County Mental hospital. She left £2,713. Probate was granted to Tom Leach a corporate accountant.²⁷ The 1948 electoral register listed Harry and Leah still at 25-27 Manchester Street but David Phillips was resident at 134 Manchester Street. The business D Phillips and Co was also listed as a leather goods manufacturers from about 1925. The 1953 electoral register listed Nathan Basil and Sima Rose at the 27 Manchester Street address. Maybe they had taken over the business? Nathan died in Oldham in 1957 aged sixty-one.²⁸ His wife Sima and teenage daughter Hannah moved from Oldham to Didsbury soon afterwards.²⁹



There were other waterproof manufacturers and workers in the town at a similar time to that of the Phillips family, including **Louis Henry Delakoski**, **Harris Phillips**, **Aaron Phillips**, **Peter Sevin** and **David Fineberg**. Several Jewish tailors arrived in Oldham in the 1890's including **Michael Kaufman**, **Lazarus Fineberg**, **Philip Ruben**, **Marks Marlow**, **Jacob E Goodman**, **Zachariah Levy** and **Morris Rosenbloom**. Unlike Dorah Phillips and family, none stayed in Oldham for long. Their details and those of Eli Cohen, the Foote family and Lewis Levy appear in the Tailors and Biographies sections of this story.

26 Kelly's Lancashire 1924 and Cope's 1934

27 National Probate Calendar

28 Free BMD website

29 British Phone Book s

172 Union Street Oldham was one of the business premises in the 1880's of the Barnard family. By 1888 the premises housed a cabinet making and furniture brokers run by **John Linday**. He was listed at this address in the Worrall's Directory of that year and in the Census of 1891. John thirty-four, cabinet maker, Ann his wife, thirty-three, born Wolkowisk, Michael, six, Dolly, three, both born Manchester, Ben Myers nephew 16, born Birmingham.³⁰ The marriage of Ann Linday to John Trapowski took place in Birmingham in 1883. It appears that he took her surname. In 1881 John Trapowski was lodging at 9 Berwick Street, Chorlton on Medlock.³¹ He was twenty-four, a waterproof worker, born in Poland. John's naturalisation certificate issued in 1886 described him as a manager from the friendly Empire of Russia, now residing at 23 Hyde Grove Chorlton, married with one child, Michael aged eighteen months. How long the Linday family lived in Oldham is not known but by 1901 they had moved to Birmingham, where once more John worked in the waterproof industry. The Census of that year described him as a waterproof manufacturer aged forty-four, Annie was forty-two, Michael, sixteen, a clerk, Dolly, thirteen. Also residing there were John's niece and nephew Devorah and Dido Trapowski.³² John appeared in the Kelly's Trade Directories of 1903, 1913, 1915, 1937 and 1940 and the 1912 electoral register at 50 Charlotte Road Edgbaston. He and Michael were in business together at 137a Suffolk Street. John also appeared in the Birmingham Rate books with a retail shop and basement in Birmingham Market Hall as well as the business on Suffolk Street. Michael was listed in the 1911 census as a waterproof clothing manufacturer living at 66 Wheeleys Road Edgbaston. His wife Rachel nee Tamuz/Thomas was twenty-six, daughter Vera was one. There was also a nurse and domestic servant in the household. Sadly Rachel died in 1918. In 1943 Michael married Dora Thomas³³. He died in 1965, leaving £45,661.³⁴ His father John had died in 1939 and Annie in 1952.³⁵

30 1891 census RG12/3301

31 1881 census RG11/3913

32 1901 census RG13/ 2835

33 Free BMD website

34 National Probate Calendar

35 Free BMD website

I have found one Jewish tobacconist and one Jewish licensed victualer in Oldham at this early period. **Barnett Frumin's** tobacconist shops were in the Hilton Arcade and at 99 Yorkshire Street. Barnet married Rebecca Guttmann in 1897 at the Oldham Register Office.³⁶ Their first child Isaac was born in Oldham the following year but by 1899 the Frumins had left the town and settled in Birkenhead where their next four children were born; Abraham Sampson in 1899, Charles Samech in 1900, Miriam in 1903 and Julius Benjamin in 1904.³⁷ In the 1901 census the name **Teodor Frumin** appeared- a Russian born tobacco traveller, aged twenty-three, lodging in Oldham, possibly a kinsman of Barnet.³⁸ The census of 1901 listed Barnet's family at 181 Grange Road Birkenhead. Barnet was thirty-five, a tobacconist, born Russia. Rachel was twenty-four also Russian - born.³⁹ The Oldham businesses appeared in the 1901 Kelly's Lancashire Directory, but there appear to be no further records of this family or Teodor, apart from Julius who became a doctor. In 1928 he is listed in the Ancestry Incoming Passenger Lists returning to England from South Africa, a medical student. His home address was Guy's Hospital, London. Maybe the rest of his family had emigrated? Julius stayed in Great Britain working as a doctor in Glamorgan then moving to Devon.⁴⁰ He died in Barnstaple in March 1983.⁴¹

Whilst Barnet Frumin was selling cigarettes, **Louis Benjamin** was pulling pints. He was the licensee of the Church Inn, Hollinwood from the mid 1880's to 1892, then the Sett and Cemetery Inn on Hollins Rd from 1892 till his death in 1927. His parents Celia and Henry both resided in Oldham with their son, the sixth of their seven children. The Benjamin family's story is told in the Biographies section of this book.

It seems there was no Jewish Congregational life during these early years. Oldham had to wait until the early years of the twentieth century before its "synagogue" came into being.

36 Lancs BMD marriage Index

37 Free BMD website

38 1901 census RG13/3810

39 1901 census RG13/3391

40 British Phone Books

41 Ancestry England and Wales Death Index

Chapter 2

Synagogue and the Backbone Families

As noted in the introductory chapter, the Oldham Synagogue was first listed in the Jewish Year Book in 1910. The information was rather sparse. The President and Treasurer was named as N **Lechinsky**; the Hon Secretary as **S Cossack**. The following year **Israel Cossack** was President, **N Lechinsky** Treasurer, **S Cossack** was still the Hon Secretary and there were ten families. Between 1914 and 1925 the only information about the community in the Jewish Year Book was that there were nine families. The Officers remained the same. No address was given. However Harold Cohen in an interview in 1994, recalled it was at 19 Sickle Street, the home of the Cossack family. The community was mentioned briefly on a few occasions in the Jewish Chronicle. The Barmitzvah of **Joshua Leachinsky** was reported on 15th May 1914. According to the paper this was the first event of its kind to take place in Oldham. In the issue of 14th September 1928 it was reported that the Congregation had held a Siyum Torah (the completion of the reading of the scroll) at the Home for Aged and Needy Jews in Manchester. The service had been conducted by Reverend Segal and his brother Joseph both from the Manchester Yeshiva. **Sam Mendelsohn** had presented a silver cup in memory of his parents, Mr Wurzal a relative of the **Burman** family had presented a yad (pointer) and breastplate for the Scroll; other presentations had been made by Mr and Mrs **Phil Cohen** and Mr and Mrs **Simon Yaffe**. The Manchester Yeshiva had strong links with Oldham. Harold Cohen recalled that the Segal brothers regularly conducted the High Holy Day Services at Sickle Street. By 1930 the “synagogue “had moved to Yorkshire St to a large room over a furniture store belonging to David **Burman**. A bookcase housed the Torah Scroll and services were conducted by Joseph Segal.¹ **Norman Mendelsohn** celebrated his Barmitzvah there in 1933.² **Harold Cohen** recalled that there were no local Hebrew classes available in the early 1920’s; he and **Manny Brown** caught the tram to

1 Information from Tina Dunn nee Burman

2 Information from Phyllis Mendelsohn

Manchester three times a week after school and attended classes there.³ The Jewish Chronicle of 29th Jan 1929 reported that the Oldham Congregation now had its own Hebrew classes. How long these continued is not known as no records exist. Harold Cohen was due to celebrate his Barmitzvah in 1925 but his sister Edna became seriously ill, so the event never took place. In the 1994 interview Harold was delighted to report that he would be celebrating the event later that year at Jacksons Row Synagogue, Manchester. The Jewish Year Book did not list the Congregation between 1926 and 1934. It is only through the information supplied by the Cohen, Brown, Burman and Mendelsohn families that the story of the synagogue in those years can be told. By 1935 the congregation had moved to a room at 6 Clegg Street. In 1936 the chairman Sam **Mendelsohn** appealed to the members for financial support and for more interest to be shown in the running of the synagogue. This was reported in the Jewish Chronicle of October 2nd and it was reported that several members had agreed to associate themselves with this appeal, including Messrs **Cossack, Brown and Burman**. Sam Mendelsohn also mentioned that **Woolf Sackofsky**, a student from the Manchester Yeshiva had led the High Holy Day Services and had given a Sermon on Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement). Sadly, despite Sam's efforts, by 1938 Clegg Street had closed its door for good. That year was Oldham's final appearance in the Jewish Year Book, where the President was named as S Jaffe. (This was misprint of Yaffe). **Simon Yaffe**, a china dealer was one of those who formed the backbone of Oldham's twentieth century community together with the **Cossack, Lechinsky, Brown, Cohen, Burman and Mendelsohn** families.

THE BACKBONE FAMILIES

Of this group of families, the **Cossacks** were the earliest to settle in Oldham appearing in the 1891 Census living at 60 Beaver Street. Israel, aged thirty-three, a tailor, his wife Rachel, twenty-seven, both born in Poland, their son Solomon aged seven born in Manchester. Also in the household were Myer Harris, twenty-one, and Morris Ruben, eighteen, both tailors born in Poland and Rachel's parents Minnie and Judah

3 1994 taped interview

Phillips.⁴ Judah was a tailor who was also known as Philip Crienskie. He died in Oldham in 1898.⁵ The marriage of Rachel Crienskie to Israel Cossack in 1881 at Manchester Great Synagogue was recorded on the Lancs BMD website. In the Kelly's 1895 Directory Israel appeared in business at 48 West Street. This was the business address of his nephew David **Phillips** in the 1926 electoral register.

Israel Cossack born 1859 was the second of the seven children of Leah and Mendel **Blashercosky** a tailor. All the family were born in Poland apart from Simon the youngest, born in Manchester in 1874. The 1881 census listed the family living at 8 Cheetwood Street Manchester. Rachel's family too were in Manchester at this time at 4 Crown Court.⁶ By 1901, Israel and Rachel Cossack had moved house again, this time to 36 Barker Street, Oldham. Solomon was now working in the business as a cutter. The 1905 Kelly's Lancashire Directory listed the business at this address. By this time Israel was known as **Robert**. 19 Sickle Street was the next address of the Cossack family. They were listed here in the 1911 census and in the 1924 Kelly's Trade Directory. The Jewish community's first "synagogue" was housed here. Both Israel and Solomon served on the Synagogue Board. In 1915 Solomon married Ada Goldstone at the North Manchester Synagogue.⁷ They had two daughters, Minnie born Manchester in 1916 and Millicent born Oldham in 1921. ⁸ Robert died in 1944 and Rachel in 1958 both in Manchester. They were buried at Rainsough in North Manchester. Solomon and Ada moved to Wembley in the 1960's. Solomon died there in 1979 and Ada in 1986. ⁹ The **Cossack** links with Oldham lasted over forty years.

The **Lechinsky/Leachinsky** family came to Oldham from Southport in about 1906 appearing in the 1911 census at 65 Manchester Street. The marriage of **Nathan Lechinsky** and **Golda Horovitz** recorded on the

4 1901 census RG12/3307

5 Free BMD website

6 1891 censuses RG11/ 4021 and RG11/4004

7 Lancs BMD Marriage Index

8 Free BMD website

9 Free BMD website

Lancs BMD website took place at the North Manchester synagogue in 1898. They were both Russian born. In 1911 Nathan was forty, Golda, thirty-seven, Rebecca, eleven, Joshua, nine, both born in Southport and Esther, one, born in Oldham. Nathan was a furniture dealer. In the 1901 Census the family were in business at 74 Shakespeare Street Southport.¹⁰ Nathan was active in the Oldham synagogue serving firstly as President, then as treasurer right up to the time of his sudden death at the early age of 50 in 1921. His death was announced in the Jewish Chronicle on 4 November 1921. He had been a member of the Manchester Hebrew Speaking Circle. The Jewish Chronicle of 6 January 1911 reported a mass meeting under the auspices of this society being held at Cheetham Picture Palace. The vote of thanks was made by Nathan. The issue of 15 May 1914 reported that at the celebration of Joshua Lechinsky's Barmitzvah in Oldham, a collection was made in aid of various charities including the Zionist National Fund. News items regarding the Lechinsky children appeared on several occasions in the Jewish Chronicle. Joshua won the Tetlow Exhibition Scholarship to Oldham Hulme Grammar School in 1912. This and Rebecca's educational successes were reported in the issues of 28 August 1914 and 17 August 1917. **Joshua** became a journalist and later an insurance broker. He was well-travelled appearing in various Passenger Lists. In 1930 there was a record of him sailing to England from New York which stated his occupation as journalist of 16 Waterpark Rd, Salford.¹¹ In the Passenger List of 1931 he was described as a ship's broker. He was listed in 1938 visiting Buffalo, USA; in 1948 visiting Trinidad; in 1950 sailing to the USA where his destination was the Board of Trade, Chicago. In 1956 he visited the Bahamas and in 1957 he sailed on the Queen Mary to the USA as an insurance broker. At that time his home address was London NW3.¹² Joshua died in Chicago in 1970.

Rebecca Leachinsky married Morris Blumenthal in 1925; her sister **Esther** married Curt Ludwig David in 1941¹³. They had three children. Esther died in 1996. **Golda Leachinsky** was the daughter of Sam

10 1901 census RG13/3538

11 Ancestry website Passenger Lists

12 Ditto

13 FreeBMD website

and Yetta Horovitz. Sam was naturalised in 1897. The naturalisation certificate stated that he was born in 1878 in Staro Konstaiantinov, W Ukraine, son of Raphael and Deborah. **Golda** was the eldest of the four Horovitz children. She was born 1878, Hinda in 1880, Hannah 1883 and Phineas 1888. In the census of 1901 the Horovitz family were living at 29 Bury New Road Manchester. Sam was a grocer. Yetta, Hinda and Phineas plus two lodgers made up the household.¹⁴ Hannah was living in Southport with the Lechinsky family at this time. By 1911 Sam and Yetta were still at 29 Bury New Road, but all the children had fled the nest. Sam was described as a furniture dealer. He died in Manchester in 1920. The Ancestry National Probate Calendar Index of Wills stated his estate to be worth £267. His son Phineas died in London in 1946. He was an ardent Zionist who became Vice-president of the British Zionist Federation and Secretary of the Anti-Nazi League in the 1940's. His book "The Jews, The War and After " was published in 1943. **Golda** continued running the furniture business after the untimely death of Nathan. It appeared in 1924 Kelly's directory, the 1924 Oldham directory and 1926 Copes directory as Lea, Gold and Co. By 1933 Golda had moved to Salford but continued trading in Oldham at 65 Manchester Street. The business was listed in 1933 Copes Directory as Gold, Lea and Co, Antique furniture. Golda died in Southend in 1954.¹⁵ The business continued and was listed in the 1964 Oldham Directory as Gold, Lea and Co. It is likely that whoever ran the business kept the name which had been a part of Oldham's retail industry for over fifty years.

Two years after the Leachinsky family had set up their furniture business on Manchester Street, **Barnet (Bernard) and Rachel Brown** arrived in Oldham and opened their tailoring business, not far away in Beever Street. **Barnet Myer Brown** whose original surname was Brauntuch was born in Riga in 1880, the son of Chaya Leah and Elija.¹⁶ Barnet had an older sister Fannie, two younger sisters, Basha and Rose, two younger brothers, Herschel and Max. He came to England alone in the late 1890's and settled in Leeds where he worked as a tailor. In

14 1901 census RG13/3767

15 Free BMD website

16 Information from David E Brown, grandson

the Census of 1901 he was boarding at 60 Lilac Terrace, Leeds¹⁷. He married Rachel Price a tailoress in 1903 at the Leeds New Synagogue on Chapeltown Road.¹⁸ Their first two children were born in Leeds- **Hyman** in 1904 and **Fanny** in 1906. Sadly Hyman died in 1919. The other nine Brown offspring were all born in **Oldham**. **Miriam** 1908; **Manuel** 1910; **Bessie** 1912;**Abraham** 1914;**Lawrence** 1915; **Celia** 1919;**Esther** 1920; twins **Carmel and Desmond** 1923. The 1911 Census listed the family still at 70 Beever Street together with a lodger, Myer Fiskin a tailor's presser. By 1918 the Browns appeared in the electoral register at 40 Rock Street. Bernard was naturalised in September 1948. (Certificate A2 46726) His address was given as 284 Waterloo Street, where he and Rachel lived and worked together until their deaths; Rachel in 1961, Bernard



Rachel Brown



Carmel and Desmond Brown



Sam and Carmel Reuben

in 1964. Bernard and Rachel's grandson David recalls that none of the Brown children followed their parents into the tailoring trade. He also recalls his father Manuel telling him that the family attended the Sickle St synagogue in **Oldham** for the important Jewish holidays. **Manuel** and his siblings all attended local schools. **Fanny** married Frank Brierley and settled in Rochdale where she had a ladies fashion shop; Manuel went to work in Manchester at Morgensterns, a textile merchants ; **Miriam** kept house whilst her parents ran the business. **Esther** worked in the accounts department at Lewis's stores ; **Celia** went to the USA where

17 1901 census RG13/ 4221

18 Yorkshire BMD website

she married and settled in Baltimore; **Desmond** worked for several retail firms in Oldham including Phil Cohen's menswear; **Abe** worked in the furniture business in Manchester. He married in 1942 in Hackney and he and his wife Sadie moved to Oxford where they had a furniture shop. They later sold it and opened a menswear business called Raybern. **Carmel** married Sam Rueben in 1962 and settled in Whitefield. David's parents Manuel and Stella nee Miller settled in North Manchester after their marriage in 1937 but nothing could persuade Rachel and Bernard to leave Oldham.¹⁹ Both died in the town. They are buried side by side at Blackley Cemetery.²⁰ Just prior to Rachel's death, Bernard was reunited with his brother Max whom he not seen since 1899. Max was only five when Bernard left Riga. Max eventually emigrated to the USA and settled in Chicago. The story of their reunion was featured in the Oldham Chronicle which reported that **Celia** Brown who lived in the USA had traced her uncle via the telephone directory and some skilful detective work.²¹



Elija and Chaya Brauntuch, Riga



Rochelle and Morris Rueben with mother Carmel and aunt Celia



Barnet Brown

19 Information from David E Brown

20 MDCS Burial Records

21 Information from David E Brown



Manuel, Rachel, Neville and David Brown, 1946



Brown family group, 1961



Reunion of brothers Bernard and Max Brown, 1961, Oldham

The **Cohen** family settled in Oldham in 1913, but **Phil Cohen** was

doing business in the town a decade earlier. He was the son of Morris and Rebecca, both Russian -born, who had married at Leeds Belgrave Street synagogue in 1885. The 1901 Census recorded the family living at 32 Regent Street. Leeds. Morris, thirty-seven, was a tailor and clothing manufacturer, Rebecca was thirty-six, Phil fourteen, Hyman twelve, Israel eleven Pinkie (Percy) nine, Polly seven, Celia five and Harris three. All the children were born in Leeds.²² Phil had started his working life in his father's cutting room, but preferred life on the road and began travelling regularly to Manchester showing samples of the suits and clothing manufactured by his father to the wholesalers. He decided to try his luck selling the goods on Oldham market. It was such a success that he opened a stall there followed by a tailoring workshop on Whalley Street. He married Sarah Loofe in 1909 at Leeds New Synagogue.²³ The 1911 Census listed the family at 18 Livingstone Street. Leeds; Phil, twenty-four, a clothier, Sarah, twenty-two and Dorys aged one. Phil travelled daily from Leeds to **Oldham** until 1913, by which time Harold their son was born. The family then moved to 15 Rock Street, which had been a doctor's house and surgery. It became the Cohen's home and tailoring workshop. In 1920 their third child Edna was born. Phil's bespoke tailoring business expanded and by 1928, sixteen year old Harold had joined the firm. Besides the tailoring workshop the firm had retail shops both in Oldham and Ashton under Lyne. Harold's son **Michael** born 1938 worked for the family firm from the age of fourteen. In an interview with the Oldham Evening Chronicle in November 2010, Michael announced his retirement. He listed all the premises which had borne the name Phil Cohen and Son:- Whalley Street; Rock Street; Union Street; George Street and St Peter's Precinct. The Cohen's lived at 15 Rock Street until the early 1930's, then moved to North Manchester. **Harold Cohen** was interviewed in January 1994 by Melvyn Flacks. Harold talked about his life in Oldham from 1913. Although the Cohen family left the town in the early 1930's, they remained in business there for over ninety years. Harold had a great love for the town and its inhabitants. He and his sisters attended Beaver Street Junior school. Harold then went on to Oldham Municipal High school on Greengate Street where he was

22 1901 census RG13/4226

23 Yorkshire BMD website

the only Jewish boy. He never experienced any anti-Semitism. Harold's family observed the Jewish dietary laws, buying Kosher meat and other foodstuffs from Manchester or Leeds. Harold was very close to his non-Jewish neighbours at number 17. Olivia and Ralph Taylor a butcher treated him like a son. Their two daughters Maud and Doris became his lifelong friends. He was Doris's best man. Harold won a scholarship at fourteen to stay on at school but wanted to join the family firm. He learned cutting, designing and tailoring and by the age of sixteen was part of the bespoke tailoring business. Harold recalled that his mother encouraged him to go to Manchester and mix with young Jewish people. In 1934, by which time the Cohens had left Oldham, he met Rachel Levy and in 1936 they married at Manchester New Synagogue.²⁴

Harold volunteered for the army when War broke out but failed his medical. During the war years as well as tailoring, the company made war uniforms. Harold recalled that twenty seven of his employees worked on the making of uniforms during those years. They were responsible for the alteration and supply of clothing to the prisoners- of- war housed at Glen Mill, a disused mill building in Lees. Harold was required to attend clothing parades at the camp in order to inspect the uniforms of the prisoners and to provide clothing for the Pioneer Corps who were supervising the prisoners and guarding the camp. The Pioneer Corps was the only British Army unit that permitted enemy aliens to serve early in the War. It included many Jews and political opponents of the Nazi regimes who had fled to Britain. It was nicknamed The King's Most Loyal Enemy Aliens. In September 1940, Harold invited all the Jewish soldiers of the Pioneer Corps to a dinner and concert to be held at Oldham's Masonic Hall. Each soldier was asked to bring a non-Jewish comrade in arms to the event. The one hundred and twenty men lined up outside the Drill hall and were piped down to the party venue. The Mayor of Oldham, several local councillors, Rotarians and magistrates attended the party as well as Leslie Lever MP, Lt Colonel McClure, Lt Colonel Lewis and other army personnel. The Mayor, Alderman Buckley in his vote of thanks said how pleased he was that a respected local townsman had taken the lead in showing the gratitude felt by all towards our men

24 Lancs BMD marriage Index



September 1940 party

-serving in the Forces. The whole event was fully reported in the Jewish Chronicle of 6 September 1940. In the 1994 taped interview, Harold recalled the event with pride. He had fostered an ideal that racial and religious differences would fade into insignificance when there was a common purpose. Harold was one of the few Jews to become a member of Oldham Rotary Club. He recalled he and his father being invited by Mr Sowerbutts, their bank manager to attend a Rotary meeting in 1936, where the speaker was a Jewish minister of religion. Harold was very impressed with the Rotarians and soon afterwards he was proposed as a member by local businessmen Frank Mellor and Frank Lord.

During the early part of the War Phil Cohen took his family to live in Blackpool, but Harold found the travelling difficult. He, Ray and son Michael went to live in the hamlet of Grotton, near Saddleworth. Their daughter Diane was born in Oldham in 1945.²⁵ Phil Cohen died in 1951.²⁶ Soon afterwards Harold and family moved to Broughton Park. In the 1980's they moved to Cheshire where Harold died in late 1995. **The name Phil Cohen and Son** has become part of Oldham's business

25 Free BMD website

26 Free BMD website

history, lasting almost the whole of the twentieth century.

Two of Phil's younger siblings **Percy** born 1892 and **Polly** born 1894, were both long- time residents of the town. Percy worked for Phil, firstly in the Market hall and later at Rock Street. During the first world war, Percy served as an interpreter. After the war Percy went into business on his own as a retailer of ladies fashions. His shop was at 3 Henshaw Street, moving in about 1928 to number 6 where the family lived all their working lives.²⁷ That year he married **Leah** Dagutski at Leeds Belgrave Street Synagogue.²⁸ Their only child **Sheila** was born in 1931. She attended Miss Mellodew's Prep School followed by Hulme Grammar School. She has very happy memories of her life in Oldham. She never



Sheila, daughter of Percy and Leah Cohen

met any anti-semitism. Being part of a tiny minority was never a problem. Sheila recalls that the family took the tram once a week into Manchester to buy their kosher meat. At the age of fourteen Sheila went to a boarding school in Betws y Coed for two years, before going to college in Manchester to take her School Certificate. In 1950 she married David Silver at the Higher Crumpsall Synagogue. For many years they were in business in Staffordshire, manufacturing ladies and childrens clothing, supplying mail order companies and large retail stores. **Percy and Leah** retired from business in the late 1960's, settling in Lytham St Anne's. Sheila recalls that the initials PC were part of the brickwork over the frontage of the shop at 6 Henshaw St and remained there until the property was demolished years later.

Polly married **Morris Hyman** in Leeds in 1922. Their first child **Ronald** was born in the town the following year. The family came to Oldham soon afterwards living at 21 Rock Street. Morris worked for Phil

27 All information from Sheila Silver nee Cohen, daughter

28 Yorkshire BMD Marriage Index



Phil, Percy, Leah, Sarah and Sheila Cohen



Cohen, managing one of the retail shops, Polly worked in the tailoring workshop. Their second child Barry was born in Oldham in 1930.²⁹ He became a dentist, practising firstly in Chadderton, followed by St Anne's, then Reddish. He died in 1999. Ronald was a mechanic and car salesman. He set up his garage business in Rock Street. His cousin Sheila recalls that he was a keen football fan; as teenagers they often went to watch Oldham Athletic. In 1948 he married Betty Halpern whose family had run a greengrocery business in Oldham. Betty and Ronald settled in North Manchester, where he died in 1998.³⁰

Simon (Sam) Yaffe and family arrived in Oldham at a similar time to the Hymans and settled in a little house at 20 Bottom o'the Moor. Simon was a dealer in glassware and china in business at the Hilton Arcade. He was listed as Oldham synagogue president in the Jewish Year Book of 1935. He was born in 1896, the eldest child of Jane and Nathan. In the 1901 census the family were living at the home of their grandparents the Kaminskys at 34 Cheetham Street, Manchester. Adolf Kaminsky, sixty-six, a draper Rachel, sixty-one, Jane Yaffe, thirty-one, Nathan Yaffe, thirty-six, a tailor, Simon four, Woolf two, Davis one and uncle Simon Kaminsky, forty, a cabinet maker plus two lodgers. All the adults were Russian. All three Yaffe children were born in Manchester.³¹ By 1911

29 Free BMD website

30 Free BMD website

31 1901 census RG13/3768

the Yaffe family were living at 29 Granton Street, Cheetham Hill. Jane, a draper, was widowed; **Simon** was a clerk in a money-lenders'; Woolfe, David, Eli and Ada were all at school. In 1920 Simon married twenty three year old **Katie** Kaufman, born Kemenetz. Their first child **Miriam** was born the following year in Manchester. Their second child **Esther** was born five years later in Oldham. Now eighty eight years old, she has fond memories of the town. She attended Waterloo Infants Council School until she was nine years old, when she caught diphtheria. She was sent to Arya House, a boarding school in Brighton to regain her health. She stayed there for nearly two years then went to Broughton High School, as the family had moved in 1937 to Manchester.³² The 1938 electoral register lists them in business at 23 Yorkshire Street with a home address in Prestwich. 23 Yorkshire Street was a ladies gown shop called Rigby's run by Katie. **Esther** went to work there after leaving school. Sadly Simon died in 1942, aged forty-six. His estate, according to the National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills) amounted to £2,632. Esther recalls that her mother worked very hard, opening two more gown shops in Oldham, Helen Holt and Katherine's and one in Rochdale on Drake Street. **Katie** appeared on a Passenger List travelling to New York in 1946 as an export buyer.³³ That year **Esther** married William Hacker an American she had met when he was stationed in Manchester. The marriage took place in New York. The couple then returned to England residing on Singleton Road, Salford, both working in the family gown business. The Oldham Directories of 1952, 56, 59 and 62 listed Katie Yaffe and Esther Hacker in business at 124 Yorkshire Street. Katie died aged sixty five in 1962. Esther who has provided much of the information about the family resides in Broughton Park.

David Burman arrived in Oldham in the early 1920's. The family's links with the town lasted over sixty years. As mentioned earlier, the Oldham "synagogue" was housed above his furniture store on Yorkshire Street in the early 1930's. David was born Ernst Beerman in Prussia in 1879 but was always known as David Burman. He came to Manchester with his parents and siblings when he was five. In the 1891

32 information from Esther Hacker nee Yaffe

33 Ancestry Passenger Lists



David Burman

census they were living at 30 Edward Street, Broughton, Manchester. Isadore, forty-five, a locksmith/mechanic, Tobina, forty-six, his wife a macintosh maker, Samuel, twenty, macintosh maker, Alfred, fifteen, stick maker, Simon, twelve, David, ten, Lewis, eight were all at school.³⁴ By 1901 David was a cabinet maker.³⁵ The family had moved to 4 Bell Street, Cheetham by the time of the Census of 1911. Tobina was a widow and according to the Census only four of her ten children were living; Alfred and Simon, both stick makers, David and Simon, both furniture salesmen, plus two lodgers. According to David's daughter Tina Dunn who has provided me with much of the family information, David had been apprenticed in his teens to a local cabinet maker called Jackson. He had always had a love of wood. This might have been due to the fact that their lodger in 1891 was Abraham Scharfe, a French wood carver. During world war one, David was interred on the Isle of Man. During a spell in the camp hospital, those in charge discovered that he spoke excellent German. He spent the rest of the war years as an interpreter and medical orderly. Once released from the camp, David found a job as a sales rep for a furniture manufacturer, travelling all over the North of England. In 1922 he decided to go into business on his own selling gramophone records and furniture from a three storey premises in Hilton Arcade, Oldham. The business was listed in the 1923 Phone Book and 1924 Kelly's Trade Directory. He also had a shop in Burnley at 109 St James Road and at Market Street Shaw, the opening of which was advertised in the Oldham Chronicle in October 1925. The previous year at Leeds Belgrave Street Synagogue, David married Flora Wurzal a tailorress.³⁶ She was the third of the seven children of Rose and Nathan Wurzal, a furniture dealer and money lender. Flora and David settled in Oldham at 63 Hillside Avenue. Sadly in 1928, their first child was stillborn. This was listed in the Register

34 1891 census RG12/3212

35 1901 census RG13/3724

36 Yorkshire BMD marriage Index

of Burials of the Manchester Great Synagogue. David was still at Hilton Arcade that year but had opened a large store called York House on Yorkshire Street and a shop at 60 Market Street. Shaw. David had been naturalised in 1932. The certificate gave his birthplace as Schoneburg, Germany. Their daughter Rosalie Tina was born in 1935.³⁷ By 1938 the Burmans had moved to 256 Oldham Road, Grotton. Their close friends and neighbours were Ray and Harold Cohen and Jack and Greta Cohen, both of whom lived in the village till the end of the War. Flora and David however remained there for the rest of their lives, working together in the Yorkshire Street store. They also had a warehouse on Plate Street. David was innovative in business. He introduced all sorts of unusual publicity schemes including the printing of a leaflet called **The David Burman Great Furniture Puzzle**. A prize of a gramophone or sideboard was given to the first person to spot deliberate mistakes in the leaflet; some were easy to spot but most entailed a visit to the store to discover the others! Another publicity venture was the **Cot Scheme** started in 1927.... a cot was presented to the first baby born in Oldham on St David's Day. In 1954 David held a reunion of all his Cot Babies. Every Christmas, David presented an armchair to Oldham's oldest resident. He introduced a **Bridal Bonus scheme**; a 10 shilling voucher was presented to every bride-to-be when a purchase of £10 was made. David's daughter Tina recalls that her father was a real showman often entertaining at charity functions. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. He even entertained his customers in the store.³⁸ David had the reputation of being a charitable man. A desire to help the needy was dominant in his life. He supported the Oldham Blind Children's Welfare Organisation, becoming its President. He was involved in the setting up in 1929 of the Fellowship and Service Club, to help Oldham's unemployed. David organised a woodwork department and provided the funds to set up a workshop. He became vice-president of the Oldham British Limbless Ex-Servicemens' Association. He also supported Jewish charities in Manchester, including Glancy House for the Blind and the Jewish Hospital. He was a member of the Manchester Great Synagogue, but felt it was important for the small Jewish community of Oldham to

37 Free BMD website

38 All family information from Tina Dunn, daughter

have a place of worship. As mentioned earlier, the storeroom above his Yorkshire Street store served this purpose for a few years in the early 1930's. David died in 1959 aged 79 in the Manchester Jewish Hospital. His wife **Flora**, daughter **Tina** and brother **Simon** continued working in the business. Flora worked until well into her eighties. She died in 1986 aged 92. **Tina** went to Oldham Hulme School followed by secretarial college. As there was no Jewish social life in Oldham, she went to Manchester every weekend, staying with her uncle Louis. She met **Philip Dunn** at a Jewish Charity Ball and they married in 1960. Philip joined the business which continued to be run by the family until it finally closed in 1985. In 1957 David was interviewed by Geoffrey Whiteley. Much of the information here is taken from that written interview. The document was donated to the Manchester Jewish Museum by Tina Dunn, to whom I have spoken at length about the Burman family and life in Oldham.



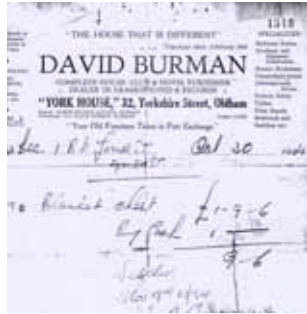
At the time Prussian-born David Burman was establishing his business in the Hilton Arcade, **Sam (Simon) Mendelsohn**, born Turetz, Belarus, was opening his tailoring business at 78 Mumps. Sam was born in 1899, younger son of Isaac and Annie. The family left Belarus in the early 1900's and settled in Leeds where in 1919 Sam married Esther Markinson at the Belgrave Street Synagogue³⁹. Soon after their marriage the couple settled in Oldham. Their son **Norman** was born in 1920 in Chorlton, their daughter **Rosalind** was born in Oldham in 1923.⁴⁰ The **Mendelsohn** tailoring and costumier business at 78 Mumps was listed in the Kelly's 1924 Directory and the Phone books of 1929 and 1931. At this period

39 Yorkshire BMD Marriage Index

40 Free BMD website



David (centre) in WW1
Internment Camp



Sam was highly involved in the life of the Oldham synagogue and was mentioned in the Jewish Chronicle of 14 September 1928 and later in his role as chairman on 2 October 1936. Rosalind too appeared in the Young Israel column of that newspaper on 1st November 1935, appealing for a pen friend and mentioning that she was the only Jewish girl at her school. By this time the family were at 215 Lees Rd. Norman was a pupil at Oldham Hulme Grammar School. He celebrated his Barmitzvh in 1933 at the "synagogue " above Burman's store. When he left school, Norman studied engineering with a view to joining the RAF when war broke out, but as his father Sam was an "alien" this was not possible. Instead Norman worked on making aircraft parts. The family left Oldham in the late 1940's settling in Prestwich. Sam had left the tailoring trade and worked firstly as an upholsterer, then as a manufacturers agent. He was naturalised in 1947. His granddaughter Joy remembers him as a quiet, placid man. He died aged seventy in Manchester⁴¹. Norman married Esther Don in 1952 and they settled at Baguley Brow in Middleton. Norman opened Victoria Motors on Deansgate Manchester. He also had an engineering and repairs workshop on Halliwell Lane in Cheetham Hill. He and Esther had two children. In 1978 Norman and Esther moved to St

41 Family information from Joy Mendelsohn

Albans to be near to their daughter Joy. Esther died in 1981.⁴² Five years later Norman married Phyllis Black a widow and returned to Manchester where he died in 2003. His sister Rosalind had a short-lived marriage to Jacob Garb. Sadly she was killed in a road accident in Manchester in 1973.

Although the **Mendelsohn** family links with Oldham had finished by the late 1940's, Sam's contribution to the life of the Jewish community can only be seen as commendable. He fought hard to keep the synagogue alive, but it appears that most of the local families belonged to a synagogue in Manchester or Leeds. Sheila Silver nee Cohen recalls that she and her parents Percy and Leah and some of the other Cohen cousins always went to the synagogue of their grandparents in Leeds for the High Holy Days. The Oldham Jewish community never had its own cemetery. Like so many small congregations it never grew during the twenty eight years of its existence and gradually faded into obscurity.



Norman Mendelsohn



Sam Mendelsohn



Rosalind Mendelsohn

42 Free BMD website



6 Clegg Street, the last venue of the Oldham Synagogue



Beaver Street School

CHAPTER 3

Businesses and Professions

Although Oldham had only a small Jewish resident community, there were many Jewish-owned businesses in the town. Most of the proprietors lived in Manchester and travelled in daily. Some were shopkeepers, some ran factories and others stood on the market. The first market in Oldham dates from the 1780's. In later years markets were held on land owned by Mr Thomas Whittaker and became known as Tommyfield. In 1856 the first purpose- built indoor market was opened and in the early 1900's the Victoria market hall was erected. It was destroyed by fire in 1974. A temporary hall was built which lasted until 1990, when the present hall came into being. The earliest Jewish market trader I have found is **Eli Marks** who appeared in 1901 and 1905 Kelly's Trade Directories as a smallwares dealer both at Tommyfield and later at 35 Victoria Market. In the 1918 Oldham electoral register, **Benjamin Krell** an earthenwares dealer was listed in business at 138 Victoria Market; his home address was 62 Johnson Street Manchester. By the time of the publication of the 1926/27 electoral registers there were several Jewish market traders mainly from the Cheetham Hill and Strangeways areas of Manchester working on Tommyfield market. These included **Henry Faber** of 4 Bellott Street; **Abe and Nellie Lesser** of 6 Penrose Street; **Henry Feldman** of 8 Penrose Street; **Peter (Pincus) and Gertrude Vignan** of 23 Hewitt Street; **Morris and Fanny Kravitz** of 129 Bury New Road; **Jack Marks** of 7 Townley Street; **Wolfe and Ethel Marks** of 6 Bell Street; **Abraham Rosen** of 88 Stocks Street; **Frank Dunn** of 41 Derby Street and **Bertha Moss** of 416 Great Cheetham Street. **Albert Leon** of 47 Upper Brook Street in South Manchester was listed in 1926 at 196 Victoria Market. The 1932 electoral register listed **Henry Feldman** and **Woolfe and Ethel Marks** plus **Eva Glass** of 2 Edward Street, Salford. Eva was trading at 96 Victoria Market. Biographies of some of these market traders appear later in this book.

Apart from the market traders there were several businesses owned by Oldham's Jewish residents and non -residents throughout the late nineteenth and the whole of the twentieth centuries. Many of these

appear in the Trade Directories of the period. The majority of the non-residents lived in Manchester. However in the 1925 Oldham electoral register **Emanuel Swift** of Oldham Place, Liverpool was in business at 73 Yorkshire Street and in 1932 **Julius and Mabel Hyams** were listed in business at 22 Manchester Street **Oldham** but lived at 5 Amberley Street, Liverpool. Julius's family had lived in England since the late 1850's and were in the tailoring trade. Julius was one of several dozen Jewish tailors with Oldham connections. The earliest were father and son **Myer and Isaac John Foote (Voet)** who were in business in Oldham at in the mid 1870's. Other tailors in the 1880's and 90's included **Jacob E Goodman; Louis Levy; Peter Levine; Lazarus Fineberg; Morris Rosenbloom; Philip Ruben** and **Marks Marlow**. **Louis Levy** who lived and worked in Oldham for about nine years lived at 15 Mumps, appearing in the 1881 census.¹ His neighbours at numbers 5-7 were the **Barnard** family who moved to Oldham in about 1877 and ran a large domestic emporium selling furniture, jewellery, glass, china, pianos and other musical instruments, and all types of household goods. They also had a similar business at 172 Union Street that was run by **Charles Barnard** and his nephew **Daniel**. By 1891 the Barnards had left Oldham, appearing in the census living in Handsworth.² Charles was now a concert hall proprietor, a career that ran in his family for several generations. The full story of the Barnard's appears in an earlier chapter.

The earliest Jewish resident businessman I have found is **Solomon Cohen** a Prussian-born travelling jeweller who lived in Oldham from 1869-1874. He and his wife Hannah appeared in the 1871 census living at 6 Berry Street with their four children, the youngest **Philip** had been born in Oldham early in 1870, the other three were Manchester-born. **Eli Cohen**, possibly a relative was also in the jewellery/watchmaking business living in 1881 with his wife Rebecca and family at 84 Greengate Street. He appeared in the Worrall's Directories of 1884 and 1888 at 11 Albert Street. The Cohen family had moved back to Manchester by 1891, then back to Oldham by 1901 where the watchmaking business continued

1 1881 census RG11/4077

2 1891 census RG12/2263

at 16 Lees Road.³ **Maurice Lyons** was another Jewish watchmaker, who lived with his wife and two daughters at 18 Bolton Street in 1901. Sadly he died that year aged only twenty-six. **Rebecca Goldberg** also appeared in 1888 Worrall's Directory as a jeweller at 57 Frankhill Street. However in the 1891 census, she living at the same address and was described as a charwoman, head of the household, with seven children, the two youngest Isaac, aged three and Annie eleven months born in **Oldham**. The other five children were born in Manchester. The Lancashire BMD birth records gave her maiden name as Want. The marriage between Rebecca Want and Samuel Wialarski at Manchester Great Synagogue in 1875 was recorded by Lancashire BMD. It is likely they changed their surname. I have not been able to find any further details of the family apart from **Samuel Goldberg** appearing in the 1888 Oldham electoral register. By 1891 there were several waterproof manufacturers in the town including the **Phillips** family at 25-27 Manchester Street. They are described in the various Trade directories and censuses as India rubber/gutta percha manufacturers, waterproof garment makers and waterproof manufacturers. The family arrived in Oldham in about 1886. **Barnet Phillips** was the brother of **Rachel Cossack** who with her husband **Israel** settled in Oldham in the mid 1880's. He and his son Solomon ran a tailoring business in the town for many years. Both the **Cossack and Phillips** families had links with **Oldham** for over forty years. **Louis Henry Delakoski's** links with the town were of short duration. Like Barnet Phillips, Louis was a waterproof manufacturer with premises at 6 Warrington Street Lees. He appeared in the 1895 Slater's directory at this address, but had in fact already emigrated to the US the previous year. He settled in Boston where he remained for the remainder of his life. **Harris Phillips** was another waterproof garment maker who was listed living in Oldham in 1891. By 1901 the family had gone to live in Manchester. Whilst most Jewish immigrants in Oldham were working as tailors, waterprooferers, moneylenders and jewellers at the end of the nineteenth century, **Lewis Benjamin** was running a public house, the Church Inn at Hollinwood. His parents **Celia and Henry** were living with him in 1891. Lewis later became known as **Henry Lewis**, possibly because he had married out of the faith and preferred a more English sounding name. The Benjamin

3 1901 census RG13/3816

family then moved in late 1891 to the Sett and Cemetery Inn on Hollins Road. **Henry Lewis** was licensee there until his death in 1927.

Other nineteenth century Jewish businessmen included **Manny Szeinberg** who was manager of the Royal Advance, a loan company at 12 Coronation Street; **Finkleston's** who had a loan business on Union Street; **M Mendelson**, managing the Union Loan discount office on Huddersfield Road; **John Linday** a furniture broker and cabinet maker on Union Street, **Simon Levy** a furniture dealer at 42 Lees Road and **Barnett Frumin** a tobacconist in the Hilton Arcade and at 99 Yorkshire Street. Yorkshire Street was full of Jewish owned businesses throughout the twentieth century, probably the best known was the furniture store, York House at number 32 established by **David Burman** in 1930. Like Barnett Frumin, David started in the Hilton Arcade, but whereas Barnett had left Oldham by 1900, **David and Flora Burman** lived and traded in the town for over sixty years.

Loucie Goldstone was a corsetiere at 141 Yorkshire Street from



Burman family 1954: foundation stone for the new warehouse.

1910, **Harry Levy** of 507 Rochdale Road, Manchester was in business at number 89 in 1925, **Irvin Jacobs** who lived in Cheetham Hill was in the jewellery business at 101 according to the 1932 electoral register. By 1956 his business was at number 108. Another jeweller was **Abe Greene** who in the 1930's traded at number 130, but lived on Park Road

Prestwich, **David Redstone** a draper from Salford was at number 75, formerly the premises of **Levy Brothers**, outfitters, **Harry and Annie Mark** from St Annes were at number 80, **Leo Mosco** from Salford had a millinery and trimmings shop at number 81 and **Henry Gilbert** was in business at number 139. Number 23 Yorkshire Street housed Rigby's

the ladies fashion business of **Katie Yaffe**, wife of Simon, a china and glass retailer. Katie also owned a fashion business at number 124 called Katherine's. The Yaffe family resided in Oldham from about 1924 to 1937.

The early years of the twentieth century saw an increase in the number of Jewish businesses in Oldham. Of the original nineteenth century Jewish-owned businesses, those of Henry Lewis, Barnet and Dorah Phillips and Robert Cossack continued trading in the town. **Jacob Asher** was a draper in Lees Road before emigrating to the USA in 1904. **Maurice Eddlestone** was a glazier at 45 George Street at a similar time. He too emigrated... to Canada. By 1901 there were several more tailoring businesses including one that lasted over ninety years. The tailoring and clothing business of **Phil Cohen and Son** started on Oldham market eventually branching out into bespoke tailoring and retail menswear with several shops in the town centre. The Cohen family story is related in full in a later chapter. Another **Phil Cohen**, who later became known as **Conn** was in business as a rainwear manufacturer in Uppermill from the 1930's and resided in the area until his death in 1975. Other tailoring businesses of this early period included that of **Bernard (Barnet) and Rachel Brown** who arrived in 1908 and resided in the town for over 50 years, **Hyman Bernstein** and **Harris Flacks**. Harris was an astute businessman with tailoring and clothing shops in several northern towns. His family's business links with Oldham started in the 1890's and lasted some ninety years, although he lived in the town only for a short time. His son **Sam** and grandson **Melvyn** continued the fashion business until 1996. **Sam Mendelsohn** a tailor was another long time resident of Oldham. He appeared in the 1926 Cope's trade Directory in business at 78 Mumps. He was highly involved in the Synagogue, serving as its last chairman. Others who appeared in the Cope's 1924 and 1926 and the Oldham 1924 Directories included **Levine's** hardware stores at 207 Manchester Road, **Maurice** and **Fanny Davies**, tailors and drapers at 57 Manchester Street, **Simon Yaffe**, a china and glass dealer in Hilton Arcade, who lived at 20 Bottom o' the Moor, **Nat Gottlieb**, draper and general dealer living at 612 Manchester Road, **John Bloom**, costumier at 11 Manchester Street, **Hyman Blaiwais** furrier at 77 Yorkshire Street, **Israel Cohen** of Katz and Cohen tailors at 13 Horsedog Street, **Morris Cohen** tailor at 155 Yorkshire Street, **Isaac**

Marks tailor at 37 Henshaw Street and **Percy Cohen** women's fashions, at 6 Henshaw Street. Percy was the younger brother of Phil Cohen. The **Helingoe** family were in the greengrocery business both on Middleton Road and on Manchester Road from the early 1920's. Their links with



Joseph Helingoe, 1918



Joseph Helingoe in retirement

Oldham lasted over seventy years. Another Jewish greengrocer was **Philip Halpern** who was in business at 98 Barker Street. He was listed in the 1928 Phone book at this address but later moved to Prestwich.

The **Leachinsky** family moved to Oldham from Southport in about 1906 and opened a furniture business on Manchester Street. **Nathan Leachinsky** was a stalwart of the Oldham synagogue. His son Joshua was the first Barmitzvah in the town in 1914. **Louis Bernstein** was also in the furniture business at a similar time at 4, 6, and 8 Radcliffe Street. His wife **Fannie** was a dealer in mens' suits at the same address. They eventually moved to Manchester before settling in Southport. Their neighbour in 1911 was **Solomon Taylor**, a tailor. By the time of the 1911 census both **Mendel Craft** and **Myer Cohen** were in the boot making business, **Michael Freedman** and **Michael Kaufman** had set up tailoring businesses and the **Levy brothers** had opened a branch of their clothing and shoe business on Market Street. **Jacob Cohen** who lived on Derby Street Cheetham Hill was the owner of a Bazaar on Curzon Street, Oldham from the early 1900's and **M Cowen's** loan business was established on Queen Street in about 1901 and was still advertising in the Oldham Chronicle in the 1950's.

The electoral register of 1928 listed **Max and Clara Mashtab** as tailors at 12 Manchester Street, **Abe and Florence Baron** at 58 Union Street; **Harry Topperman**, cap manufacturer at 30 Manchester Street with a home address on Heywood Street, Manchester and **Sam Bercovitch**, a wholesale earthenware dealer at 328 Manchester Street. Cope's 1931 Trade Directory listed **Mendell's**, costumiers at 10 Curzon Street. Twenty five years later it was the premises of **George Glass** and Co. The electoral register of 1932 included **Harry Harris** with a loan business at 97 Yorkshire Street. He and his wife Edith lived at Balfour Road Southport. **Golda Lea** (Leachinsky) widow of Nathan was still in business at 65 Manchester Street, but residing at Waterpark Road Broughton Park, a



Oscar Krengel



Directors of the Lancashire Handbag Company

neighbour of **Harris Flacks**. Also registered in 1932 were the **Krengel** family who lived at Grandon Avenue for a short time before moving to Southport. They were the founders of the Lancashire Handbag Company which had factories in both Oldham and Burnley, employing one thousand local people. Other names in 1932 included **Morris Moss** at 39 Union Street and **Joseph Levy** of 1-3 Regent Street, both living in Salford. The 1938 register listed **David Mason** at 22 Manchester Street, residing in Prestwich and **Samuel William Cohen** of 256 Blackley New Road Manchester in business at 5 Whalley Street and 19 Henshaw Street. His business, Mick's, manufactured and retailed ladies coats and costumes. **Louis Ronin** a retailer of carpets appeared in the 1936 electoral register at 21 Manchester Street. By the mid 1940's his retail furniture premises were at numbers 17-21. A department store **Lande's** opened in about

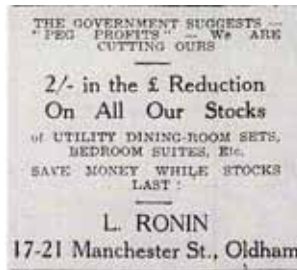
1938 at 138-146 Manchester Street. The clothing business was owned by brothers **Jack** and **Leo Lande**. Their father **Moses** had lived in Oldham for a short time in the early 1900's before moving to Salford. By the



Moses and Zipporah Lande and family



Samuel William Cohen



beginning of the second world war, **Harry Harris** had moved his business to 193 Manchester Street, **Gross**, men's and boys wear had opened at 8a Market Place and **Harry Silver (Silverman)** had opened a dental workshop at 16 Mumps, from where he also dealt in gold and silver. He later became a retail jeweller moving to Yorkshire Street in the 1950's. Other Jewish businesses of this period included a shoe shop known as **Morris's** on Curzon Street opened by **Jack** son of **Morris Kravitz** who had started the shoe business on Oldham Market in the 1920's, retail clothier **I Freedman**, of 6 Whalley Street, the Ribble Cabinet Company at 143 Union Street, furnishers, founded by **Jack Rubin**, **Harry Jacobs**

furniture and domestic appliances at 71 Yorkshire Street, **Sam and Lily Caplan** hairdressers who lived and worked at 51 Union Street; **J Lipshaw**, shirt manufacturer at Bleasby Street and **Sam Solden**, shirt manufacturer at 184 Manchester Street who later went into rainwear manufacture in Oldham and Stockport. **Charles Marks** bespoke tailor had his workplace firstly at 60 Union Street, then at 14 Waterloo Street. He started in business in Oldham in the 1940's. His son **Bernard** who was born in Oldham in 1946, worked with him as a cutter. Bernard recalls that they also employed outworkers in Manchester. Every Friday afternoon he travelled to those workshops to collect the suits. In the 1970's the Waterloo Street premises became a jewellery and pawnbrokers run by Bernard and his wife Sandra. Charles still kept his tailoring business above these premises working there until his death in 1985. Other Jewish owned businesses included **Jack Abrahams** photographer, at 145 Yorkshire Street, **Sam Sufrin** of Kings Road, Prestwich who appeared in the electoral register 1933 at 13 Albion Street; **Bessie Beever** of Brewery Street Strangeways was listed in 1932 and 1933 in business at 345 Manchester Road; **S Levine**, hardware at 207 Manchester Road,



Celia, Howard and Bette Ash

J Levene glassware at 136 Manchester Road; pharmacist and optician **Howard Ash** who came to Oxford Road Werneth in about 1938 and lived in the town until about 1953; **Peter Rothman** whose pharmacy business was on Middleton Road, Chadderton in the 1960's. **Basil and Sima Rose** appeared in the 1950's directories running a leather goods

business at 25/27 Manchester Street, the former home and premises of the Phillips family; **Maurice de Meza**, whose family were in the textile business appeared in the electoral registers in the 1950's and 60's at 43 Union Street; **Solly and Rita Krausz** set up a business in the early 1960's in Chadderton called Risol. They were wholesalers of army and navy surplus clothing and footwear. In 1977 they sold the business to the Regatta clothing company. **Arthur and Betty Smalley (Smulowitch)** lived and traded at 90 Yorkshire Street from the 1940's. By 1961 they were living in the Higher Knowles area of Oldham. Discland, a music business at 20 Market Avenue, whose proprietor was **Morris Cohen** was trading in the 1960's. There were several Jewish market traders at this later period including **Mark Fruhman** who sold food, **Milton Taylor** who sold curtains, **Ruth and Gerald Rosenberg** who sold hardware and household goods and **Norman Feingold** who started as a retailer of canned foods but later sold furniture. Norman who lived in North Manchester, came to Oldham in the mid 1950's. According to family legend, the canned goods were often unlabelled! His stalls were on the outdoor market, but he also had an indoor business at Webster Arcade selling furniture. That business grew under the ownership of Norman and his son in law **Russell Conn**, moving eventually to large premises at the former Co-op building, Hill Stores on Huddersfield Road. It closed in 2007.

There were several Jewish rainwear manufacturers in Oldham after the War. Among the best known was **Dannimac** founded in 1952 by **Ralph Levy** at Lime Mill Hollinwood. The business employed over three hundred local people. It was taken over by the Baird Group in 1981 but sadly on 14th July 1999 the Oldham Evening Chronicle reported its closure. **Lenny Cohen** founded the **Pakamac** company with premises at Asa Lees factory on Huddersfield Road, Oldham and at Marlborough Mill, Chadderton. They also had a small cutting room and factory in Middleton. In 1956 Leonard aged 34 and his partners took over part of Moorside Mill, which had been part of the Mellodew family enterprise, producing velvet since the 1840's. There had been a four-day sale of the machinery and contents that realised £50,000. The mills themselves were sold bit by bit, Pakamac acquiring the 30,000 square-foot Royton weaving shed. Mr Cohen's company would use the premises to install electronic welding

gear. Colin Hancock who worked as a driver for the company in the early 1970's remembers Mr Cohen as an excellent boss, who had no time for shirkers. Another well-known rainwear firm was **Benson Black and Son** at Vale Mill on Clegg Street, which later became **Dhobi Weatherlux**.

Several disused mills were brought back to life by Jewish businessmen particularly in the 1950's. The Oldham Trade Directories of 1956 and 1964 listed the following companies: **I and J Hyman**, rag/waste merchants at Brighton Mill; **Klynes Brothers**, rag merchants at Britannia Mill, moving later to Blackridings Mill in the 1970's and Rose Mill, Chadderton in 1980; **H Rosen** at Green Street Mill; **A Lisberg and Son**, rag merchants at Lyndhurst Mill. **A Marcus**, rag merchants at Acre Mill. **Arthur Marcus** had been in business in Oldham as early as 1924, appearing in the register of Licensed Brokers and Marine Store Dealers at Daniel Street, Livesey Street and Taylor Street.

Twenty-five or so years before the establishment of most these



Alfred and Ada Lisberg



Edna and Arthur Gottlieb with Violet and Judah Lisberg. Edna, née Cohen, was born in Oldham.

companies, British Depa Crepes, which manufactured rayon yarn was in business at **Glebe Mill**, Hollinwood. The company was founded by the **Pacht** family who hailed from Vienna. Several of their employees were Jewish refugees from Nazi-occupied

Europe. The story of some of them is told later in this book.

Nahums, cotton doublers appeared in the 1923 Oldham directory at **Scottfield Mill**. They also had mills in Sowerby Bridge and Halifax and were listed as early as 1917 in Worrall's Yorkshire Textile Directory.

Anchor Mill situated on Daisy Street in the Werneth area of the town was the home of cotton waste merchants **S Frankenhuis and Son Ltd**. The company was founded in 1874 in Haaksbergen, Holland by Saloman Frankenhuis originally a butcher. At this period the cotton industry had started up in the eastern part of the Netherlands, close to the German border. In 1884 his son Heiman joined the business. In 1935 the company established a branch in France called Holfra and a branch at Chorlton Mill, Ancoats, near Manchester which was known as **British and Foreign Waste Ltd**. The business was set up to buy, collect and re-bale waste cotton from the many mills in Lancashire and then export it all over the world. As Chorlton Mill soon became too small, their Dutch-born manager Jac de Haas who had joined the company in 1929 was set the task of finding larger premises in Lancashire. In 1937 the company acquired Anchor Mill which had previously been the Anchor Spinning Company. That business had closed in 1932 and the building had remained empty for some five years. In 1938, Heiman and family and his son Salo and family, left Holland and settled in Southport. At this period Salo took control of the company and under his management the business expanded rapidly. Father and son travelled daily to Oldham by train. In 1953 the company changed its name to **S Frankenhuis and Son**. In 1956, the year of Heiman's death, Salo's sixteen year old stepson, Charles Hardy joined the company. He spent the first six months in the office, learning the financial side of the business, before going out "on the road", which entailed visiting all the Lancashire spinning mills and fibre dealers. By this time the company was exporting widely to Europe as well as dealing on home territory. The workforce had grown to about 150, all local people. One labour -intensive task involved the sweepings from various spinning mills which were collected, sorted, re-baled and then shipped abroad. The company was also expert in the restoration and cleaning of damaged cotton bales. By the mid 1960's,

as the availability of cotton waste from the Lancashire mills diminished, the company began buying and dealing worldwide. Charles recalls travelling as far as China and South America buying cotton waste and fibres, some of which were then stored at Anchor Mill for sale in the UK. At the same period, off- share trading commenced in China, Brazil and Russia. Raw cotton purchased in China was exported the USA and Europe. The company supplied manufacturers of cotton wool, sanitary towels, mattresses and the paper for bank notes. In about 1980 the company moved into the synthetic fibres market which complemented their other activities. In 1995 with a workforce of twenty two, the business was sold to Cherokee Textiles INC of Spartanburg in South Carolina. Charles and his co-directors remained on the Board of the new company, Cherokee-Frankenhuis. The USA owners vacated Anchor Mill for a new premises near Chadderton. After one year as Chief Executive, Charles decided to leave. He had been with the company for forty two years. Sadly three years later the company closed. The **Frankenhuis** links with Oldham had lasted some sixty years. Charles sold Anchor Mill to an Isle of Man property company. It is now a banqueting venue; Chorlton Mill has been converted into a modern development of ninety apartments. I am grateful to Charles Hardy for much of this information.

Napier Mill was the premises of a high class knitwear company founded by **Magdalene Rubel** a Hungarian born refugee who left Budapest to train as a designer in Vienna. The annexation of Austria by Hitler in 1938 forced her and her husband Leo to flee to England. They lived firstly in Hull in a refugee hostel, later moving to Broughton Park near Manchester. Magda started a knitwear company in the attic of her home before setting up in Clydesdale Street, Mumps in the 1950's. The business appeared in the 1957 Trade directory as the Exquisite Knitwear Company. They moved to Napier Mill in 1964 by which time the company **Madeleine Russell** had become a by-word for couture knitted suits and dresses, with customers all over the world. Magda died in 2008 aged 92. Her children gave an interview to the Oldham Evening Chronicle ⁴ which gave an insight into the life of their parents and their strong links with Oldham. Magda designed two collections each year and each garment

4 16 February 2009

was made to order. She never mass produced. She travelled to Europe and America for inspiration. Leo managed the company which at one time employed over one hundred local people. Magda also worked with ICI helping to create polyester yarn in the 1970's for possible use in haute couture. By 1981 mass production of cheap clothing from abroad ruined many British businesses. Madeleine Russell closed its doors that year. Napier Mill continued as a business centre run by Magda's son.

Coldhurst Mill in Oldham was the premises of Lister Motors, Lister Industrial Equipment, Lister Cards, all under the ownership of **Merton Lister** in the early 1970's. Merton was born at 295 Gt Cheetham Street in Salford in 1924, the son of Annie and Samuel Libstein, who had married in 1920 at Manchester Central synagogue.⁵ Merton and his brother Aubrey were in business together as Lister Brothers, mill furnishers at Lister Mill in Middleton. They later went their separate ways and that business was wound up voluntarily in 1970. A notice to that effect appeared in the London Gazette on 28/7/70. Merton had big plans for Coldhurst Mill but had difficulty in getting planning permission from Oldham council. An article about this matter appeared in the Oldham Evening Chronicle on 7th November 1972. Sadly Merton died in Oldham in 1973. The London Gazette of 8th Dec 1977 announced the winding-up of his company.

My thanks to Andy Lister, Merton's son, for much of this information

Lyndhurst Mill the premises of **A Lisberg and Son** rag merchants was listed in the Oldham Directory of 1956. The company was run by **Judah Simon Lisberg**, son of **Alfred Lisberg** the founder. Alfred was born about 1881. His naturalisation document of 1910 stated he was born Gorodok Russia, son of Daniel and Rebecca. In 1906 Alfred married Edie Wigonsky in Liverpool. They had three children; **Judah Simon** in 1907, Elsie in 1909 and Matilda in 1914, all born in Manchester where Alfred set up his business.⁶ The 1911 census listed Alfred and family at 8 Hilton Street, Higher Broughton; his business was at 1 John Street, Strangeways. His parents and younger brother Morris lived at 20 Howard Street, Cheetham Hill at this period. Both Morris and his father Daniel were also working

5 Lancs BMD Marriage Index

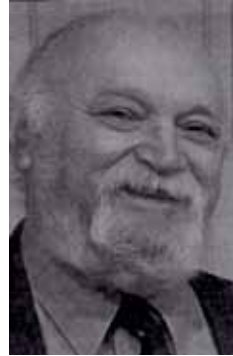
6 FreeBMD website

in the rag/waste business. The 1921 Hughes directory listed the Lisberg Company at 27 Briddon Street, Strangeways. Morris and Alfred appeared in the 1929 Kelly's Directory at 9 and 11 Upper Camp Street, Salford. The British Phone book as early as 1922 listed them at this address. Harvey Lisberg, son of Judah recalls that his grandfather's house backed on to the factory. **Judah Lisberg** followed his father and uncle into the rag waste business. In 1939 his business was at 58 Major Street Manchester. **Judah**, who married Violet Sternberg in 1937, joined the Army in about 1940, serving in Italy and North Africa. Early in 1952 his mother Edie died, followed a few months later by Alfred. He died in Dublin, the home city of his daughters, both of whom had settled there after marriage. The Oldham business appeared in the 1955 Phone Book at Soho Trading Estate, Greenacres Road. At the time Judah and Violet were living in Broughton Park. They moved to Whitefield in the late 1960's. Judah died in February 1975. He and his parents were buried at Rainsough cemetery. I am grateful to Harvey Lisberg for much of this information.

The Constellation Luggage company, manufacturers of handbags and suitcases was founded in Manchester in 1951 by Holocaust survivors **Jack Aizenberg**, **Pincus Kurnedz** and **David Sommer**. The company eventually moved to premises at **Fernhurst Mill** in Chadderton. The mill which was built in 1905 for the Fernhurst Spinning Company ceased textile production in 1964. It was derelict for a few years before being brought back to life by the three business partners. Constellation was part of their Japinda Group. In 2010 its luggage and leather goods division was taken over by Oldham-based Ultimate Products, whose CEO is **Simon Showman**. This company supplies homewares and electrical products to retailers worldwide. Fernhurst Mill was demolished in 2011, but the Constellation brand lives on.

Although few Jewish people lived in Oldham, they appear to have made a major contribution to the business life of the town. Many of the disused mill buildings were given a new lease of life, providing jobs for the local people and giving a boost to the economy.

Not strictly in business, but nevertheless important to this story were those Jewish men and women who worked as doctors and dentists in the town. Two of them, **Samuel Adler** and **Morris Strang** were in general practice for several decades. Dr Adler's son, **Tony**, was a solicitor and local councillor in Oldham for many years.



Tony Adler

Other GPs included **Julius Livingstone**, **Max Goldberg**, **Israel Kropman**, **Liselotte Schreiber** and **Norman Ross**. **Louis Rich** worked in obstetrics at Oldham Boundary Park in the 1930's. **Neville Berlyne** was appointed as consultant psychiatrist at Oldham and District hospitals in the late 1950's as was **Sid Levene** in 1967. Sid was born in Glasgow in 1932. He studied medicine at Glasgow University. Prior to his appointment at Oldham he had worked in Glasgow and Sheffield.⁷ **Dr Basil Gilbert** was appointed Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Office for the town in 1963, retiring in 1985. Oldham was served by several Jewish dentists most of whom

lived in Manchester and travelled in daily. The only resident Jewish dentist I have found was **Barry Hyman**, son of Polly and Maurice who lived in Rock Street. Barry was born in Oldham in 1930 and worked in Chadderton in the 1950's before moving to Street Anne's, then Stockport. From the 1960's **Jack Rabinowitz** and **Anthony Schwalbe** had a dental practice at 268 Waterloo Street, moving later to 15 King Street. **Clive Feingold** worked there for a year in the early 1960's. Clive was born in Manchester, the youngest of four children. He qualified from Manchester University in 1962. He worked firstly in communal health,



Dr and Mrs Strang

the school dental service in various parts of Lancashire, including **Oldham**. He then worked for a year in East Manchester as a locum for **Neville** and **Tony Phillips**, who also had a practice on Hollins Road,

⁷ Information from Leila Levine

Oldham. After his year with the **Rabinowitz** practice Clive worked in a partnership Bury. In 1968 Clive purchased a rather dilapidated property at 318 Oldham Road Royton which became a highly successful practice employing four dentists and three dental technicians. Clive is proud of the fact that the dental health of many schoolchildren under his care improved rapidly during the twelve years he was at Royton. He sold the practice in 1980. Clive's other link with **Oldham** goes back to his student days, when he helped his relative Norman Feingold selling canned goods on the market.⁸ The year that Clive started his own practice, Dublin-born **Frank Baigel** opened his surgery at Ripponden Road, Littlemoor. Prior to this, he too worked for Rabinowitz and Schwalbe. Frank served the Oldham public for some thirty years. He was on several NHS committees representing dental interests.⁹ Other Jewish dentists whom he recalls included **Tony Rosenfield** and **Alex Crawford**, who was head of the community dental services from 1978 to 1983.

Full details of many of these families appear in the Biographies section of this story.



Bartlam Place, premises of the handbag manufacturer Henry Marlow (Mokotow) who traded in Oldham throughout the 1950's and '60's. He and his wife Ida lived in Prestwich

8 Information from Clive Feingold

9 Information from Frank Baigel



Tommyfield Market

CHAPTER 4

Tailors

Unsurprisingly, the most common occupation amongst the resident Jewish community of Oldham was tailoring. Some journeymen tailors stayed only a short time, others like Israel Cossack, Phil Cohen and Bernard Brown lived in the town for decades. Their family stories have been told in an earlier chapter.

The earliest resident tailors I have found were Dutchmen, **Myer Foote/Voet** whose business in the early 1870's was at 36 Mumps and his son **Isaac Myer Foote** known as John. In the Jewish Chronicle of 26 July 1878 the death in Oldham was announced of David Foote, son of JM Foote of 65 Greengate, Oldham. On 2 August 1878 there were two more announcements; one from the Foote family thanking everyone for their cards and visits during the week of mourning for David; the other from Mrs M Foote and R S Streletskie thanking everyone for their cards and visits during the week of mourning for their late lamented father Isaac. David born in Liverpool, was only five years old. Isaac Streletskie, his great grandfather who died in Whitechapel was ninety. Isaac Myer (John) Foote born Amsterdam about 1840, married Rebecca Myers in London in 1864. Three of their children were born in Oldham; Margaret in 1877, Rosetta in 1878 and Samuel Herschel in 1879. Rosetta died in September 1878 aged three months which meant that John and Rebecca lost two children in the space of three months.¹ Prior to living in Oldham, Isaac Myer (John) was in business as a tailor and draper in Liverpool according to the census of 1871. He and Rebecca had eight children, the first five were born in that city.² The death in London in 1886 of young Samuel Herschel Foote indicated that the family were no longer living up North. The census of 1881 listed them living in Mile End, London.³ John's father Myer Foote appeared to be in business in Oldham whilst actually residing in London. An item in the London Gazette of 10 December

1 Free BMD website

2 1871 census RG10/3774

3 1881 census RG11/477

1878 announced the first meeting of the creditors to be held in London regarding the affairs of Myer, a tailor and clothier of 36 Mumps Oldham, residing at 22 Mount Street, Whitechapel. A further notice regarding the

The Bankruptcy Act, 1869.
In the London Bankruptcy Court.
In the Matter of a Special Resolution for Liquidation by
Arrangement of the affairs of Myer Foote, of 36, Mumps,
Oldham, in Lancashire, Tailor and Clothier, and residing
at 22, Mount-street, Whitechapel, in the county of Mid-
dlesex.

THE creditors of the above-named Myer Foote who have not already proved their debts, are required, on or before the 21st day of October, 1880, to send their names and addresses, and the particulars of their debts or claims to me, the undersigned, John Folland Lovering, of No. 77, Grenham-street, in the city of London, Public Accountant, the Trustee under the liquidation, or in default hereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the Dividend proposed to be declared.—Dated this 7th day of October, 1880. JNO. F. LOVERING, Trustee.

liquidation of the business appeared on 10 January 1879 and on October 8 1880, page 5225 of the Gazette announced a special resolution for the liquidation of the tailoring business. The years 1878 to 1880 were certainly not good ones for the Foote families. Myer born 1805 in Amsterdam

was married to Charlotte nee Streletskie. In 1871 the family were living in Whitechapel. Myer aged sixty-five was described as a dressmaker, Charlotte fifty-three and son Wallie twenty three, were hairdressers and son Samuel aged twenty four was a clerk. Charlotte's father was also living there.⁴ In 1881 Myer and Charlotte were at 22 Mount Street and their son Samuel, now a vocalist lived at number 21 with his wife and four children.⁵ The Foote/Voet family link with Oldham lasted only some six or seven years. Myer the tailor died in Whitechapel in 1886. By 1891 John Foote had become an insurance agent, living in Islington.⁶

Lewis Levy was another early tailor at Mumps, appearing in the 1881 Census living at number fifteen. London-born Lewis had married Henrietta Moses in Swansea in 1870. At some point they moved to Liverpool where all three children were born. The 1881 Census listed Lewis aged thirty-five, Henrietta thirty- six, Frederick seven, Benjamin five, Estelle three.⁷ A notice in the Jewish Chronicle of 14 April 1882 announced the birth of a stillborn premature child to Henrietta and Lewis Levy in Oldham. The family were still in the town in 1888, Lewis appearing as Levi Levy in the electoral register. By 1891 they had

4 1871census RG10/519

5 1881 census RG11/444

6 1891 census RG12/173

7 1881 census RG11/4077

moved to Hackney. Both sons followed their father into the tailoring trade. In 1901 Frederick and Benjamin were in Clapham where the Census described them as tailor/shopkeepers.⁸ Frederick married Julia Gluckstein in 1908 at Hampstead Synagogue. Their daughter Rosemary Estelle was the maternal grandmother of Nigella Lawson.

In 1884 whilst Lewis Levy was busy making suits in Mumps, another tailor named **Levy** arrived in Oldham. **Zachariah Levy**, Russian born, appeared in the 1901 Census at 213 Manchester Road Hollinwood. He was thirty-eight, Hannah his wife thirty-two, eldest child Emanuel born Manchester was nine, Bessie seven, Harris five, Goodall, four and Louis two were all born in Hollinwood.⁹ In 1902 Sydney was born followed by Morris in 1904, also in Hollinwood.¹⁰ Zachariah and Hannah nee Mischinsky had married in 1890. By 1908 the family had left Oldham for Manchester where Esther Maud was born that year. Zachariah **Levy** was not as successful as his namesake, for in 1911 he was described in the census as a disengaged tailoring shop assistant. Unlike Lewis, none of Zachariah's children followed him into the trade. Emanuel worked for hosier, Bessie was a launderess, Harris was a waterproofer, Goodall an assistant waterproofer. The family were living at 37 Thirlmere Street, Cheetham at this time. Zachariah died in 1918, the death was registered in Chorlton.¹¹

Michael Kaufman, a typical journeyman tailor worked in Oldham in the 1890's and again, from about 1907. He appeared in the 1911 Census living at 10 Brackley Street Oldham. He and his wife Rebecca, both aged forty-one were born in Manchester. There were eight children, two of whom were born in **Oldham**; Henrietta aged fifteen and Lena aged one. In the intervening years the family had lived all over the North of England. Their eldest child Gertrude aged eighteen was born in Liverpool, Jennie, twelve born in Leeds, David nine and Herman eight born Salford, Bertha five, born in Manchester. She died aged twenty-three. Another child Barnet was born in 1893 in Liverpool, but died of scarletina the following year in Salford. Henrietta's birth certificate of

8 1901census RG13/364

9 1901 census RG13/3813

10 FreeBMD website

11 Ibid

30 April 1895 showed the family living at Partington Street Oldham; Lena's birth certificate 11 Nov 1909 gave their address as 20 Moorby Street Oldham. **Michael Kaufman** born about 1870 was the sixth of the eight children of Ety and Herman, a German-born tailor. They were living at 15 Johnson Street Manchester in 1871.¹² According to the Manchester Jews School Admissions Index, Michael was a pupil there until 1882. By 1881 the family were at 74 Moreton Street Manchester. The Lancashire BMD website listed the marriage of Michael to Rebecca Cohen at the New Synagogue in Cheetham Hill in 1891. They and their three daughters were living in Salford at the time of the 1901 Census, returning to **Oldham** by the time of Lena's birth. The Kaufman business was not listed in any Oldham records after 1911. Eventually nearly all the Kaufman clan settled in the USA. Gertrude was the first to emigrate. She and her second husband Albert Moss, whom she had married in 1925, settled in New York that year. **Michael, Rebecca and Lena** sailed on SS Samaria in 1929 from Liverpool. Their home address was given as 19 Wilton Polygon, Cheetham, Manchester.¹³ They appeared in the USA Federal Census of 1930 living with Gertrude and Albert in Brooklyn. Michael and Lena were described as clothing operatives. Michael died in 1939, Rebecca in 1951 and Gertrude in 1982. Lena married Morris Rosenberg and settled in Queens New York. She died in 1973 and was buried at Mount Hebron cemetery as was her brother Herman who died in 1971. He and his wife Sarah nee Ginner had settled in New York in 1930 following their marriage the previous year at Manchester Great Synagogue. Oldham-born Henrietta, a dressmaker had sailed to Quebec in 1926 on SS Mountroyal, settling eventually in Brooklyn where in 1934 she married Joseph Schoenberg. She became an American citizen in 1947. Henrietta died in her seventy-third year. David a garment worker was the last of the Kaufman family to emigrate. In 1948, with his wife Leah nee Hudson and their two children he sailed on the Queen Elizabeth for a new life in New York but tragically David died later that year. The only Kaufman not to emigrate was Jenny who had married Clarence Rosenbaum in 1925, settling in Liverpool. There is a record of them visiting

12 1871 census RG 10/4044

13 Ancestry Passenger lists

the USA family in 1932.¹⁴ Jenny died in the city of her birth, Leeds in 1962.

I am grateful to Michael's grandson, Michael Kaufman for much of this information and for providing the pictures.

Another tailor with Oldham connections who emigrated to the USA was **Myer Marlow**. He was born in **Oldham** in 1883, son of Sarah and **Marks Marlow** a journeyman tailor. Marks aged twenty -five, appeared



| Name | | Occupation | | Place of Birth | | Date of Birth | | Date of Death | |
|-------|--------|-------------------|--|----------------|---------|---------------|--|---------------|--|
| Myer | Marlow | Tailor | | Oldham | England | 1883 | | | |
| Sarah | Marlow | | | Oldham | England | 1858 | | | |
| Marks | Marlow | Journeyman Tailor | | Oldham | England | 1858 | | | |

in the 1891 census lodging in Oldham with **Philip Reuben** and family at 52 Henshaw Street.¹⁵ By 1901 Marks, Sarah and their offspring were in Salford at 64 Greengate. There were eight children; Betsy and Hyman were Russian -born; Myer aged eight was born in **Oldham**, Rebecca seven and Bernard five were born in Manchester, Rachael four, born **Oldham**, Annie two born Manchester and Charlie one, born Liverpool. By 1911 there were three more children all Manchester-born, Harry ten, Sophia, seven and Lipman six. The family were now living at 75 Stocks Street Cheetham Hill. Both Hyman and **Myer** had emigrated to the USA. Myer left England in 1910.¹⁶ He appeared in the 1915 Federal Census living in Kings, New York

14 Ibid

15 1891 census RG12/3301

16 1915 USA Federal census information

with his wife Bertha and infant son David. By 1917 they were in Newark, New Jersey where Myer was an ammunitions worker at The International Arms Company. By 1920 he had returned to the tailoring trade.¹⁷ He and Bertha had two more sons, Morris and Henry. Myer's mother Sarah died in Manchester in 1922 and was buried at Crumpsall.¹⁸ Marks Marlow married Mary Fellenbaum in 1925 at the Kahal Chassidim Synagogue.¹⁹

The Reuben family with whom Marks had lodged in 1891 lived in Oldham from about 1889 until 1893. In 1891 Polish -born Philip a tailor was thirty, his wife Rachel a year younger. Their two children Willie four, born Manchester and Annie one born Oldham plus Marks Marlow and Abraham Levi a twenty year old presser from Poland made up the household. By 1901 the family were back in Manchester at 117 Great Ducie Street by which time there were four more mouths to feed; Jane nine, born Oldham 1892, Tobias seven, Morris five and Solomon four, all born Manchester. Philip was described as a dealer in tailor's trimmings.²⁰ He was naturalised in 1900. The certificate stated that his original surname was Krigstansky. By 1911 with several of the children now working in the business, the family had moved to 24 Broughton Lane, Salford. Sadly Tobias known as Teddy was killed in France in October 1916. He was a member of the 11th Battalion Lancashire

Fusiliers and was buried at Puchevilles British Cemetery.²¹ His younger brothers also served in the first world war:-Solomon with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and Maurice in France with the Lancashire Fusiliers. Solomon died in Manchester in 1945 and Maurice in 1952. The eldest Reuben child, William emigrated to the USA. The New York Passenger Lists recorded his arrival in 1911. Maybe he met up with Myer Marlow? During the first world war William was a member of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. His home address was listed as Bronx, New York.²² In October 1919 he came back to England to visit

17 1920 USA Federal census information

18 FreeBMD website

19 Lancs BMD marriage Index

20 1901 census RG13/3770

21 Ancestry: WW1 Army records

22 Ancestry: Canada, Soldiers of the 1st world war

the family following the death of Rachel who had died that earlier year. William visited the family again in 1928, then in January 1929, his wife Regina, son Edward aged five and daughter Fannie aged two visited the family. In 1930 all four of them came over.²³ William became a US citizen in 1943. His sister Jane married Harry Bowman in January 1915 and remained in Manchester until her death in 1949. Annie Reuben married Mark Rose in 1921. The following year their father Philip married Leah Levy. They settled in Blackpool where he died in 1934.²⁴

Lazarus Fineberg tailor appeared in the 1888 Worrall's Directory and the 1891 census at 45 Walshaw Street **Oldham**.²⁵ He was thirty, born in Russia, his wife Sarah was twenty-two born in Warsaw, their daughter Ada aged three was born in Salford. Also in the household was another Ada aged sixteen, his sister in law. Like several of his contemporaries, Lazarus didn't stay in Oldham for long. By 1895 he appeared in the Kelly's Directory in business at 36-38 Great Ancoats Street, Manchester. In 1901 the family were at 88 Bury New Road Salford.²⁶ Lazarus was naturalised in 1909. The certificate gave his place of birth as Denenberg, Russia. The Finebergs had moved to 251 Broad Street Pendleton by this time and by 1911 they were at number 139. Ada married Philip Altman in 1913 at the Manchester Great Synagogue and moved to Grimsby.²⁷ Sarah died in 1933, Lazarus in 1937 Both were buried at Rainsough.²⁸

Michael and Sophie Freedman tailors, were in business in Oldham from soon after their marriage in about 1894. They had eight children, seven daughters and one son all born in **Oldham**. Prior to his marriage, Russian-born Michael was living in 1891 with his brother and sister-in-law Abraham and Betsy Freedman at 27 Gordon Street Cheetham.²⁹ By the time of the 1901 census, Michael, Sophie and their three daughters were at 20 West Street Oldham. Sophie's sister Julia Rosenberg aged eighteen, was also lodging there. How long the family

23 Ancestry: New York Passenger Lists

24 FreeBMD website

25 1891 census RG12/3308

26 1901 census RG13/3767

27 Lancs BMD Marriage Index

28 MDCS Burial records

29 1891 census RG12/3241

stayed in Oldham is not known.³⁰ The 1905 Kelly's Directory listed the business at West Street and they were still there at the time of the 1911 census. Michael was forty-three, Sophie thirty-eight, brother Abraham forty-four, Leah fourteen, all tailors, plus Rose aged twelve, Jane ten, Mary nine, Kate seven, Sarah six, Yetta four and Isaac two. Michael died in 1945 at the Manchester Jewish Hospital. Sophie died at Ancoats hospital five years later. Both are buried at Blackley.³¹

Jacob Ephraim Goodman appeared in the 1895 Kelly's and Slater's Directories as a tailor at 213 Manchester Road Hollinwood, **Oldham** and as a wholesale clothier and manufacturer at 24 Edge Street Manchester. Moses and Minnie Goodman and family arrived in Manchester in about 1869. The census of 1871 listed them at 21 Oldham Road Manchester. Moses a tailor, Minnie his wife, **Jacob** and three of his siblings were all born in Russia; Annie the youngest was born in Manchester in 1870.³² In 1879 Jacob married Sarah Levy at Manchester Great Synagogue.³³ The census of 1891 listed them at 8 Park Street Cheetham Hill. There were five children aged between nine years and two months. Jacob was naturalised in 1896. The certificate stated that he had been born in Marijampole, Russia in 1860. By 1911 the family were living at 51 Heywood Street. The census described Jacob as a wholesale clothier. He and Sarah had thirteen children of whom eleven survived. Jacob died in Manchester in February 1926 and was buried at Crumpsall cemetery under the auspices of the Manchester Old Hebrew Congregation. The National Probate Calendar showed his estate to be worth £735. The business **Jacob E Goodman and Sons** which had started at the end of the nineteenth century in a humble tailoring workshop in Hollinwood expanded into the manufacture of rainwear. The Kelly's 1929 Manchester and Salford Directory listed the business at 25 Miller Street. In 1934 it was at 34 Caernarvon Street. By 1944 there was a manufacturing business at Clough Works, Prestwich and from 1958 onwards at Droylsden. The 1968 trade directory listed them at Westhoughton and at Julia Street, Manchester.

30 1901 census RG13/3061

31 MDCS Burial records

32 1871 census RG10/4044

33 Lancs BMD Marriage Index

Charles Marks, a tailor spent most of his working life in **Oldham**. He was born in Manchester in 1916 the eldest child of Gertie nee Gordon and Maurice Marks a tailor. Gertie and Maurice were married in 1915 at Manchester Great Synagogue.³⁴ Charles married Annie “Peggy” Bethel at Manchester Registry Office in 1939 and they set up home in Retiro Street.³⁵ Charles served in the Army throughout the War. He was stationed in France India, Burma and Arakan. He was a member of the Burma Star Association. In 1944 he was wounded, losing all the feeling in his hand and forearm, which affected his tailoring skills. His father taught him to use a sewing machine and for a couple of years he made handbags which were sold on local markets. Eventually Charles was able to return to bespoke tailoring and opened a business on Union Street Oldham.³⁶ His son Bernard was born in the town in 1946. Charles never retired from tailoring. He died in Oldham aged sixty-nine.³⁷ Peggy, a gifted artist and sculptress outlived him by twenty five years. Bernard Marks worked in the tailoring business with Charles throughout the 1960’s. He and his wife Sandra then opened a jewellery and pawnbroking business on Waterloo Street. Later they had antique shops in Hollinwood and Oldham. They now live in Hathershaw Hall a Jacobean house, which they rescued from demolition. They have spent decades restoring it. Bernard has kept many of the tailoring artefacts from his father’s workshop including his sewing machine.³⁸

34 Ibid

35 FreeBMD website

36 Information from Bernard Marks

37 Free BMD website

38 Information from Bernard Marks



*Charles Marks during
the second world war.*

CHAPTER 5

Foreigners, Wartime and Refugees

Prior to the second world war there appeared to have been a great deal of interest shown by the citizens of Oldham and the local press regarding the treatment of the Jews in Europe. The Reverend P N Williams of Hope Congregational Church, Oldham addressed the Oldham Equitable Literary Society in 1937. The subject of his lecture was "Anti-Semitism Past and Present." The Oldham Chronicle devoted three pages to the address. The paper obviously felt it important enough to publish in full. Reverend Williams opened his talk by quoting from the Archbishop of Canterbury's January 1937 address to the English nation. "I am concerned to notice some signs of the growth of anti-Semitic sentiment in this country; It is at present confined to a few very irresponsible people but unless it is checked it may spread. I trust ye may be spared the shame of giving any sort of encouragement to the discreditable prejudice which has led to the cruel persecution in other lands especially Germany of the race to which our Saviour in his human life belonged."

Reverend Williams talked about the hysterical hostility to Jews in Germany and the suffering and endurance of the Jews from time immemorial. He talked about the causes of hatred and the publication in 1873 of "The Victory of Judaism over Germanism." He discussed the Dreyfus Affair in France, the anti-semitic Iron Guard in Rumania, the veiled anti-semitism in Austria, the ruthless persecution of the Jews in Hungary. This most erudite lecturer commented that Germany was taking the lead in the anti-Semitic movement at the present time. He went on to talk about falsehoods regarding Jewry and how for many people, Jews were convenient scapegoats. Reverend Williams commented on the anti-Semitic views of William Cobbett who had represented Oldham in Parliament in the 1830's. He concluded his address with his thoughts on the present effects of persecution. "The suffering of the Jews is indeed a terrible reality... Until recently Jews were leaders in humanism and liberalism, especially in Germany they looked forward to a time when they would no longer be a people set apart, but be merged in

the prevailing pattern of Western culture. The growth of fierce anti-semitism has apparently made that impossible for many years.”

**Anti-Semitism Past
And Present**

★ ★ ★

*“The Jews Have Sat At The
Graveside Of Every Persecutor”*

An address recently given
to the Oldham Epistolar
Literary Society
By The . . .
**REV. P. N.
WILLIAMS, M.A.**
of Hope Congregational
Church, Oldham.

At the beginning of this year
the Archbishop of Canterbury
addressed the following
words to the English people:—

Suffering and Endurance
How the Jewish race has suffered
and how it has endured! There is
written on the inscription of the Pharaoh
.....

It is interesting to ponder on what the local people made of this, given that in Oldham there had been several German families in the town from the mid nineteenth century onwards, none of whom appear to have been Jewish.¹ As early as 1861 Otto Vermear a cotton dealer was lodging at the home of Mrs Margaret Rowbottom, also German; Johann Elers a cotton spinner was living with the Scheider family, Robert Burkhart and Edward Hoffman, both mechanics were also living and working in the town. The 1871 census included several Germans; Johann and Hannah Basch, Jacob Tishler and Rudolph Frey. Many of the Germans were butchers and sausage skin makers. William Lienau a butcher appeared in the 1881, 1901 and 1911 censuses. The 1891 census included Henry Stier, butcher, Julius Bury, butcher, George Kneller, sausage skin maker and Peter Ferdinand Eichen, butcher. In the censuses of 1901 and

¹ Germans in Oldham, by Anthony Steven (Oldham Local Studies and Archives)

1911 the following Germans were listed; Robert Schultze, sausage -skin maker; John and Sophia Breiner, Andreas and Barbara Broget, William Steinwachs, John and Rose Proger, William Albrecht, Charles Albrecht and L Langbein; all butchers. Several German -born residents were involved in working in the mills including in 1881, Oscar Peltzer, Carl Goebels, Frederick Ernst and William Gunther all mechanics; Jacob Kohler a mule overlooker, Otto Brink a machine fitter and Bernard Burch an engineer. The censuses of 1891, 1901 and 1911 included Henry Lorenze a property repairer, Gustav Peltzer a book- keeper, Werner Voss a traveller, William Wetzel a cotton operative, Chrisophe Hamm a labourer, Walter Schupp a machinists foreign correspondent, Artur Hoven, William Maier and John Mathe all textile machine fitters. There were several German-born watchmakers in the town including Dominic Kuss, Walter Reidel, Carl Mahn, Fritz Leiboldt, Paul Hoch and M Richter. In 1911 Sophie Hofstatter was working as a governess to the Kauntze family; Andrew and Barbara Proger were farmers; Hans Kahler was a chef, Otto Laufer a baker, Ferdinand House, a woodworker and Adolf Reidel was the manager of the Foreign Department of a woodworking machinery company, F B Haigh and Co. As well as these German families, Oldham was home to other foreigners including Edward and Ernest Schuetze, both born Moscow, lodging in 1871 at 257 Manchester Street; Charles and Minna Mischewsky tailors and milliners; Johannes Yehnpfenig a Belgian artist and Julius Borries a chemist's assistant.² Like many Northern towns, Oldham appeared to have accepted foreigners and welcomed them, including the small Jewish community many of whom hailed from Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire where life for a nineteenth century Jew was harsh. They had been faced with anti-semitism, pogroms, the introduction of twenty -five years military service and constant persecution. In contrast, life in Oldham would seem like paradise.

Prior to the second world war the Jewish Chronicle reported on several speakers who visited Oldham from Manchester to lecture on topics of Jewish interest. On 13 March 1936 it was reported that Keith Quas-Cohen had lectured on "Judaism "to a Methodist church community. The minister of the church and Mr. Quas-Cohen had been at university

2 Germans in Oldham by Anthony Steven (Oldham Local Studies and Archives)

together. Following the lecture the congregation had requested that a visit to a synagogue be arranged so that more could be learnt about Jewish practice. The Jewish Chronicle had reported the previous week on the AGM of the Manchester Jewish Workingmen's Club, whose billiards section had visited Oldham for a series of friendly matches. Donations had been made to various causes including the Oldham Infirmary. The issue of 27 March 1936 reported that the Oldham Christian Endeavour Group had been addressed by Norman M Jacobs on Jewish Customs and Festivals. Councillor Leslie Lever addressed a League of Nations meeting in Oldham in February 1937, the topic being "The Palestine Situation." The following year on 29 April it was reported that Rabbi Dr S Lehrman had spoken on "Jewish Life and Practice" to twenty five Christian ministers of the Oldham Fraternity Guild. On 14 April 1939 the paper mentioned that Dr P L Wigoder had addressed the Oldham Greenacres Congregational Church on "The Jewish Future." A full page article about riots in Palestine by Lucien Harris appeared in the Oldham Chronicle of 3 November 1938. On 25 May 1939 the paper reported that the Mayor of Oldham had received a letter from a Jewish family wanting to leave their home in Memmingen-in-Bayern, Germany. They requested the Mayor Alderman Bannon to sign forms so that they would be granted a visa by the Home Office. Two days later the paper reported that the visa had been granted. The Mayor received another asylum request from a Jewish Viennese family. It was reported that the letter had been forwarded to the Jewish Bureau for Emigrants. Local church groups in Oldham continued to invite Jewish speakers during the war years. On November 17 1939 the Jewish Chronicle reported that Miss Reva Massel had spoken to the Women's Guild of the Salem Moravian Church on "Jewish Customs. "That same group heard a talk on 26 July 1940 by Esther Shevah on "Impressions of Present Day Palestine" and later that year the Men's Guild were addressed by Mr H M Lyons of Manchester on "Large Scale Immigration to Palestine." On August 16 the Womens' Guild of Henshaw Street Methodist Church were addressed by Mrs Marie Harris on "The Refugee Question. " In February 1941 Reverend M A Jaffe gave a talk on "Jewish Life and Problems" to the Lord Street Congregational Church. The Chairman, Mr Butterworth said his community were always interested in Jewish matters and would try to do what they could to prevent

anti-Semitism in the community. Dr I W Slotki spoke to the Oldham Rotary club in 1942 on Jewish Customs. The Jewish Chronicle of 8 January 1943 reported that special prayers for persecuted Jews had been offered by the Reverend Bowman of Emmanuel Church, Chadderton.

This interest in various aspects of Judaism by the citizens of Oldham went back many years. As early as 1887 the Oldham Express was publishing information on the Jewish way of life. On February 2 that year there was a three page article which included details of synagogues in Manchester, rules concerning divorce, the Sabbath, funerals and burial customs. The Jewish Chronicle of 5 June 1891 reported that after a lecture by Reverend Isadore Myers on "The Talmud" at the Atheneum Manchester the vote of thanks was given by the Bishop of Manchester seconded by a vicar from Oldham. The vicar made some praiseworthy remarks regarding the Jewish race and sympathising with the sufferings of the Jews in Russia at that time. It appears that there was a good relationship between Manchester Jewry and the Oldham non-Jewish community at this time. The Jewish Chronicle reported visits to the Oldham Workhouse by various Jewish Minstrel troupes. On 28 February 1902 it was reported that the Edward Concert party had visited the inmates of Oldham Workhouse. A similar event took place on 2 April 1909. Another group, the Manchester Jewish Workingmen's Minstrels entertained the inmates in January 1908, January 1909 and January 1910. These troupes were a popular form of entertainment amongst the Manchester Jewish population. As early as 1903, the issue of April 10 reported that the Jewish minstrel troupe had closed a successful season with a concert at the Cheetham Public Hall. Amongst those taking part were J Mamlock, M Laski, M Bergbloom, B Matz and E Spier. It was reported in the issue of 6 May 1921 that the Minstrel Troupe of the Solly Olsberg Lodge had entertained some three hundred inmates of the Oldham Workhouse. It was mentioned that this form of entertainment was a new departure for this Friendly Society and was felt to be a good way of maintaining inter-faith relations. The second Manchester Jewish Working Men's Troupe continued entertaining the public throughout the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's. All the proceeds from their concerts went to local Jewish and non-Jewish charities.

The Oldham Evening Chronicle continued to keep its readers informed about the plight of the Jews. Several articles appeared in the paper just before the outbreak of the second world war regarding refugees and Jewish persecution. On 10 August 1939 an article titled "Plight of the Persecuted" appeared on page 4 as follows...

"News continues to be received from Germany about the appalling plight of the Jews and non-Aryan Christians and it appears that Germany's economic difficulties and distortions consequent upon her prodigious arms drive are being faithfully reflected in the treatment of the unfortunates. Every time Germany has a setback of any sort, there seems to be a new outburst of terror, persecution and hate by the Nazi leaders; their minions pass it on to those over whom they have almost all power... According to the Christian Council for Refugees the number of refugees from Germany in Herr Hitler's six years of power have averaged about sixty thousand a year, but there are more than 750,000 people in Germany who are being hounded to such an extent that they would be willing to make almost any sacrifice to get out of that land of hate and tyranny."

On 14 August 1939 a further article concerning Jewry appeared on the front page of the paper boldly headlined "Jewish Oppression". The article reported on the Jewish World Congress meeting at Geneva attended by delegates from Britain, France and the USA. A resolution was passed expressing sympathy with Jews who were being oppressed in various countries.

The following day a heart-warming story appeared in the paper about the setting up of a holiday activity camp in Marple for refugees now living in Manchester. Arnold Shaw from Oldham was prominent in organising the camp which was under the auspices of the Friends Refugees Committee and the German Jewish Aid Committee. The aim of the camp was to prove and cement the natural fellowship between young people of England and Central Europe.

It is ironic that on 15 August, less than one month before England would be at war with Germany, the following news item appeared. Headlined "British Motor Cyclists in Germany" the article stated that three post office employees had been chosen to represent the Civil Service in the

international 6 day motor cycle trial which was due to take place the following week near the Berchtesgaden home of Adolf Hitler. Sixty one British riders were taking part, hoping to capture the Huhnlein trophy which had been won the previous year in England by the Nazi SS Guards team!

On 19 August 1939 Mr Alfred Greaves, an Oldham businessman was interviewed in the newspaper about his recent trip to Gydnia and Danzig in Poland. Mr Greaves reported that in Gydnia he felt welcome but in Danzig the atmosphere towards the English visitors was cold and unwelcoming especially from the Germans who lived in the town. Mr Greaves commented that there was strong anti - Jewish feeling in both towns. He saw a Jewish -owned bookshop being ransacked in Danzig. In Gydnia he was able to get in at the busy local cinema only because there were seats vacant at either side of a Jewish member of the audience. Mr Greaves found the situation deeply disturbing. He commented that it was comforting to think of the North Sea as a barrier between Britain and Europe.

Throughout the war years the paper reported widely on the fighting and the progress of the troops, but little mention was made of the situation of Jews once the war had started. Amongst advice on ration books and coal supplies and adverts for Turog Loaf, Dinnefords Magnesia and Cuticura Handcream, a short item appeared in May 1943 about the Drancy internment camp. It was reported that the French police who were forced by the Germans to organise deportation from the camp, wept as the Jews were herded into cattle trucks. An article in the issue of 18 April 1944, headlined " Persecution of Jews in Hungary" reported that nothing much was known of the fate of the deported Jews except that the women and children were separated from the men.

In 1938 the events of the Anschluss and Kristallnacht had brought a large-scale influx of Jews into Britain. The Refugee Children's Movement, a non-denominational charity was set up to co-ordinate the placement of children with families. A few of these refugees, both Jewish and non-Jewish came to Oldham.

In the April 1965 edition of the magazine of the Association of Jewish Refugees there appeared an obituary of Miss P D Cowell former head-

mistress of Oldham Hulme Grammar School for Girls, who had died in January that year. Between 1937 and 1939 several Jewish refugees had been given places at the school. Miss Cowell had done everything in her power to give the children the strength and courage to rebuild their lives. Not only had she kept an eye on their progress at school, but was also concerned in their personal well-being. The obituary was written by Betzi Rosenthal. Betzi Eva Marie Rosenthal was born in 1927. She was among a small group of Jewish refugees who attended Oldham Hulme Grammar School during the war years. She started there in September 1939. The school records show that her guardian was Annie C Dixon a headteacher of 39 Keswick Avenue Oldham. Betzi moved to London after the war. The Old Girls' Association noted this in their 1947/48 report. Two Austrian refugee sisters, Kitti Spitz born 1924 and Lilli Spitz born 1926 started at the school in April 1939. According to the records they were the children of Gustav Spitz, a traveller. The Old Girls Association Record of 1938/39 reported that the School Charity Fund had decided to use its Spring and Summer contribution to support the sisters. They were offered hospitality by Jean Toole and Margaret Spencer. A report in 1940 mentions that the sisters were still being supported by the Charity Fund. In 1943 it was reported that Kitti and Lilli were now working and able to support themselves. They had been given a home by Mrs Meacham, an old girl of the school. The sisters eventually moved to London, where Kitti married Henry Vorgang in 1948 and Lilli married Czech-born Emil Apfelbaum the following year.³ Helga Edelstein from Germany attended the school in 1941, having previously been a pupil at Purley School. She was the daughter of Abraham Adolf Edelstein. Helga's address was c/o 181 Windsor Road Oldham. Maybe these girls had been placed in Oldham under the auspices of the Refugee Children's Movement. It is to Oldham's credit that the School and local community showed compassion towards these Jewish children at such a traumatic time in their lives.

Before Sept 1939 several Jewish families came to Oldham having escaped from Nazi-occupied Vienna and were given employment at British Depa Crepes, a company founded in the early 1930's by the Pacht family who hailed from Vienna. The company was situated at Glebe Mill in Hol-

3 FreeBMD website

linwood and produced rayon yarn. Rosl Fried (now Rosl Schatzberger) was fourteen when she came over to England with her family from Vienna just prior to the outbreak of war. The Fried parents, Wilhelm and Johanna went firstly to Royston, Hertfordshire where they were in do-



Oldham Hulme Grammar School

mestic service with a vicar's family. A few months later they and their daughters Rosl and seven year old Erika came to Oldham. Rosl and her aunt Frieda worked at British Depa Crepes as pirn winders operating a large machine which twisted the filaments into a composite yarn. Her father Wilhelm worked there too, firstly as a fitter on the night shift and later as store manager. In Vienna he had been the manager of a large textile company. Rosl recalls that there were several refugees working at Depa Crepes, from Austria, Germany, Rumania and Czechoslovakia. The Frieds together with aunt and uncle Moritz and Frieda Fried lived in a rented terraced house on Vicarage Street, Hollinwood. Erika attended the local Incline Rd Junior school. Moritz worked for a Jewish - owned textile printing company in Oldham called Friedlers. Later he worked in the offices of a Manchester stockbrokers. The chief engineer at Depa Crepes was Alfred Schneider, whom the family had known in Vienna. It was he

who had obtained employment for the family. Eventually the Frieds were able to purchase the terraced house for £250. When the house next door became vacant, the Schneiders moved in. Rosl recalls the kindness and warmth of the local people, especially their Quaker neighbours, the Rothwells. Despite language and cultural differences, the refugees were accepted by the locals. Rosl stayed at the mill for one year. She then had various jobs ;a clerk, a dental nurse, and a secretary. In 1945 she met Marc Schatzberger who had arrived in England on the Kindertransport. He had lost his parents in the Holocaust and was living with relatives in Whalley Range. He and Rosl married in 1947 at Oldham Register Office. In 1948 the couple, together with Erika, Wilhelm and Johanna moved to New Moston. At the same time Frieda and Moritz moved to Chamber Street Oldham and the Schneiders moved to Link Lane, so the little Austrian community of Hollinwood was dispersed. Wilhelm continued to work for Depa Crepes, retiring in 1959. He died the following year, as did Frieda. Moritz stayed in Oldham until 1962 before moving to Manchester where he died in 1964.⁴ Erika worked for a bespoke dressmaking company. She married David Cohen in 1954 and settled in North Manchester. Rosl and Marc moved to Urmston in the early 1950's. They had two children, Paul and Lesley. After raising her family, Rosl went to Hollins College Manchester and trained as a home economist. For ten years she worked as a teacher before going back to college to train as a social worker and family therapist. She worked in Bury, Bolton and Salford. In 1991 she and Marc moved to Bath where Rosl worked as a family mediator. She recently published a cookery book "Oma Goodness; Austrian Food in an English Kitchen" in memory of her grand daughter Jessie. Proceeds from the book go to Jessie's Fund, a charity set up by the family. Marc and Rosl have five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.⁵

I have interviewed several members of the Jewish refugee families all of whom spoke of the warmth and generosity of the local Oldham community at this difficult time in their lives. There was never a feeling of hostility towards them, only com-

4 Free BMD website

5 All Fried family Information from Rosl Schatzberger

passion and a desire to help them settle in their new country.⁶

What a contrast some sixty years later, when the Jewish Chronicle in September 2001 reported that Leon Greenman, an Auschwitz survivor had been prevented from speaking at an Anti-Nazi League meeting. The Oldham Council were concerned that public order would be compromised. Oldham had been the scene of ugly race riots in May that year. Deep seated divisions had nearly torn the town apart.⁷

6 Oldham Evening Chronicle 5 Jan 1948 "Goodwill to foreigners"

7 The Guardian 11 Dec 2001 ;Manchester Evening News 23 May 2011;

EPILOGUE

By the beginning of the Second World War the Oldham Jewish community had all but disappeared. Several of the original families had moved to Manchester, Liverpool or Southport. Interestingly the 2011 census gives a figure of 108 people professing to be of the Jewish religion. The area covered by the census is much wider than that of 100 years ago. Maybe a new community is springing up.

Because there was never a Jewish cemetery or synagogue building nothing remains of the original community. No records exist, apart from a few family documents, some precious photographs... and memories. I hope that this book will help keep those memories alive.

BIOGRAPHIES

ABRAHAMS, JACK was a photographer at 145 Yorkshire Street. He was born in Radcliffe in 1910, son of Lizzie and Eli who had married in 1904 at the Manchester Great Synagogue. The 1911 census listed the family at 99a Blackburn Street Radcliffe. Eli 29, a watchmaker born in Manchester; Lizzie 24, was born Whitechapel; Lily 6, Ethel 3 and Jack 5 months. In 1934, Jack married Winnie Walker in Oldham where he lived for the rest of his life. He died in 1986. Many of his photographs are in the collection of the Oldham Archives.

(1911 Census; Lancs BMD and Free BMD websites)

ADLER, Dr Samuel and family. Sam was born in Austria in 1895, son of Philip and Hilda Adler. The family appeared in the 1911 census living at 11 Hornby Street, Strangeways Manchester. Philip a tailor's presser was 40, Hilda 38, Sam a student 15, Lewis an office boy 14. Lewis was born in Manchester which pinpoints the family's arrival in England to 1897. **Sam** attended Manchester Grammar School followed by Manchester University, where in 1922 he qualified MB ChB. In 1924 he married **Amelia Livingstone** at Manchester Central Synagogue. She was the sixth of the seven children of Betsy nee Hoffman and Abraham Abel Livingstone who hailed from Wolkowisk. The Livingstones settled in Manchester, then lived in Wigan for a short time in 1888/89 before returning to Stocks Street, Manchester, moving later to Elizabeth Street. Abraham was a travelling jeweller for many years who later became the manager for a money lender, probably his younger brother Lewis. Amelia and Sam moved to **Oldham** soon after their marriage, where he set up his medical practice at 2 Elm Road, Hollins. By 1931 they were living at Bewley Street and in 1934 at Windsor Road. Their eldest daughter Agnes Rosalind, always known as **Peggy** was born in Manchester in 1925, **Joan Doreen**, 1928 and **Anthony (Tony) John** 1934 were both born in Oldham. The Adlers placed New Year Greetings regularly in the Jewish Chronicle. **Tony** recalls that they kept a kosher home, travelling to Manchester weekly for their meat and other foodstuffs. They were not particularly religious, but lit Sabbath candles on Friday nights and celebrated all the major Jewish festivals. Tony and his sisters never attended Hebrew classes, but he had lots of Jewish friends at Manchester Grammar School and was involved with Maccabi cricket and football teams. His father Sam was very fond of classical music and was a great supporter of the Halle Orchestra. Tony remembers him as a very hard –working GP. He died in Oldham in 1971, Amelia in 1976. Both were buried at Rainsough Jewish cemetery, Prestwich.

Peggy became a professional harpist who trained at the Royal Northern College of Music. Her tutor was Charles Collier, harpist with the Halle with whom Peggy occasionally played. She was a member of the Scottish National Orchestra. Later Peggy became involved in the film industry as a casting director. She died in 2003. Her sister **Joan** studied law at Manchester University, becoming a barrister, a member of Grays Inn. In 1954 she married Dr Neville Silverston at Manchester Reform Synagogue. They lived firstly in Marple Bridge Cheshire before settling in Cambridge, where Joan died in 2000. **Tony** studied law at Manchester University. He worked as a solicitor in London for a few years before returning North. He spent two years in Manchester, then set up his own law practice in **Oldham**. He was a member of Oldham Liberal Party of which he became chairman in 1968. Tony was elected councillor for the Mumps ward in 1966 and again in 1969 but stood down in 1972. He was also Oldham's first ever chairman for community relations. He was a great supporter of amateur theatricals in Oldham, becoming the area representative of the National Operatic and Drama Associations. From 1979 to 1986 he served as chairman of the Oldham District Health Authority. I spoke to Tony in April and May 2015 at his home in Knott End, Lancashire. He gave me a great deal of family information. Sadly he died in November. In an obituary in the local paper he was described as "a very community-minded man, very generous with his time... and a man who had a lifelong dedication to Oldham."

(UK Medical Registers; Lancs BMD Marriage Index; Free BMD website; From Wolkowisk to Wallgate and Other Journeys by Hilary Thomas, published 2014; 1891 census RG12/3241; 1911 census for 62 Elizabeth St Cheetham Manchester; Jewish Chronicle New Year Greetings 23/9/1927, 11/9/1931, 11/9/1936; Telephone conversations with Tony Adler April and May 2015; Oldham Chronicle 3/12/2015)

ASH, HOWARD (HYMAN) and CELIA nee Sheinbaum were married in 1936 at Manchester Great Synagogue. Soon afterwards they settled at 109 Oxford Rd **Werneth, Oldham** where Howard followed his profession of pharmacist and optician. He was born in 1909 in Manchester one of ten children of Isaac and Sarah both born Russia/Poland. They married in 1895 at the Manchester Great Synagogue. In 1901 the family were living at 58 Stocks Street, Cheetham Hill. Isaac was a clothes dealer. In 1911 the family moved over the road to number 81. Howard and Celia had one child Bette born 1939 at home in Werneth. She attended Werneth Prep School followed by Oldham Hulme Prep and Hulme Grammar School. In 1953 Howard sold his business and relocated to South Manchester. Bette then

attended Manchester High School. She recalls a few Jewish families in Oldham: the Strangs, the Livingstones and the Goldbergs. Bette and the Strang sisters attended Hebrew classes at Prestwich Holy Law Synagogue on Sunday mornings.

(1901 census RG13/3749; LancsBMD Marriage Index; Information from Bette Braka nee Ash)

ASHER, JACOB LOUIS ASHER and his wife **EVA** appeared in 1901 living and working at 74 Lees Rd, **Oldham**, a drapery shop. Jacob was 25, Eva nee Schneck 26, both born in Russia/Poland. They had married in 1898 at the Manchester Great Synagogue. Their daughter Hanita was born in 1904 in Salford and later that year the family plus Jacob's twelve year old brother Abraham emigrated to Oregon USA where two more children were born; Adolf in 1907 and Esther in 1915. **Jacob** was the son of Lazarus and Rachel Asher. In 1901 the family were at 62 Bell Street Manchester. Lazarus 45, was a travelling jeweller. In 1911 the family were at 117 Tatton Street Salford, where Lazarus worked as a furniture broker. Life in Oregon must have been successful for Jacob because in 1912 he was joined by his parents and twenty one year old sister Betsy. Jacob and Abraham worked in the loans and insurance industry in Portland and it appears that several family members were involved. In various Portland City Directories, Hanita was a book-keeper, Adolf an insurance adjuster, Betsy a clerk, Jacob and Lazarus were credit brokers. In the 1924 Portland City Directory, Abe was described as a lawyer, working for Asher Brothers. Their company was called Asher Brothers, Collections and Adjustments. It later became the Creditors Protective Association. The 1930 and 1940 Federal Censuses listed Abe as an attorney. By 1934 Adolf too was listed as a lawyer in the family company. The Ashers visited England on several occasions always staying at Holden Rd, Salford. The Passenger Lists showed Eva and Hanita visiting in 1934, Jacob in 1947 and Abe and his wife Selma in 1957. Eva died in 1939. Jacob outlived her by thirty years. He died in November 1969 aged ninety four. Both were buried at Neveh Zedek cemetery in Portland, Oregon. Quite a journey from the draper's shop in Oldham.

(1901 census RG13/3768; USA Federal censuses 1910; 1920 1930 1940; US Portland City Directories 1914, 1924, 1929 1934; Ancestry Passenger Lists; US Find A Grave Index)

BARNARD family See Chapters One and Three

BENJAMIN, CELIA, HENRY and LEWIS; The death of Celia Benjamin aged sixty at home in **Oldham** was announced in the Jewish Chronicle on 17th March 1893. Celia was born in Aldgate, London, the daughter of Rachael and Ellis

Abrahams, a fishmonger. The family appeared in the census as early as 1841. Celia was the third of their nine children. In 1852 **Celia** a dressmaker married **Henry** Benjamin in London. He was born about 1819 in Middlesex, the son of Moses and Hannah. In the census of 1861 Celia, Henry and family were living at 28 Bedfordbury, St Martin- in -the- Fields. Henry 42 was a general dealer. There were six children; Hannah 9, Rachel 7, Kate 5, Ellis 3, Jessie 2, **Lewis** infant; There was also a servant in the household and Abraham Abrahams, Celia's brother aged 24. A seventh child Sarah was born in 1862. By 1871 **Henry** was a coffee house keeper in Covent Garden. The census of 1881 found the family living in Cheetham Hill Manchester. Henry's occupation was once again that of a general dealer. None of the children apart from Jane (Jessie) was living at home. By 1891 **Celia and Henry** were in **Oldham** living with their son Lewis who had become the publican of the Church Inn at Hollinwood and was known as **Henry Lewis**. His father Henry Snr 71 was described as a commission agent. **Lewis Benjamin/Henry Lewis** had married out of the faith in 1891. He and his wife Sarah Ann, nee Ogden had four children, all born in Hollinwood; May in 1892, Henry 1894, Edward 1895 and Jack 1897. They were all baptised in **Hollinwood**, using the surname Benjamin. However in both the 1901 and 1911 censuses they were known as Lewis. By 1901 the family were at the Sett and Cemetery Inn on Hollins Road Hollinwood. The 1911 census showed Sarah, Edward and May assisting Henry in the inn, whereas Jack worked as an electrical engineer. **Lewis/Henry** continued as the licensee until his death in Oldham in 1927. His estate amounted to £4662. His father Henry died in **Oldham** in 1894, leaving £125. The National Probate Calendar described him as an antique dealer. Both he and Celia were buried at Crumpsall Jewish cemetery.

(1841 census HO 107/725; 1851 census HO 107/1524; 1861 census RG/58; 1871 census RG10/362; 1881 census RG11/4022; 1891 census RG12/3306; 1901 census RG13/3812. FreeBMD website; National Probate Calendar MDCS burial records.)

BERNSTEIN, HYMAN, tailor appeared in the 1905 Kelly's Lancashire Directory in business at 176 Union Street. There are no records of him ever residing in the town. The following records might be the same man. The Manchester Rate Book of 1897 listed **Hyman Bernstein** renting a house on Robert Street, Cheetham Manchester. The 1901 census recorded **Hyman Bernstein** tailor 37 born Russia and wife Sarah 39 living at 26 Robert Street. There were no children. A naturalisation document of 1904 recorded Hyman and Sarah at 134 Stocks Street Cheetham Hill. By 1911 the Bernsteins were living in Sheffield. They had been married for twenty six years and had no children.

(1901 census RG13/3770; 1911 Census for Broomhall Street Sheffield)

BERNSTEIN LOUIS and FANNY appeared in the 1911 census at 4, 6, 8 Radcliffe Street **Oldham**. Louis was a furniture dealer aged 42, Fanny 39 dealt in men's suits. Both were born in Russia and had been married for sixteen years. Their two daughters, Lily 12 and Paulina 10 were born in Manchester. Their son Solomon aged 7 was a patient in the Westhulme Fever Hospital, Oldham at the time of the census. The 1911 census Summary Book described the Bernstein premises as three shops. Prior to living in Oldham the family were in Manchester. The 1901 census listed them at 50 Cheetham Street where Louis was described as a cabinet maker. How long they resided in Oldham is unknown, but Louis Bernstein of 42 Ash Street Southport appeared in the 1924 Seed's Directory. A household furnisher named Louis Bernstein also appeared in the 1925 Phone book and in the 1929 Kelly's Directory as a cabinet maker/woodcarver in business at 91- 97 London Road and at 10 Berry Street Manchester. It is possible that this is the same man. Lily married Isadore Gold at the Manchester Great Synagogue in 1920; Paulina married Joseph Plesner in 1921. They divorced and she married Theodore Ross at Southport Synagogue in 1925. Solomon married Elise Bernhardt in Hull the following year. The 1930 directory listed Louis at 42 Ash Street Southport. He died in the town in 1939; Fanny survived him by ten years. Both were buried at Blackley cemetery, Manchester. The death notice for Louis in the Jewish Chronicle of 21 July 1939 named his son as Sydney Bourne. He also appeared with this name as executor of the wills of both his parents. He was a dental surgeon who lived and worked in Manchester. He was born Solomon Bernstein, but became known as Sydney Bourne. He died in Bury, Lancashire in 1967 aged sixty three.

(1901 census RG13/3768; 1911 census for Westhulme Hospital Oldham; FreeBMD Indexes; LancsBMD Marriage Index; National Probate Calendar; MDCS burial records; British Phone Books)

BORNSTEIN, GERSHON and THERESE appeared in the 1977 Phone book living at 3 Egerton St **Oldham**. They had married in 1947 at Salford Register Office. Frank Baigel recalls that they regularly attended Holy Law Synagogue in Prestwich. Gershon died in Oldham in 1983 aged 74; Therese nee Braun died in Manchester in 2003 in her ninety eighth year.

(Lancs BMD Marriage Index; FreeBMD Index)

BRATSPIES, SAM and GERTRUDE appeared in the 1901 census living at 18 West Street, **Oldham**. (Their surname is wrongly transcribed as BRATSHEA) Austrian-born **Sam** aged 26 was a clothier, working at home; **Gertrude** was 25, born in Russia; **Israel** 2, born Manchester. Sam and Gertrude were married in 1900 at

the North Manchester Synagogue. The marriage certificate stated that Sam was a widower, the son of Joseph Bratspies; Gertrude was an underclothing maker, the daughter of Mendel Gardie. **Israel** was the son of Sam's first marriage. The family's residence in Oldham was of short duration as their six children were all born in Manchester. The 1911 census listed them at 12 Mount Pleasant, Strangeways, Manchester. Sam was working as a cap blocker. Israel was 12, Esther 9, Abraham 7, Hyman 5, Harry 2, and Benjamin 1. Barnett Berkson, a cap blocker from Riga was lodging with them. The sixth child Joseph was born in 1914. Israel enlisted in the army, serving as a private in the Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment. The WW1 Service Medal Rolls recorded that he had been awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The record described him as a waterproofer of 14 Craigie Street, Cheetham Manchester. Israel married Esther Chesstock in 1921 in Manchester. Sam appeared in the 1929 Kelly's Manchester Directory as a cap presser at 14 Craigie Street. He died in 1932, Gertrude in 1940. Some of the family changed their surname to **Bradpiece**.

(1901 census RG13/3806; Ancestry website WW1Service Medal Rolls; FreeBMD Index)

BROWN BERNARD and Family See Chapters Two and Three

BURMAN DAVID and Family See Chapters Two and Three

COHEN, ELI and REBECCA appeared in 1881 living at 84 Greengate, **Oldham**. Eli Joseph Cohen was a jeweller aged 43, born Preuben, Rebecca born London was 36. Fannie aged 5 was listed as their daughter, but was in fact a niece. Prior to residing in Oldham, the 1867 Manchester Rate Book listed Eli renting a house at 2 Julia Street, Manchester and between 1869 and 1875 he was at 36 Clarence Street Manchester. He moved down the road to number 10 in 1876. Eli appeared in the 1884 and 1888 Worrall's Directories at 11 Albert Street **Oldham**, but by 1891 the Cohens were in Chorlton, Manchester together with Fannie aged 15 and Bertha 14. By 1901 they were back in **Oldham** at 16 Lees Road. The Slater's 1895 and Kelly's 1901 Trade Directories listed Eli, watchmaker and jeweller at this address. In 1901 Bertha Phillips their niece plus Emile Aaronson a 3 year old visitor were part of the household. In retirement the Cohens were back in Manchester. The 1911 Census recorded them at 52 Bellott Street. Eli was now 72, Rebecca 67, Fannie Phillips their niece was still living with them, a dressmaker. The census stated that Eli and Rebecca had been married for 48 years and had no children. Their marriage had taken place in December 1862 at the Manchester Great Synagogue. On 27 February 1927 Rebecca died aged 81, followed by Eli on 8 March aged 86. Both were buried at Crumpsall. Eli's estate

amounted to £607. The beneficiary was his niece Fannie Phillips, a spinster.

(1881 census RG11/4081; 1891 census RG12/3188; 1901 census RG13/3816; MDCS Burial records; National Probate Calendar)

COHEN, FLORRIE was born in Oldham in 1890, the youngest of the five children of Adolf and Rebecca. Her sister Rose was born in 1886 in nearby Newton Heath. Prior to this the family lived in Painswick. The three Cohen sons were born in Stroud; David in 1880, Michael in 1881 and Jacob in 1883. Adolf was a tailor born about 1854 in Posen; Rebecca was born Amsterdam about 1853. By 1891 the Cohens were in Cheetham Hill. The census described Adolf as a superintendent of men, selling sewing machines. By 1911 he was a furniture broker living in Sunderland. Florrie married Myer Cohen there in 1923.

(1881 census RG11/2542; 1891 census RG11/3264; 1911 census for 3 Amberley St South, Sunderland; FreeBMD Index)

COHEN, JACK and GRETA lived in Grotton for a few years during the second world war and were close friends with the Burman family. Jack was born in Manchester in 1910. He qualified M B ChB from Manchester University Medical School in 1935. He and Greta nee Glass married in 1938 at the Higher Crumpsall Synagogue. Jack was a lieutenant in the RAMC during the war. After the war Jack went back into general practice in Bolton. Greta trained as a chiropodist, working in Bolton, Farnworth and Kearsley.

(UK Medical Registers; Lancs BMD Marriage Index; 1967 Tillotsons Bolton Directory)

COHEN MYER and LEAH married at the Manchester Roumanian synagogue in 1905. They came to Oldham about 1909 and settled at 191 West Street. Myer was a boot and shoe maker, born Russia about 1877, Leah also Russian was seven years younger. They had five sons; the first four were born in Manchester; David in 1905; Sam 1906; Ben 1907; Isaac 1908; Percy was born in **Oldham** in 1910. The 1911 census also listed two lodgers; Jack Cohen 18 a bootmaker, Myer's brother and Rose Ginsberg 13, sister of Leah.

(Lancs BMD marriage Index; 1911 census for 191 West Street Oldham)

COHEN MEYER. The marriage at Park Place Synagogue Manchester of Meyer Cohen to Ada France of Oldham was announced in the Jewish Chronicle on 18th August 1911. She was born in Oldham in 1876 the eldest of the five children of Phoebe and James France, a cigar merchant and wholesale tobacconist. In the 1911 census the family were living at 327 Park Road Oldham.

Meyer Cohen was listed with them as a visitor. He was a traveller in cigars and tobacco born Bow London in 1879. **Ada** converted to Judaism in order to marry him. They had two children, Henry in 1912 and Rene in 1916, both born Stockport. Meyer died in Leatherhead in January 1935, aged 56, leaving an estate worth £15, 407. Ada Mary Hawley Cohen, his widow and Reginald Hawley France, her brother, were executors. Ada died in 1957. Neither she nor Meyer had a Jewish burial; both were buried at Little Bookham, All Saints. The service was conducted by Rev Arthur Drinkwater, the Rector.

(FreeBMD Index; National Probate Calendar; Surrey Burial Records 1813-1987)

COHEN, MORRIS was the proprietor of a music shop called Discland at 20 Market Avenue in the centre of Oldham in the 1960's. He never lived in the town. He was part of the consortium of Oldham businessmen who in 1967 purchased an arcade of shops in the centre of the town, beating off bids from London city financiers.

(Oldham Chronicle April 21st 1967)

COHEN PERCY and LEAH See Chapter Two

COHEN, PHIL, SARAH, HAROLD and family; See Chapters Two and Three

COHEN, SOLOMON and HANNAH See Chapters One and Three

COHEN SAMUEL WILLIAM, was a coat manufacturer and retailer at 19 Henshaw Street and 5 Whalley Street **Oldham**. The business called Mick's Coats advertised regularly in the Oldham Chronicle throughout the 1930's and 40's. By June 1943 they had added furs to their stock. Samuel born Manchester 1897 was the eldest of the nine children of Morris a tailor and Leah Cohen, both Russian born. The family appeared in the 1901 and 1911 censuses at 6 Waterloo Road, Cheetham. Leah died in 1921. Morris married Esther Wand in 1925. **Samuel** married Rachel Caplan in 1920 at Manchester Central Synagogue. Their first two children, both girls died in infancy in 1921 and 1922. Their son David Lionel was born in 1925 and at the time of writing is still alive. **Sam** appeared in the Oldham electoral register at 5 Whalley Street with a home address at 256 Blackley New Road Manchester. Later he and Rachel moved to Bristol Court Prestwich. In the 1950's **Sam** and his brothers went into business making stylish rainwear. The company, Morcosia supplied several top fashion shops. **Sam** was a stalwart of the Manchester Jewish community and was instrumental in raising money for Gan Eden, a Jewish sheltered housing project in Salford. He died in 1971, Rachel in 1991. Both were buried at Blackley.

I am grateful to Mary Cohen for much of this information.

(1901 census RG13/3767; Lancs BMD marriage Index; Free BMD website; MDCS burial records; Oldham Evening Chronicle adverts Oct-Dec 1938)

CONN, PHILIP. The links between the Conn family and **Oldham** began in the late 1930's when Philip Conn, formerly Cohen, established a business manufacturing rainwear and mens' clothing in Uppermill. After the war the company, Conn and Conn moved to the Strangeways area of Manchester, but Phil continued living in Uppermill. He was born in Manchester in 1901 son of Myer and Rachel Cohen. Myer was a tailor's machinist, born in Poland, Rachel nee Lazarus was London-born. In 1891 Myer 22, Rachel 21 and 5 month old Harris, born Manchester, were living at 7 Ebor Place Hull. By 1901 there were three more children; Hyman 8, Jessie 3 and **Phil** 3 months. The family were at 23 Hornby Street, Manchester together with Rachel's mother Kate Lazarus and her son Morris. The family had increased by 1911; Jacob 8, Taubie 5, Morris 3 and Simon 1. The two eldest boys Harris and Hyman were working as mantle makers. Mike Zeiderman, nephew of Phil remembers that Harris and Jessie emigrated to the USA, but the rest of the Cohen/Conn family remained in Lancashire. In 1941, Mike aged five and his mother Taubie moved to **Oldham** from their home in Lower Broughton which had experienced heavy bombing. They stayed there for four years. Mike attended a local school near Alexandra Park where he was the only Jewish boy. He recalls that on Sundays his mother took him by bus from Oldham, via Middleton to Manchester where he attended Hebrew lessons with Rabbi Crane on Great Cheetham Street. All his mother's brothers worked in the clothing industry. Jacob worked as a cutter for Phil, Hyman a machinist had a workroom at home in Hightown, Manchester Morris and Simon also worked for Phil. Simon who was in the Pioneer Corps during the war lived with Phil for many years appearing in the electoral registers of 1948 and 1961 at 188 Abbeyhills Road. He settled later in Bolton. Morris who served in the RAF lived in Uppermill with his wife Raie for a couple of years after the war, before settling in Prestwich where their son Russell was born. Phil remained at Abbeyhills Road until his death in September 1975. The National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills) showed he left £5743.

(1891 census RG12/3940; 1901 census RG13/3767; 1911 census for 25 Hornby St Manchester; FreeBMD deaths Index; Conversations with Russell Conn and Mike Zeiderman, nephews)

COSSACK See Chapters One, Two and Three

COWEN M This loans business advertised regularly in the Oldham Chronicle throughout the first half of the twentieth century. The first advertisement appeared on 2nd September 1901, the office address being in Rochdale. Thereafter the company was in Queen Street **Oldham**, appearing in various local trade Directories and Phone Books until 1955. It is possible that this was a Jewish owned company.

(British Phone Books 1929-1955; Cope's Trade Directories 1924, 1926 1931 1934 1936; Oldham 1924 Directory; Kelly's 1924 Lancashire Directory; Advert in 1937 Oldham Coliseum Programme; Adverts in the Oldham Chronicle from 1902 to 1955)

CRAFT, MENDEL a bootmaker aged 37 appeared in the 1911 census at 7 Lees Road **Oldham**. He, his wife Annie 33 and eldest daughter Rachel 12 were Russian born. His four younger daughters were all born in England. Esther 6 and Jane 3 were born in Manchester, Freda 2 and Sarah 6 months were born in **Oldham** which pinpoints their arrival in the town to 1909. Also in the Lees Road household were Mendel's mother in law, Dinni Lipshits and two Russian born lodgers; 20 year old bootmaker Benny Jacobson and 21 year old presser Ellis Cohen. It appears that Mendel came to England before Annie and Rachel as he was lodging in 1901 at the Strangeways home of Jack Jacobson in Carter Street. I have found no further Craft links with Oldham. In 1929 Mendel appeared in Kelly's Manchester and Salford Directory as a hardware dealer at 50 Moreton Street, Strangeways. He died in Manchester in 1938.

(1901 census RG13/3770; FreeBMD deaths Index)

DAVIS, FANNY and MAURICE lived in **Oldham** at 57 Manchester Street, neighbours of the Leachinsky family. They had married in 1914 at the North Manchester Synagogue. Maurice, a tailor and draper was born about 1878, son of Judah Leib Davis; Fanny born in Manchester about 1890 was the daughter of Israel Kaufman. The address for them both on their marriage certificate was Enid Street Broughton, Manchester. Sadly Maurice died at home in 1922 and was buried at Failsworth. Fanny continued in business as a draper at 57 Manchester Street, appearing in the Cope's Directories of 1926 and 1933. In 1935 she married Sissie Fussfeld at Oldham Registry Office. They resided at 83 Manchester Street. Once again Fanny was widowed when Sissie died in 1942 at Manchester Jewish Hospital. His estate amounted to £63. Fanny, who was childless, continued living in Oldham. She appeared in the 1959 electoral register at 83 Manchester Street.

(Lancs BMD marriage Index; FreeBMD Website; National Probate Calendar, Index of Wills)

DELAKOSKI, LOUIS HENRY appeared in the 1895 Kelly's Trade Directory as a water-proof manufacturer at 6 Warrington Street Lees, **Oldham**. In fact the previous year he had emigrated to the USA, sailing from Liverpool to Massachusetts where he remained for the rest of his life. Louis was the son of Rachel and Marks Delakoski who appeared in the 1871 census living at 10 Hanover Street, Manchester. Marks, a leather cutter was 34, born Russia, Rachel was 37, born Germany. There were three children; Oscar 10, born Manchester, Sarah Ann 9 born Ashton under Lyne and Louis 6, born New York. There is a record of an application for US citizenship from Marks Delakowsky in October 1867 which stated he had resided in the USA for five years. It appears that the family had emigrated in the 1860's, returning by 1868 for the birth of George who died that year. There was also a daughter Hilda Maria born about 1872. In 1892 she married Charles Liggins an Australian millwright and they settled in Hyde Cheshire. **Louis** attended the Manchester Jews School in 1878 and 1879 when family were living at 41 North Street Cheetham Hill. In the Manchester Rate book of 1883, Marks was listed occupying a warehouse at 13 Mayes Street and in 1893 at 136 Stocks Street. Louis sailed to Boston in 1890 but had returned by the time of the census for 1891 which listed the family at 55 Brunswick Street Manchester: Marks was 52, Rachel 53, Louis 25, Jacob 16 and Rose 11. By 1901 only Rose and her parents were at home and by 1911 Rachel was a widow. She and Rose were now at 36 Walter Street Hightown. The census informed us that of the nine children, five had survived. In 1892 in Chorlton, Louis married an Irish woman Mary Hussey. Their first born child Mary died in **Oldham** in 1894 aged one. Louis sailed for the USA in October that year and Mary a dressmaker followed a few weeks later. They settled in Brockton, Massachusetts. Of their seven children only four survived into adulthood. Louis and Mary appeared in several Brockton Directories and in the 1910 Federal Census; he as a collector in the clothing industry and she as a dressmaker. Louis died in 1925, Mary in 1936, survived by Edgar, Dorothy, Eldora and George.

(1871 census RG10/4045; 1891 census RG12/3264; 1901 censuses RG13/3769 and RG13/3183; Admissions Index for Manchester Jews School; Ancestry Outward Passenger Lists; New York Petitions for Naturalizations 1794-1906; New York Naturalization Indexes; Massachusetts Passenger Lists; Free BMD website; 1910 Federal Census; US City Directories 1822-1995; Massachusetts Death Index)

DE MEZA, MAURICE appeared in the Oldham electoral registers in the 1950's and 60's at 43 Union Street. His home address was in Chorlton, South Manchester. The De Meza family were in the textile/cotton trade. Maurice born in Manchester in 1918 was one of the four sons of Emanuel and Dorothy nee Selig-

man. Denis Jack was born 1916, Eugene Cecil in 1923 and Alfred Ivor in 1933. Denis lived for several years in Ashton under Lyne. He died in Oldham in 2010

(FreeBMD website; British Phone books)

EDDLESTONE MORRIS appeared in the Kelly's 1905 Lancashire Directory as a glazier at 45 George Street **Oldham**. His father Isaac appeared as a glass merchant at 207 Old Road, Ashton under Lyne, a town a short distance away from Oldham. As early as 1881, Isaac a glazier was living at 67 Oldham Road, Ashton with his Polish born wife Rose, mother in law Rachel Isaacs and four year old daughter Fanny. The 1884 Worrall's trade directory listed him in business at 75 Oldham Road. The 1891 census listed the family at this address; Isaac and Rose both aged 40, Fanny 14 born Manchester and Morris 6, born Ashton. Isaac's naturalisation certificate of 1892 described him as a plumber and glazier born Poland. The 1895 Kelly's Directory also listed Isaac in business on Corporation Street Preston but by 1901 the family were in Ashton. Both Isaac and Morris were described as house furnishers. Morris crossed the Atlantic several times. There are records in 1898 and 1899 of him sailing to Liverpool from New York. In 1904 he sailed to New York en route for Boston to visit his uncle Harry Eddlestone. In 1903 Morris had married Annie Handforth of Ashton. The couple settled in Toronto in 1905. He was listed as a furniture dealer in the 1911 Canadian census. In February 1915 Isaac died and Morris came over to England for a visit. The 1921 Canadian census listed Morris a storekeeper, and Annie and their six children living in Scarborough, Ontario. The whole family gave their religion as Jewish in the 1911 census but as Anglican in 1921. However when Morris died in 1923 aged thirty eight, he was given a Jewish burial.

(1881 census RG11/4039; 1891 census RG12/3278; 1901 census RG13/3785; Ancestry New York Passenger Lists; FreeBMD website; 1911 and 1921 Censuses of Canada; JewishGen Online Burial Registry)

FINEBERG DAVID born Manchester 1897 appeared in the 1928 electoral register at 191 Manchester Road **Oldham**. He was the second of the six children of Betsy and Morris Fineberg, a waterproofer. The family lived in the Cheetham area of Manchester. David served in the army in the first world war and was awarded the British War Medal. In 1921 David, described as a waterproof garment maker was recorded sailing to New York. By 1927 he was back in England and that year he married Milly Solomon (Slanovitch) at Liverpool Great Synagogue. Their son Basil was born in **Oldham** the following year. Subsequent children were born in North Manchester, so it is likely that their residence in Oldham was of short duration. Basil who became

known as Barry trained as an architect. David died in Southport in 1979.

(1901 census RG13/3768; 1911 census for 17 Faraday Avenue Cheetham; LancsBMD Marriage Index; FreeBMD website; WW1 Army records; Ancestry New York Outward Passenger Lists)

FINK, BARNETT. Dr Fink was born in Manchester in Sept 1900 son of Isaac and Betsy nee Lewis who had married early in 1900 at Manchester Great Synagogue. In 1901, the family were living at the home of Betsy's widowed mother in Cheetham, Manchester. By 1911 the family were at 4 Faraday Avenue, Cheetham. Isaac 37, a tailor born Russia, Betsy 31 born Manchester, Barnett a schoolboy and grandfather Abraham Fink 65. According to the census there had been three children, but two had died. Barnett attended Manchester University Medical School then gained his MRCS and LRCP in 1926 in London. He appeared in the Kelly's 1929 Directory and 1955 Medical Register in general practice at Queens Road Miles Platting. In 1940 in **Oldham** he married Anne Eager and they settled in the town. Their son was born the following year. There is a record of the Fink family sailing to New York in July 1950, returning in September. The family lived at 1 Croft Brow, Garden Suburb, **Oldham**. Barnett died in the town in January 1964. The National Probate Calendar showed his estate to be worth £14, 732. Anne died in 1977.

(1901 census RG13/3767; Lancs BMD Marriage Records; FreeBMD website; Ancestry New York Passenger Lists)

FLACKS, HARRIS and family. In June 1900 a naturalisation certificate was issued to **Harris Flacks** of 106 Manchester Street, **Oldham**. The certificate stated he was 23, married with one child, a mantle maker born Radwalidisha, Russia, the son of Leah and Barnett Flacks both subjects of Russia. The Flacks family came over to England in the 1890's. Harris married Rachel Herzog in 1898 at the Manchester Great Synagogue. They had five sons; Marcus 1899, Abraham 1900, both born in Manchester, Samuel 1906 in Darwen, Benjamin 1912 and David 1915 both in Salford. Although the family had business connections with **Oldham** for some ninety years, it appears that they resided there only a short time. By 1901 they were living at 10 Mount Pleasant, Strangeways, Manchester. Harris was a tailor and mantle maker, as was his brother Morris aged 18 who was living with the family. In 1904 Harris and his brother in law Hyman Herzog sailed to Halifax, Canada where they stayed for two years. By 1907 Harris had set up his own tailoring and drapery business in Blackburn at 218 Duckworth Street. The family lived in the town for four years before returning to Manchester. In 1911 they were living at 207 Bury New Road. In the 1911 census

Harris was described as a ladies tailor, employer. His retail business grew at this period. He had a mantle warehouse in Thwaites Arcade Blackburn, and by 1920, retail fashion businesses at 16 Deansgate Bolton and Market Walk Huddersfield. The 1924 Kelly's Directory listed him at 19 Lord Street, Blackburn, 17 Rock Street, Bury, 16 Deansgate Bolton and 218 Duckworth Street Blackburn. In the mid 1920's he opened a fashion shop on High Street **Oldham** which also had a household department. It was a three -storey building which boasted a lift. **Samuel Flacks**, in a taped interview recalled that his father was an excellent employer whose High Street staff had their own chef and dining room. Harris leased the building to Woolworths in 1930 and moved his fashion shop across the road. At this period Harris and Rachel were living on Waterpark Road Salford. The 1929 Kelly's Manchester Directory listed Harris as a costumier at 83 Spear Street. The Flacks fashion empire in Oldham went from strength to strength under the guidance of Harris. The company advertised regularly in the Oldham Chronicle. Just after the second world war he bought the run-down Market Arcade of shops together with the William Deacons bank building. He refurbished it into fifteen retail units, the largest of which, 11 High Street, became a ladies fashion shop run by **Samuel**. In the early 1960's, Samuel's son **Melvyn** opened an upmarket ladies fashion business on Henshaw Street where he and his wife Dorothy worked together. In 1967 a syndicate of eleven Oldham shopkeepers including Melvyn bought at auction fifteen shops known as Flacks Arcade. They beat off several London financiers who were interested in acquiring the properties. The Flacks business connection with **Oldham** ended in 1996 with the closure of the Henshaw Street business. However Melvyn served the town as a JP from 1985 until he was seventy in 2012. Melvyn died suddenly in 2015. He was buried at Gigg Lane Bury as was Samuel in 1993. The founder of the Flacks business dynasty Harris died in 1962 in Manchester. I am grateful to Dorothy and the late Melvyn Flacks for much of this information

(Naturalisation Certificate A11530 for Harris Flacks; Find my Past Manchester Naturalisation Society Membership Book; 1901 census RG13/3767; Oldham Electoral Registers 1932 and 1934; Oldham Trade Directory 1933; Oldham Chronicle adverts Oct 1925, Oct-Dec 1938, April 1939; Daily Telegraph 22/4/1967; Oldham Directory 1956 and 1964; Taped interview with Samuel Flacks 1991, Oldham Archives)

FOOTE families See Chapters One, Three and Four

FRANKENHUIS See Chapter Three

FRANKS, BENN, never lived in Oldham but was in business in the town as an optician and spectacle specialist at 17 High Street in 1905. He was born in Manches-

ter in 1862, the seventh of the ten children of Rose and Joseph Franks, part of the dynasty of opticians. In 1871 and 1881 the family were living in Cheetham Hill. Benn was a shipping clerk, but by 1891 he had become an optician living with his widowed mother and two sisters at 88 Bury New Road Salford. In 1895 he married Helena Mindlesohn and they settled in Hull. Benn Franks Opticians had branches in that city as well as in Doncaster, Hanley and **Oldham**. The company was listed in several Trade Directories and advertised in the Staffordshire Sentinel in 1915. Helena and Benn had four children, all born in Hull. Their only son, 2nd Lieutenant Myer Lionel was killed in Rouen in 1917 and is buried at St Sever Military cemetery. Benn Franks died in Hull in 1940, leaving an estate valued at £14, 743.

(1871 census RG10/4063; 1881 census RG11/3956; Free BMD website; Kelly's Lancashire Directory 1905; Kelly's Staffordshire Directories 1904, 1908, 1912, 1921, 1924, 1932; Kelly's Yorkshire 1927; Kelly's Lincolnshire 1919, 1922. WWI Ancestry Army records; National Probate Calendar, Index of Wills)

FREEDMAN family. See Chapter Four

FREEMAN, MICHAEL appeared in the 1891 census living at 17 Radcliffe Street Oldham. He was a commercial traveller aged 39 born in Poland. His wife Florence aged 28 was a milliner born in Huddersfield. (1891 census RG12/3301.)

FRIED family See Chapter Five

FRUMIN family See Chapter Three

GOLDBERG MAXIMILLIAN born Pretoria in 1905, came over with his family to the UK and settled in Edinburgh. He and two of his brothers Morris and Harry became doctors. Morris, a paediatrician returned to South Africa in 1919. Max gained his M. B. ChB in 1937 in Edinburgh and was in general practice in the city until the mid 1940's. In 1947 Max, his wife Cicely and daughters Naomi aged 8 and Beryl 6 emigrated to South Africa. However, Cicely found the political situation distressing and unsettling and as a result the family returned to the UK, arriving in Southampton on the "Athlone Castle" in July 1948. By 1949 the Goldbergs had moved to **Oldham**, where Max became a partner in a practice with Dr Julius Livingstone at Coalshaw Green Road, Chadderton. Naomi and Beryl attended Werneth Prep School. Naomi then went to boarding school in Glossop followed by secretarial college; Beryl went to Oldham Hulme Grammar School, followed by Manchester University. The family were members of Manchester Higher Broughton Synagogue. Naomi recalls that her mother kept a strictly Kosher home, going to Manchester every week to buy

meat and other Kosher food stuffs. Max died suddenly in 1964 in Oldham. Cicely nee Harris outlived him by 22 years. Both were buried at Rainsough.

(FreeBMD website; UK Medical Registers; Other information from Naomi Godfrey nee Goldberg)

GOLDBERG, REBECCA See Chapter Three

GOLDSTONE, LOUCIE was a corsetiere in business at 141 Yorkshire Street and was listed in the 1911 Census Summary book at this address. She was born in Belfast about 1881. Loucie married Philip Goldstone in Chorlton in 1907 and they lived at 257 Oxford Road Manchester. Their son Hyman Horace was born at home in 1909. Loucie was in business in **Oldham** for many years, appearing in the electoral registers and trade directories until 1935. She died the following year and was buried at Southern cemetery.

(Free BMD Birth and Marriage Record; 1911 census for 257 Oxford Road; Ancestry Death index; 1924, 1927 and 1932 Oldham electoral registers)

GOODMAN JACOB E, See Chapter Four

GOTTLIEB NAT was in business in the early 1920's on Manchester Road, Oldham as a draper and dealer in hardware and household requisites. He was born in 1899, fifth child of Harris an Austrian born draper and Sarah born Russia. In 1911 the family were living at 77 Moreton Street, Manchester. Harris and Sarah were both 45, Isaac 22, Morris 19, Reuben 17, Yetta 14, Nat 12, all born Manchester. The family appeared in 1891 and 1901 censuses at the Moreton Street address. Harris's occupation was given as tailor's presser. In 1923 Nat married Fanny Margolis at the Manchester Great Synagogue. They settled at 612 Manchester Road **Oldham**, where their first child Maisie was born in December 1924. She became a well known novelist, Maisie Mosco, whose writings were based on Jewish family life in the North of England. Her siblings Cyril and Thelma were born in Prestwich in 1927 and 1932, which indicates that the Gottlieb residence in Oldham lasted only three or four years. Nat became a gents outfitter in Eccles Old Road Pendleton. He died in 1969. The Oldham Evening Chronicle of 23rd July 2014 reported that each room in a new classroom block at Oldham Blue Coat School would bear the name of a famous person born in the town including Maisie Mosco.

(1891 census RG12/3261; 1901 census RG13/3767; LancsBMD marriage Index; FreeBMD website 1924 Oldham Directory)

GRUNSTEIN, DR STANLEY (SZLAMA) was born in Poland in 1920. He began his medical studies in Brussels in 1938. The second world war intervened and he lost contact with many members of his family. He eventually escaped to Britain and completed his medical training in Edinburgh. He worked as a general practitioner at 10 Barker Street Oldham, moving later to the Marjory Lees Health Centre. In 1982 he was awarded the MBE in recognition of the leading role he played in negotiating what became a model contract for health centres and health authorities. He retired in 1985, but continued living in Chadderton. He died in 2004.

(Ancestry England and Wales Death Index; Oldham Evening Chronicle 27th January 2004)

HALPERN, PHILIP and HETTY were greengrocers at 95 Barker Street **Oldham** for over twenty years from about 1927. They had married in Prestwich in 1923. They had four daughters. . the first two were born in Salford, Renee in 1924, Evelyn in 1926. Betty was born in **Oldham** in 1927, Sylvia was born Manchester 1934. It appears that the family resided in Oldham for six or seven years. The Jewish Chronicle of 25th January 1929 reported on a charity event in aid of the Manchester JNF Palestine Bazaar Effort being held in **Oldham** at the Halpern home. Philip was in business in the town until his death in 1949. He was described as a fruiterer and greengrocer on the 1947 Passenger List when he sailed to New York by which time the family were living in Prestwich. Hetty outlived her husband by some thirty nine years. She was born in Manchester in about 1898, the second of the eight children of Russian-born Annie and Hyman Dembovsky, a tailor who had married at Paradise Lane Synagogue in Blackburn in 1896 but moved to Cheetham Manchester soon afterwards. Three of their Halpern granddaughters married in Manchester. Renee to Harold Davies in 1947, Evelyn to Jack Davies that same year and Betty to Ronald Hyman whose parents Polly and Maurice were residents of **Oldham** for several years. Ronald was in the car business in Rock Street, but he and Betty lived in North Manchester.

(FreeBMD website; 1911 census for 24 Carnaervon Street Cheetham; Ancestry Incoming Passenger Lists; British Phone Book; Lancs BMD Marriage Index)

HELINGOE FAMILY, In memoriam notices for her parents appeared in the Jewish Chronicle on 5th February 1932 and 10th February 1933 from **Esther Helingoe** of 61 Cambridge Street, Werneth **Oldham**. Esther nee Myers had married **David Helingoe** at Leeds New synagogue in 1915. Their son **Stanley** was born in Oldham the following year. **David** was a greengrocer in the town. He was one of the five sons of Sarah nee Galinski and Solomon Louis Helingoe, born in Bialystock. Their first son **Samuel** was born there in about 1885 and soon afterwards the

family came to England. **Simon** was born in Leeds in 1889, Fanny was born 1891 Manchester, but died the same year, **David** was born in Salford in 1892, John in Manchester in 1894 and Joseph in **Oldham** in 1896. In the 1891 census the **Helingoe** family were living at 4 Back of Mill Street, Newton Heath, a short distance from Oldham. The Manchester Jews School Admissions Index listed **Samuel** and **Simon** attending the school in 1894, their home address being 2 Dickson Road Manchester. It was noted in the Admissions Register that **Samuel** had previously attended Wesley School Oldham. In 1901 the family were back in Newton Heath at 162 Lodge Street. By 1911 they had moved to nearby Miles Platting. In this census their name is mis-spelt as Ellinger. Solomon aged fifty was described as a cooper, oil barrels, David a fruiterer, John a hatter's apprentice and Joseph an errand boy for a cotton manufacturer. Simon/Sim had married Lily Shepherd in 1908 in Chorlton and in 1911 he, Lily and baby Lily were at 12 Sheridan Street Cheetham Manchester where Sim was in the greengrocery business.

Samuel does not appear in the census. In 1918 in Manchester he married Adelaide Chambers. He was listed in the Kelly's 1929 Manchester and Salford Directory and in the 1935 Phone Book at 12 Moreton Street Manchester in business as a film hirer. Samuel died in Blackpool in 1940 and was buried at Philips Park Cemetery, Miles Platting. His estate amounted to £22, 000. Probate was granted to his brothers John and Joseph, described as film dealers. It appears that In the 1930's and 40's **Sam**, **John** and **Joseph** worked in the cinema industry, **David** and **Simon** had greengrocery businesses in **Oldham** on Manchester Road, Middleton Road and Oxford Road. **Simon**, also known as Sim appeared in 1924 Kelly's Directory as a fruiterer and fishmonger at 60 Manchester Road Werneth. According to family legend, Sim started in business with a horse and cart in Manchester selling firewood and fruit. He and Lily had three children; Lily 1911 in Manchester, Joseph 1912 and John 1916 both in **Oldham**. The family remained in business in the town for many years. Apparently Eric Sykes the comedian, as a teenager worked for Sim in the shop. J Helingoe, fruiterer was listed in the Phone Books of 1959-66 at 323 Manchester Road Werneth. This would most likely be one of Sim's sons. Sim's wife Lily died in Royton in 1965 and Sim died in Ashton under Lyne in 1968. There were Helingoes listed in the Phone Books in the 1970's and 1980's living in Werneth, Royton and Chadderton

David the third son was the only one of the Helingoe children to marry within the Jewish faith. He served in the Army Veterinary Corps in the first world war and was awarded both the British War and Victory Medals. After the war he went back into the greengrocery business. He appeared in the 1924 Kelly's Directory at 122 Oxford Road Werneth. He died in Oldham in 1986, having lived

there for over seventy years. **Esther** died in 1961. According to the National Probate Calendar her estate amounted to £1719. The family address at this time was 11 Lincoln Street **Oldham**. David was her executor and was described as having no occupation. He was aged nearly seventy so it is likely that the green-grocery business was no longer functioning. Their son **Stanley** had gone into the business, but not in Oldham. Stanley was twice married; to Doris Oldfield in 1941 in Knaresborough with whom he had four children and then to Susan Taylor in 1950 in Weston-Super-Mare. They had two daughters. He was trading as Promenade Fruiterers in Bristol in the 1950's, then as Plymouth City Fruiterers in Cornwall. Neither of these enterprises lasted. **Stanley** appeared in the London Gazette in November 1959 where a receiving Order had been issued. He was described as unemployed, a former fruiterer. At some point he returned to Oldham, appearing once again in the London Gazette. The Issue of October 11 1982 described him as an itinerant fruit and vegetable retailer, formerly a haulage contractor of 26 Cardiff Close, Hollinwood. The first meeting of the Official Receiver and the Public Examination took place in Oldham Court House in late October that year. Stanley obviously was not a businessman unlike his father and uncles. However like David he lived to a good old age. He died in Oldham in 2009.

John Helingoe the fourth son who had been a hatter's apprentice, joined the Army and served in the Manchester Regiment from 1914 to 1920. He was the recipient of both the Victory and British War Medals. John went to the USA in the late 1920's, possibly to visit Joseph who had emigrated in 1926. There is a record of John returning to England in 1930 on the SS Britannic. His occupation was given as photographer. In 1939 he married Helena Mildred Higham at Manchester Register Office. At this time, John was in the film hiring business with his brothers. They sometimes used the surname **Haling** for business purposes. Johand Mildred moved to Lytham St Anne's. In the 1950's he and Joseph went into the plastics business, J and J Haling (plastics convertors) in Blackpool. The company also appeared in 1967 Phone Book at 12 Mirabel Street, Manchester and an item in the London Gazette of 30 Dec ember 1969 listed J and J Haling, Builders Ltd at this address. **John** died in 1989 and was buried at Lytham Park cemetery.

The youngest child of Solomon and Sarah, Oldham - born **Joseph** was something of an adventurer. During the war he joined the Royal Aero Club and in 1918 he gained his Aviator's certificate and served as a Flt Sergeant in the Royal Flying Corps. He married Nellie Roberts in 1920 and their son John Edward was born in 1923 in Manchester. In 1926 the family sold up and emigrated to the USA where Joseph worked as a free lance pilot and manager of Newark airport. In 1930 their daughter Ruth was born in New Jersey. The family re-

turned to England in 1932. Joseph then went into partnership with Samuel and John managing cinemas and hiring out films. He and Nellie moved to Blackpool where from the 1950's he was in business with John as a plastics converter. He and John were also in the building business together in Manchester. **Joseph** died in 1978 in Blackpool. His son John Edward had an illustrious career in the British Army. He served in the second world war as a Lieutenant in the First Battalion Parachute Regiment and was awarded the Order of the Dutch Bronze Lion in 1946 for bravery at Arnhem. The patriarch of the Helingoe family **Solomon** the cooper was, according to family legend a learned man who spoke several languages. His wife Sarah died in 1928. In 1929 he married Sarah Freedman in Manchester. He died in 1947, leaving an estate worth £403. His executor was his youngest child Joseph, described as a film dealer.

I am grateful to Jane Stevens, a descendent of **Joseph Helingoe** for much of this information.

(Yorkshire BMD marriage Index; 1891 census RG12/3252; Free BMD website; 1911 census for 5 Coglean Street, Miles Platting; National Probate Calendar, Index of Wills; Ancestry Army Medals Rolls; British Army Service WW1 records; Royal Aero Club Certificate Index; British Phone Books; Ancestry Passenger Lists; Ancestry Death Index)

HYAMS, JULIUS and MABEL were listed in the 1932 Electoral register in business at 22 Manchester Street **Oldham**. Their home address was 5 Amberley Street, Liverpool. They had married in 1915 at Liverpool Hope Place Synagogue. Mabel was the youngest child of Sarah and Moses Heilbron, a boarding house keeper. Julius, a tailor was the son of Louisa and Samuel Hyams. Both Julius and his elder brother Edgar were born in the USA. According to the records, Samuel sailed to the USA in 1870 and 1881. In 1884 at Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation he married Louisa Barnard and they set sail for the USA soon afterwards. There appeared to be a great deal of to-ing and fro-ing across the Atlantic. She and the two boys aged four and one were recorded sailing to the USA in 1889 and 1891. An 1892 Passenger List showed the three of them returning to Liverpool. A third son Harold was born there in 1899. The census of 1901 recorded the family living in Bootle. Sam 45 was a pawnbroker, assisted by sixteen year old Edgar. By 1911 the family were at Shaw St Liverpool. All the male family members were now tailors and drapers, apart from Harold who was still at school. The Hyams family appeared in censuses of 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891 both as tailors and pawnbrokers. Samuel's father also called Julius, born in Poland, was listed as tailor and outfitter in the 1869 Slater's and 1881 Kelly's Directories in business at

Great Howard Street Liverpool. He was a member of a Freemasons Lodge having been initiated in 1869. He died in 1898, Samuel in 1922 and Julius Jr. in 1953 all in Liverpool. At the time of his death Julius and Mabel were living in Meols.

(1861 census RG9/3460; 1871 census RG10/3778; 1881 census RG11/3607; 1891 census RG12/2906; 1901 census RG13/3460; Ancestry Passenger Lists to and from New York USA; Lancs BMD Marriage Index; FreeBMD website; United Grand Lodge of England Freemason Membership Registers; National Probate Calendar)

HYMAN See Chapter Two

KAUFMAN See Chapter Four

KOPMAN, Dr ISRAEL Kopman was in general practice at South Chadderton Health centre from the late 1970's. He was born about 1928 in South Africa, qualifying MB. Bch from the University of Witwatersrand in 1951. An Incoming Passenger List recorded his arrival at Southampton in 1953. He worked for a couple of years at Chorley Hospital. In 1955 he married Edna Davies at the Southport New Synagogue and they emigrated to his home country in June of that year. The 1959 Commonwealth Medical Register listed him living in Pretoria. At some point the Kopmans returned to England. Israel died in Oldham in 1991.

(Ancestry Passenger Lists; Lancs BMD Marriage Index; UK Medical Registers)

KRAVITZ MORRIS was born in Russia about 1876. He was boot and shoe dealer with a wholesale business on Bury New Road Salford where he lived, and retail stalls on Farnworth Market. In about 1925 he expanded his market business, opening at Oldham Tommyfield, where the family traded for several decades. A shoe shop called Morris's opened on Curzon Street **Oldham** in the 1950's. This was run by **Jack Kravitz**, the eldest of the five children. Jack and his son Edward also had shoe shops in Bolton. Morris died in 1949 and Jack in 1968. Both are buried at Rainsough

(1911 census for 123 Bury New Road Salford; 1929 Kelly's Manchester and Salford Directory; Farnworth Rate Books at Bolton Local History Library; 1956 and 1964 Oldham Directories; MDCS Burial Records)

KRELL, BENJAMIN appeared in the 1918 **Oldham** electoral register in business

at Stall 138 Victoria market. His home address was 62 Johnson Street, Queens Road, Manchester. In the 1891 census he was at 2 Fernie Street, Cheetham Hill Manchester with his Russian born wife Annie and son Simon aged 1. The 1895 Kelly's Manchester Directory listed Benjamin as a hardware dealer at this address. He was naturalised in 1896. The certificate stated he was 26, born in Vilna, son of Samuel and Tilly Krell. It was also stated that Benjamin had two children Simon 5 and Milly 4, both born Manchester. By 1901 the family were at 41 Fernie Street by which time there were two more children, Emily 3 and Harry Myer 1. Annie died in 1904 aged 37 and later that year at the Manchester Brodyer Synagogue Benjamin married Russian born Fanny Kerman, some thirteen years his junior. She had a daughter Annie born Russia in 1901. Benjamin and Fanny had five children of their own; Bertha born 1905; Samuel 1907; Dora 1908; Israel Philip 1914; Michael 1916. The 1911 census listed the whole family living at 62 Johnson Street, Manchester, together with Joseph Krell aged 30, brother of Benjamin described as an earthenwares dealer. Joseph, Simon and Milly were described as market traders. It is possible that they all worked at **Oldham's** Victoria market. Sadly, Joseph a member of the Manchester Regiment was killed in action in 1915. How long the Krells traded in Oldham is unknown, but by 1929 Benjamin was in the wines and spirits business in South Manchester. The Kelly's Directory of that year listed him at 17 Grove Terrace, Withington. Dora Krell was listed at this address as a teacher of pianoforte. Benjamin died in 1939, Fanny in 1948, Simon in 1956, all in Manchester. The wine business continued to be run by Philip Krell and by Bertha's husband Bernard Solomon, who unusually, changed his surname to Krell.

(1891 Census RG12/3242; 1901 Census RG13/3767; FreeBMD Indexes; LancsBMD Marriage Index; Ancestry WW1 records)

KRENGEL family were founders of the Lancashire Handbag Company which had factories in Oldham and Burnley, providing hundreds of jobs. In **Oldham** the factory was at Castle Works, Schofield Street. A huge fire in 1935 destroyed the original premises which was at the corner of Park Road and Brunswick Street. The Lancashire Post and Yorkshire Post of 11th June 1935 reported that forty firemen tackled the blaze, which took five hours to get under control. The newspapers mentioned that the company which had been founded in 1929 was German owned and employed some six hundred hands, mainly women.

The patriarch of the family was Nathan **Krengel** an importer of fancy goods. His certificate of naturalisation in 1912 stated he was born in Krakow in 1844, the son of Austrian parents and that he was father to seven children; Sigmund 20,

Adolph 17; Fanny 15; Miriam 11; Benjamin 9; Oscar 6; Elsa 2. In fact he had two more children from an earlier marriage, Amelia and Herman. The whole family appeared in the 1901 census living in Hackney. Amelia was twenty, Herman was fifteen, Eva, Nathan's second wife was thirty one. The five eldest children were born in Vienna which puts the family's arrival in England to after 1897. In the Post Office Directory of 1902 Nathan was listed in business at 8 Stoney Lane Hounsdtich. In 1911 he was at 114 Edith Road Fulham and in 1915 at 59 Belgrade Rd Stoke Newington. He died there in 1930 and soon afterwards his widow Eva and family came up North to **Oldham**. They appeared in the Electoral registers of 1932 and 33 and in the 1933 Phone Book at 1 Grendon Avenue. By 1934 they had moved to Southport but continued to run the factories in both **Oldham** and Burnley. The Burnley works which opened in the mid 1930's was housed at Hargher Clough Mill. A report in 1937 in the Burnley Express on unemployment in the town mentioned that the Lancashire Handbag Company. was sending two hundred and fifty of its juvenile workers to **Oldham** for training. The newspaper also reported that the directors of the company were organising a day trip to Blackpool on 10 July for their workers from both factories. The total number of employees at the time was almost one thousand. The Burnley company was run by Adolph (Alfred) Kregel who lived in the town until his death in 1954. From 1940 to 1946 the Burnley factory was at Red Lion Street Mill, a former Sunday School. The firm advertised regularly in the local paper for female workers. In early 1946 the mill was leased to Joseph Lucas Ltd. Later that year it was put up for auction and sold to an undisclosed buyer for £12,500. In 1949 it was reported that the Lancashire Handbag Company were considering buying it back. An item in the Oldham Standard of 4 March 1944 reported on a talk given to the Oldham Rotary by Mr N Vitalis a director of the company. He pointed out that up to the time the company was established, the handbag industry consisted of a few manufacturers in London and Walsall, with a workforce of between fifty and one hundred. Most of the materials came from abroad and there was no mass production. The company had chosen Oldham because handbag manufacture was a light industry highly suitable for women and such labour was available in Oldham. Mr Vitalis pointed out that the company had introduced the latest machinery, bringing down the cost of production and overheads by concentrating on the mass market and the company was now able to obtain ninety per cent of its materials from manufacturers in this country. Eva Kregel died in Southport in 1950. Her son Sidney (Sigmund) described as a company director, was executor of her will Sidney died in 1964, leaving £164, 000. His brother Oscar died the following year aged sixty. Benjamin died in 1972, all in Southport. The youngest **Kregel**, Elsa married late in

life, in 1971 in Liverpool to Gerald Abrahams. The Kregel family papers are housed there in the Records Office. These included a Sale Of Shares document, which unfortunately is undated. The list of directors included Sidney, Oscar and Elsa **Kregel**, N, S and K Vitalis, J, A and K Duttine and J Moll. The buyer was M Netz of Burnley, but S Kregel retained some of the shares. There is a record of the birth in 1939 of John Duttine, whose mother's maiden name was Netz. This is likely to be the same family. The company exhibited at the 1947 British Industries Fair in London. It appeared in the Oldham Directories of 1957 and later in 1964, but by then it may not have been owned by the Kregels.

(1901 census RG13/222; London Electoral Registers 1832-1965; British Phone books; FreeBMD website; Burnley Express 19/6/37; National Probate Calendar Index of Wills; Grace's Guide to British Industrial History)

LANDE, LEON and JACK ran a large fashion store at 138-146 Manchester Street **Oldham** from the late 1930's. The business was advertised regularly in the Oldham Chronicle. The family had a similar business at Regent Road Salford which was established in the early 1900's by their father **Moses** who was born about 1865. The family arrived in England in about 1901 and settled in **Oldham** at 22 West Street. The Register of Licensed Brokers and Marine Store Owners listed Moses at this address with a footnote stating he had applied for a licence to trade as a secondhand clothes dealer in 1902, but this application had been turned down by the Watch Committee. In the Minutes of the Committee, December 17 1902, the application was discussed but it was resolved not to grant the licence. Unusually, no reason was given. The Lande family stayed in Oldham until just after the birth of Emma in 1904 before moving to Salford. Moses was naturalised in June 1909. The 1911 census listed the family at 307-309 Regent Road Salford; Moses (Morris) 46 born Vilna, a draper and boot seller, Zipporah 42, born Jacobstadt; Leon 15, born Vilna, scholar and assistant in the business, Emma 6. The younger son Jack/Julius, born Vilna 1899 was at boarding school in Margate at the time of the census. In 1917 he enlisted in the army and served in the transportation dept, 72nd Training Reserve Battalion. His army enlistment record described him as a shop assistant, boot sales aged eighteen. He married Ena Green in 1933 at the Higher Broughton Synagogue and they settled in Broughton Park near to Moses and Zipporah. Leon married Ernestine Hacker in 1925 at the South Manchester Synagogue. They too settled in Broughton Park before moving to Didsbury in 1944. Emma married Harry Myers in 1930. Sadly she died in childbirth in 1933. Leon died in 1959 and Jack in 1963, both in Manchester. Jack's elder daughter Vivienne married Cyril Spiro in 1955. He worked in the business both in Salford and Oldham. Vivienne recalls that her

grandmother Zipporah was the brains of the business in the early days. She had a good eye for fashion and display. By the late 1960's both the stores had closed due to redevelopment in both town centres.

(Ancestry WW1 army records; Free BMD website; Oldham Watch Committee Minutes in collection of Oldham Archives; Lancs BMD Marriage Index; 1956 Oldham Directory; British Phone Books 1923 onwards; 1929 Kelly's Manchester Directory; Conversation with Vivienne Spiro nee Lande)

LEACHINSKY See Chapters Two and Three

LEVINE PETER and family were living and working at 31 Manchester Road Wilmslow in 1901. He was a tailor aged 42, his wife Annie 41 and daughter Katie 18 were all Russian-born. There were three younger children; Sarah 7 born Manchester, Isaac 5 born **Oldham** and Henry 2 months born Wilmslow, which puts their residency in Oldham from about 1895 to 1900. In the 1911 census some of the names and ages are at variance with the 1901 information, not an uncommon occurrence. The family were still at 31 Manchester Road where Peter continued in his occupation as a tailor. Annie had died in 1903 soon after the birth of Esther. According to the census there had been nine children, seven of whom survived. Only four of them appear on the census. Mary a tailoress aged 22, Sarah 17, Isaac 15 a printer's apprentice and Esther born Wilmslow 1903. Peter appears in the Kelly's Directories of 1906 and 1914. He died in 1921.

(1901 census RG12/3319; FreeBMD website)

LEVY BROTHERS outfitters, were in business in **Oldham** at 75 Yorkshire Street. They were listed in the 1905 Kelly's Trade Directory. The brothers were born in Hartlepool, sons of Maria and Jacob Levy, a Polish born bootmaker. George was born about 1859, Abraham about 1862, Maurice 1867. All three sons were involved in the business, which had several branches including Hartlepool, Wigan, Bolton and Horwich. The business was also known as the Cash Clothing Company. None of the brothers ever married. After the death of their father in 1896 the family moved from Hartlepool to Hampstead, but remained devoted to the Hartlepool Synagogue and its Jewish community. In 1914, the year their mother died, they endowed the Hartlepool Jewish cemetery and formed a trust fund, the revenue from which was used to maintain the cemetery. They also supported local hospitals in the town as well as Jewish and non-Jewish charities. George died in 1940, leaving £163, 930; Abraham who died in 1943 left £243, 760 and Maurice who died in 1955 left £301, 162. An obituary for George in the Jewish Chronicle mentioned the family's dedication to good causes in their home town.

(1861 census RG9/3701; 1871 census RG10/4914; 1881 census RG11/4904; 1891 census RG12 /4908; 1901 census RG13/124; 1911 census for 73 Eton Ave Hampstead; Find my Past BMD website; Bolton Electoral registers 1922-1932; Jewish Chronicle obituary 16/8/1940 p7; National Probate Calendar Index of Wills; JewishGen Burial Index; An Industrious Minority by John Cowell and Hilary Thomas)

LEVY Lewis See Chapter Four

LEVY Simon was a furniture broker at 42 Lees Road **Oldham**. He appeared in the 1901 census at this address together with his wife Miriam nee Nedderman aged 38 whom he had married in 1897, her son from a previous marriage Thomas Mangan aged 7, Esther Levy 2; Marion Levy 4 months. Simon was born in Manchester about 1868, one of five children of Jacob and Esther Levy. The family appeared in the 1871 census living at 43 Red Bank, Cheetham Hill. The parents were of Russian/Polish origin, but all the children were Manchester-born. As Miriam was not Jewish, it appears that Simon did not uphold his Jewish faith. There is a record of his daughters Esther Elizabeth and Marion Amy Levy being baptised at St Mary's church Oldham on 7th Dec 1898 and 2nd January 1901.

(1871 Census RG10/4044; 1901 Census RG13/3816; FREEBMD marriage Index; Ancestry England Select Births and Christenings)

LEVY Zachariah See Chapter Four

LINDAY JOHN See Chapter One

LISBERG ALFRED and JUDAH See Chapter Three

LISTER MERTON See Chapter Three

LIVINGSTONE JULIUS. Doctor Livingstone born Glasgow 1908, qualified LRCP at the University of Edinburgh in 1938. He was in partnership with Dr Max Goldberg. Their surgery was at 13 Coalshaw Green Road **Chadderton**. Julius joined the practice in about 1943. He and his wife Pearl nee Levi married in 1939 at Manchester Central Synagogue. Their two daughters, Morven and Frances were born in Manchester.

(UK Medical Registers; Lancs BMD Marriage Index; FreeBMD website).

LYONS MAURICE a watchmaker was the sixth of the nine children of Rose nee Salmon and Henry Lyons who had married in 1865 and settled in Birmingham. Henry a jeweller was born about 1840 in Germany. The family lived in Birmingham until the late 1890's. By 1901 they were living in Handsworth. Maurice married Dorothy Grossmith in 1896 in Camber-

well. They had two daughters; Mabel born Peckham in about 1897, Irene born Mile End 1899. In 1901 the family were at 18 Bolton Street, **Oldham**. Sadly Maurice died the following year aged 26. He was buried at Crumpsall cemetery under the auspices of the Manchester Hebrew Congregation.

(1901 census RG 13/3819 and RG13/2709; 1911 census for 13 Claremont Rd Handsworth; FreeBMD website; Manchester Hebrew Congregation Burial Register)

MARCUS, WOOLFE ARTHUR appeared in the 1911 census and 1911 Summary books at 25 Stocks Street Cheetham Hill. He was 29 born in Russia and was working as a foreman at a rubber waste merchants. His wife Leah Rachel nee Rosenthal, whom he had married in 1906 was 22, also Russian. Their son Lazarus aged 3 and daughter Edna aged 1 were born in Manchester. Arthur and Rachel had two more children; Rebecca in 1916 and Phil Gabriel in 1920. Arthur served in the Royal Army Service Corps as a driver and was awarded the British War and Victory Medals in 1920. In 1924 he was listed in the Oldham Register of Licensed Brokers and Marine Store Dealers in business at Daniel Street and Taylor Street. The 1929 Kelly's Manchester Directory listed him as a rag merchant at 38 Stocks Street. In the 1934 Cope's Directory the business was still listed in Taylor Street Oldham. By 1956, Arthur Marcus, rag and waste merchant was at Acre Mill **Oldham**. Arthur died in Manchester in 1961, one year after Rachel. He left £380.

(LancsBMD Marriage index; FreeBMD website; Ancestry WW1 Army Medal Rolls; Oldham 1956 Directory; Register of Marine Store Dealers in Collection of Oldham local Studies and Archives; National Probate Calendar, Index of Wills.)

MARKS, CHARLES See Chapters Three and Four

MARLOW Myer See Chapter Four

MASHTAB MAX and his wife CLARA appeared in the 1923 Oldham electoral register living and working at 21 Manchester Street and in 1928 at 12 Manchester Street. Max was one of several Jewish tailors in the town. He appeared in business at 37 Henshaw Street **Oldham** in the 1933 Copes Directory and 1933 electoral register, his home address being Manchester Street. By 1941 the business was obviously in trouble. The London Gazette of 6 June 1941 listed him as a mantle and costume dealer of Kings Road Prestwich, in business at 1a Manchester Street **Oldham**. The Gazette announced that the final date for receiving Proofs was 18 June 1941. Max died aged seventy in 1950. His estate amounted to £1254. Clara outlived him by twenty-nine years. Their residence in Oldham lasted almost twenty years.

(Lancs BMD Index; National Probate Calendar, Index of Wills)

MENDELSON See Chapter Two and Three

MODEL ALFRED. The Jewish Chronicle of 14th Oct 1938 reported that Dr Alfred Model, Medical Director of Leeds Herzl-Moser hospital would be shortly leaving to take up an appointment in **Oldham**. Alfred born 1906, qualified in Edinburgh in 1935 and served the Leeds community for three years. By 1942 he had left Oldham and set up in general practice in Reddish, Stockport where he remained until the 1970's. In 1947 he married Anna Marie Marx and they settled in Stockport. She died in 1969. Alfred outlived her by 10 years.

(UK Medical Registers; FreeBMD website; British Phone Books)

MOSCO, LEO appeared in the Oldham electoral registers of 1926 and 1927 and the 1934 Cope's trade directory in business at 81 Yorkshire Street, with a home address at Hanover Gardens, Salford. Leo was a milliner who also sold hair-dressing products. He was born in Manchester in 1903, the son of Sarah and Hyman a draper. In 1911 the family were living at 32 Greenhill Road Cheetham Hill.

(FreeBMD website)

PHILLIPS, AARON, In 1911 Aaron a waterproof garment worker and family were living at 38 Old Road Failsworth just outside Oldham. He was 38 born Manchester, his wife Leah nee Bergman was 30 an earthenwares dealer born Hull. They had married there in 1903. Their three children were all born in Manchester; Millicent in 1904, Janetta in 1907, Bernard in 1908. Janetta died aged 3 months. Aaron was the seventh of twelve children born to Abraham a tailor and Jane Phillips. Abraham's family who hailed from Poland had been in England from before 1860.

(Free BMD website; Censuses 1861 RG9/2957; 1871 RG10/4046; 1881 RG11/3992)

PHILLIPS DORAH AND FAMILY See Chapters One and Three

PHILLIPS, HARRIS, a waterproof garment maker appeared in 1891 census at Cherwell Street **Oldham**. He was Russian -born as was his wife Amelia. They had six children Abe 13, Dora 12, Annie 8 Sam 5 Esther 3, all born Manchester and Lily 2 months, born **Oldham**. By 1895 according to the Kelly's Directory, the family were at 975 Hollins Road. Hollinwood. They had moved to Manchester by the time of the next census living in Honey Street Cheetham Hill in 1901 and Wythburn Avenue in 1911.

(1891 census RG12/3992; 1911 census for 11 Wythburn Avenue Cheetham; Free BMD website)

PRAG JULIAN and DAVID, sons of Edith and Abraham Joseph Prag, were jewelers in **Oldham** at 37 Albion Street from the early 1960's. They also had jewellery shops in Bolton Blackburn and Marple. Julian was the third of the six Prag children; he was born in 1926 in Merthyr Tydfil; David, the youngest was born in Bolton in 1941. The children of both brothers were all born in **Oldham**: Jonathan, Susan, Anthony, Pamela, David, Timothy, Stephen and Julia.

(Free BMD Births Index; Oldham Trade Directories; British Phone Books)

REICH, FELIX IGNAZ. Dr Reich of 140 Burnley Lane, Chadderton died in Jan 1964 at **Oldham** District hospital. He left £736 to his widow, Mabel. An obituary of Felix appeared in the April 1965 edition of the magazine of the Association of Jewish Refugees. Felix Reich was born in 1886 in Fuerstenwalde, Germany. His father Markus had founded a school for Jewish deaf and dumb children. Felix was the school's director from 1919. From the mid 1930's when life for Jews in Germany was becoming increasingly difficult, he attempted to secure entry to England for his pupils, but with little success. In 1938 he was arrested and sent to Sachsenhausen for several months. He was released in December that year and intensified his efforts to organise emigration for the children. In the late summer of 1939 he was given permission to accompany ten of them to London where places had been found for them at a school for the deaf. Felix was prevented from returning to Germany due to the outbreak of the war. He found work as a science teacher. In 1942 he married Mabel Lancashire. She was his second wife. In 1918 in Weisensee, he had married Erna Kasberger. In December 1947 Felix was naturalised and he and Mabel settled in Little Bispham, Blackpool.

(National Probate Calendar Index of Wills; Germany, Berlin marriage records; 13th Feb 1948 London Gazette Naturalisation Notice; Free BMD website)

REUBEN family See Chapter Four

RICH, LOUIS was born in 1909 in Strangeways Manchester where his immigrant parents ran a grocery store. In a taped interview now in the Archive of Manchester Jewish Museum, Louis described a hard life where money was in short supply. However his ambition to become a doctor never wavered. He attended Southall Street school and from there he obtained a scholarship to Manchester Grammar School and in 1933 he qualified as a doctor from Manchester University Medical School. He worked as a resident obstetrician at **Oldham** Boundary Park Hospital from 1936 until 1938. He was one of the first doctors to take a special qualification in obstetrics, the MCRCG, and was instrumental in setting up ante-natal clinics in the town. In 1939 Louis married Anne Marks. By then

he had obtained a post at Blackburn Infirmary. He joined the Army soon after war broke out, serving in India where he founded the Army School of Hygiene.

(UK medical Registers; Manchester Archives website)

RONIN, LOUIS, appeared in the **Oldham** electoral registers of 1936 and 1938 in the retail carpet business at 21 Manchester Street with a home address in Prestwich. He was born about 1892. In 1915 he married Rosa Saxe at the United Synagogue in Cheetham Hill and they settled in Salford where all three children were born; Maurice in 1916; Maisie in 1918 and Doris in 1920. In the first world war Louis was a Private in the Labour Corps. In 1920 he was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He spent his early working life as a tailor, appearing in Kelly's 1929 Directory at 28 Edward Street Lower Broughton. His change of career appears to date from the mid 1930's. His **Oldham** business premises expanded after the war. He was selling carpets and furniture at 17-21 Manchester Street. He advertised regularly in the Oldham Chronicle until the early 1960's by which time he was living in Southport, where he died in 1966. His estate amounted to £30, 000.

(Lancs BMD Marriage Index; Free BMD website; Ancestry WW1 British Army Medal Rolls; British Phone Books; National Probate Calendar, Index of Wills)

ROSENBERG JULIA also known as Goldie was living in **Oldham** in 1901 at the home of her sister and brother in law, Sophie and Michael Freedman. In 1906 she married Harold Thompson from Ashton under Lyne and they settled in Oldham. In 1911 the family were at 30 Portland Street Oldham; Julia was 26, Harold a moulder 25, Sarah 5 and Elizabeth Hannah 3. The census described Julia as a Jewess born Leeds. The family eventually moved to Halifax, where Goldie died in 1960.

(1901 CensusRG13/3061; FreeBMD website)

ROSENBLOOM, CECILIA and her brother **JACOB NATHAN** were born in **Oldham** in 1897 and 1899. They were the children of Ada and Morris. The family stayed in Oldham less than three years. By 1901 they were living at 16 Simmons Street Blackburn. Morris 27 was a tailor, Ada 26 a draper, both hailed from Warsaw. Their eldest child Florrie 6 was born in Manchester. Also in the household was Rachel Selzer 70, Ada's mother, Naomi Selzer 21, her sister and Louis Lewis 23 a lodger. In 1902 Blema was born and by 1911 the family were still in Blackburn living at 12 Copy Nook. There were two Rosenbloom marriages in 1920: **Nathan** married Rachel Brenner in Prestwich and Florrie married Lazarus Seltzer in Blackburn. **Cecilia** married Nat Levinson in Blackburn in 1922. Nathan

went into the tailoring trade. His premises were at 180 Montague Street. He appeared to have had a troubled business life, appearing on several occasions in the London Gazette. In the Issue of 23 March 1923 details were published of a meeting at the Office of the Receiver and the Public examination. On 19 October 1926, notice was given of the company's first and final dividend. Nathan died in Blackburn in 1954, Florrie in 1969 and Cecilia in London in 1981.

(FreeBMD website; London Gazette; 1901 census RG13/3901)

ROSS, NORMAN, Dr Ross was in general practice at 163 Lees Road **Oldham** from 1938 until the early 1950's. Prior to this he had worked in the Moss Side area of Manchester. He married Vera Lyons in 1938 at Leeds New Synagogue. Their son was born in Saddleworth in 1940. The family left Oldham for Bispham Lancs

(Yorkshire BMD marriage Index; Lancs BMD Births Index; UK Medical Registers)

RUBEL See Chapter Three

SACOFSKY, WOLFE, a student from Manchester Yeshiva conducted the High Holy Day services for the **Oldham** community in the 1930's when the "synagogue" was at 6 Clegg Street. He was born in Leeds in 1915 the son of Esther and Abraham Sacofsky. In 1941 he married Betty Marcus and they settled in Leeds where Reverend Sacofsky worked as a chazan and shochet. He died in Leeds in 1989.

(Free BMD website; Geni. com website; British Phone Books; Jewish Chronicle 2 Oct 1936)

SCHREIBER, LISELOTTE, Dr Schreiber appeared in the 1956 **Oldham** Directory, the 1959 UK Medical Register and the 1961 electoral register at 117 Union Street. She qualified MDU. in 1936 at Konisberg, Germany and was registered as a doctor in England in 1942. She was naturalised in 1947. At the time she was living in Reddish, Stockport. Dr Schreiber who was born in 1908 died in Manchester in 1975

(FreeBMD website; UK Medical Registers)

SEVIN, PETER, a machinist appeared in the 1901 census living at 12 Irk Street, **Oldham**. He was 29, his wife Tona was 30, daughters Harly 7 and Mary 3, together with a lodger Morris Marrilinsky 24 also a machinist, made up the household. All were Russian born. There appear to be no further records of this family.

(1901 Census RG13/3301)

SILVER (SILVERMAN) HARRY lived and traded in **Oldham** from the late 1930's. He

dealt in gold and silver from his premises at 16 Mumps, where he also had a dental workshop. The business advertised regularly in the Oldham Chronicle and was listed in various Trade Directories. Harry moved to 25 Yorkshire Street in about 1955, where he became a retail jeweller. Herman Harry Silverman was born in 1913. In 1936 in Manchester, he married Rebecca Goldman and they settled in Oldham, where their son Sidney was born the following year. Harry died in Salford in 1998

(Copes 1933 Directory; 1956 Oldham Directory; British Phone Books; FreeBMD website; Ancestry Marriages and Deaths Index)

SPIELMANN, HAROLD LIONEL ISIDORE was born in London on 12 January 1893, son of Sir Isidore and Lady Emily Spielmann. He was the fourth of their five children. Harold attended Cambridge University, where he gained a B A degree in June 1914. By October that year he had joined the Army and became a Captain in 1/10th Manchester Regiment, the **Oldham** Territorials. He volunteered for foreign service and was sent to Gallipoli in July 1915. He was killed in action on 13 August. His commanding Officer wrote to Harold's parents: "Your boy died a hero's death in his country's cause and that must ever be a source of satisfaction and comfort to you, and one in which you must all take pride." Harold was buried at Pink Farm Cemetery Helles, Turkey. His estate amounted to £345 1s 7d

(Oldham Local studies and Archives Service; 1901 census RG13/15; National Probate Calendar; UK Army Registers of Soldiers Effects)

SMALLEY ARTHUR and BETTY. In the Jewish Chronicle of 20 Sept 1946, New Year greetings appeared from Mr and Mrs A Smalley of 90 Yorkshire Street **Oldham**. In 1935 at Manchester Great Synagogue, Abraham Smulowich, later known as Arthur Smalley married Rebecca (Betty) Diamondstein daughter of Hannah and Michael a cabinet maker. How long Arthur and Betty resided in Oldham is unknown, but they appeared in the Oldham Electoral Register at the Yorkshire Street address in 1961. Their home address was The Cottage, Higher Knowles, Oldham. Arthur was born in Prestwich in 1909 to Rosa and Samuel Smulowich, both Russian born. In 1911 the family were at 14 Julia Street Strangeways Manchester. Sam 24 a tailor, Rosa 23 a draper, Bessie 4, Abraham 2, Annie 5 months. Sam's widowed mother Etti aged 60 was also part of the household. Sam and Rosa had two more sons after 1911; Mick and Hyman (Harold). Sam who became a woollens dealer died in 1944 in Manchester. Rosa died in 1971 in Southport. She outlived her son Arthur who died in **Oldham** in 1968 aged fifty eight.

(FreeBMD website; Lancs BMD marriage Index; British Phone Books;)

SMITH DAVID, The death of David Smith aged 45, husband of Sophie was announced in the Jewish Chronicle On 19 January 1933. The family lived at 182 Manchester Road Oldham where David was in business as a watchmaker. An In memoriam notice appeared the following year. I have found a record of a marriage in 1914 between David Smith and Sophie Abrahams. There are two David Smiths in the census records, both Jewish, born about 1887, both watchmakers. One was born in Leeds, son of Kate and Freidman Smith, a slipper maker, the other born Russia, son of Sarah and Louis Smith, a crockery dealer.

(Lancs BMD Marriage Index; 1901 census RG13/3767; 1911 Census for 278 Waterloo Rd Cheetham Hill)

STRANG Dr MORRIS was born in Glasgow in 1904, the eldest of the four children of Beulah and Hyman Sragowitz. He qualified as a doctor in 1928 from Glasgow Medical School. He started his medical career as an assistant GP in the coalmining villages of South Wales where one of his duties was to go down the mines to attend to the injured at the pit face. He then worked in Everton Valley, Liverpool, Blackpool and Nottingham before becoming a single-handed GP in Oldham In 1936. That year, Morris married **Irene** Sumberg at the Stoke on Trent Synagogue. She was born about 1900, the daughter of Sophie nee Abelson and Colman Sumberg, a tailor and furrier from Lithuania. They had married in Merthyr Tydfil in 1897 then settled in Burslem, Stoke on Trent. Irene was the second of their seven children. She and Morris had two daughters Vivienne and Jeannette. The family lived at 102 King Street. Dr Strang's surgery, waiting room and dispensary were at the side of the house. The girls attended Misses Burrows Prep School in Werneth, followed by Oldham Hulme Grammar School. Vivienne went to Liverpool University and became a doctor. She married Malcolm Turner a dentist. Jeannette studied optics in Manchester. She married Malcolm Cline in 1973. Both marriages took place at South Manchester Synagogue. Vivienne recalls that for a few years the family were members of the Holy Law Synagogue in Prestwich, where she, Jeannette and Bette Ash attended Hebrew classes on Sunday mornings. Later the Strangs became members of Manchester Reform Synagogue. At the beginning of the second world war they gave a home to a Jewish refugee from Vienna, Gerda Hopfinger, who worked as their au pair and lived with the family until her marriage in 1946 to Denis Cottam. The Strang links with Oldham lasted over forty years. Irene died in the town in 1976; Morris died in Manchester in his eighty eighth year.

I am grateful to Vivienne Turner and Jeannette Cline for much of this information.

(FreeBMD website; 1901 census RG12/2597; LancsBMD marriage Index))

SZEINBERG M, Manny Szeinberg appeared in the 1888 Worrall Directory as manager of the Royal Advance Loan Company at 12 Coronation Street **Oldham**. Prior to this in 1885 he managed the Manchester and District Loan Company in Wigan. He lived in Cheetham Hill and according to the Manchester Courier of July 25 1885 made a regular donation to the Jewish Board of Guardians.

(1885 Wigan Directory; FindMyPast Newspaper Records)

TAYLOR, SOLOMON, a tailor and presser appeared in the 1911 census living at 28 Church Street Oldham. He was 30, Russian-born, his wife Lillie was 26 from Staffordshire, Hilda was 4 born Hull and Jack aged 2 born Halifax. Solomon was typical of many Jewish immigrants who spent their working lives passing through various towns in search of work.

TOPPERMAN HARRY appeared in the 1928 **Oldham** electoral register in business at 30 Manchester Street with a home address at 27 Heywood Street Cheetham Hill. Harry was born about 1885. He and his wife Janie appeared in the 1911 census boarding at 101 Stocks Street, Cheetham Hill, the home of the Hecht family. Harry was 27, a cap presser, Janie nee Plasetsky was 30, both were Austrian-born. and had married at the Manchester Brodyer Synagogue in 1908. By the early 1920's the cap presser had become a cap manufacturer, firstly at 3 New Bridge Street, then by 1927 at 41 Briddon Street Strangeways. How long his links with Oldham lasted is unknown, as he doesn't appear in any other local records. Harry and Janie had two children, Saul in 1916 and Annie in 1918. Janie died in 1945, Harry in 1958, both in Manchester. Harry's estate was valued at £900.

(Lancs BMD Marriage Index; Kelly's Directory of Manchester 1929; British Phone Books; FreeBMD website; National Probate Calendar Index of Wills)

TRAYER JOHN was born in **Oldham** in 1940, his brother **Richard** in 1946. The births were announced in the Jewish Chronicle. They were the sons of Bessie nee Gross and Carl (Calman) Trayer of Upper Park Road Broughton Park. There was a men's wear business at 8a Market Place Oldham, called Gross, which may be Bessie Trayer's family, thus providing a link with Oldham.

(FreeBMD website; Oldham Trade Directories)

VALENTINE, ABRAHAM HENRIQUES. A short item in the Jewish Chronicle of 19 May 1905 reported that A H Valentine, MSc. chemist to the **Oldham** corporation, had given evidence at Westminster on 11 May to the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal. During the three years previous to his examination, he had been engaged in compiling statistics and tables relative to his own work for the

use of the Commissioners. Abraham was the son of Moses Henriques Valentine and Sarah nee Joseph who married in 1867 at Bevis Marks Synagogue. Of their seven children, the first three were born in London; Julia in 1867, Moss 1868; Abraham in 1869. Samuel and Emanuel were born in Derby in 1871 and 1873; Esther and Samson were born about 1874 and 1875 in Sheffield. Each child was given the middle name Henriques. The 1871 census recorded the family in Derby, where Moses was a clothing manager. By 1881 they were living in Sheffield. Moses was now a financial agent, with wife Sarah, seven children and his niece Elizabeth Benjamin making up the household. 9 Tenerife Street Salford was the abode of the family in 1891. Moses was described as an insurance agent, Abraham, a chemistry student, Moss, Samuel and Emanuel were clerks, 13 year old Samson was a Post Office boy; the two sisters were not working, although in 1901 Esther was living in London with her cousins, the Benjamins. The census described her as a vocalist. By 1901, Moses was a widower living with five of his children at 56 Heywood Street Manchester. Abraham was now an analytical chemist. In 1904 he married his cousin Esther Joseph in London. They moved North, living at Limefield, Middleton Old Road a couple of miles from **Oldham**. Both children were born in the town; Martin Arthur in 1905 and Helen Morag in 1909. The 1905 Kelly's Directory listed Abraham at Limefield and the family were still there at the time of the 1911 census. By the 1930's the Valentines were living in Cambridge. Abraham died in 1954 in hospital in Hertfordshire. His estate was valued at £345. Probate was granted to his widow Esther who was living in London NW11 at the time of his death. Helen had joined the Wrens. Tragically she died on active service in February 1944; Martin died in 1993 in Henley. The Valentines were part of an enormous family whose forbears originated in Spain and Portugal. An excellent piece of family history research by Ian Handricks can be found online.

(FreeBMD website; Lancs BMD website; 1871 census RG10/3571; 1881 census RG11/4632; 1891 census RG12/3213] 1901 census RG13/3769; British Phone Books; National Probate Calendar, Index Of Wills; Commonwealth War Graves Commission)

VITALIS, NATHAN was a director of the Lancashire Handbag Company in **Oldham** and a member of the Oldham Rotarians. He was born in Constantinople in about 1887. By 1933 he was living in Didsbury, Manchester but had moved to Oldham by 1938, residing at 147 Windsor Road. This address appeared on an Incoming Passenger List, New York to Southampton in December 1938. Nathan retired from the company in 1949 and moved to Bournemouth. The following year he married Mrs Dorothy Egan. He died in 1973. In the National Probate Calendar, he was described as a retired director of a ladies hand-

bag manufacturers. His brother Selim also a director of the firm, married Irene Finan in Oldham in 1935. Their three daughters were born in the town. The family emigrated to Canada in 1954, settling in Scarborough, Ontario.

(British Phone Books; FreeBMD website; Oldham Standard 9 March 1944; Ancestry Incoming/ Outgoing Passenger Lists; Canada Voters Lists)

YAFFE See Chapters Two and Three

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OLDHAM BIRTHS

I have found the births of sixty-eight children to resident Jewish families between 1870 and 1945. The 1870 birth was that of Philip Cohen, son of Solomon a travelling jeweller and his wife Hannah. The Cohens lived in Oldham from about 1869 to 1874.

ADLER JOAN 1928; **ANTHONY** 1934, children of Sam and Amelia.

ASH BETTE 1939, daughter of Celia and Howard.

BARNARD DANIEL DAVID 1878; **BENJAMIN** 1879; **SYDNEY** 1884, children of Deborah and Charles.

BROWN MIRIAM 1908; **MANUEL** 1910; **BESSIE** 1912; **ABRAHAM** 1914; **LAWRENCE** 1915; **CELIA** 1919; **ESTHER** 1920; **CARMEL** and **DESMOND** 1923, children of Rachel and Bernard.

COHEN PHILIP 1870; **HENRIETTA** 1872 children of Solomon and Hannah.

COHEN FLORRIE 1890, daughter of Adolf and Rebecca.

COHEN PERCY 1910, son of Myer and Leah.

COHEN EDNA 1920, daughter of Phil and Sarah.

COHEN DIANE 1945, daughter of Harold and Ray.

CRAFT FREDA 1909; **SARAH** 1910, daughters of Mendel and Annie.

FINEBERG BASIL 1928, son of David and Millie.

FOOTE/VOET MARGARET 1877; **ROSETTA** 1878; **SAMUEL** HERSCHEL 1879, children of Isaac Myer (John) and Rebecca.

FREEDMAN LEAH 1897; **ROSA** 1899; **JANE** 1901; **MARY** 1902; **SARAH** 1905; **YETTA** 1907; **ISAAC** 1909, children of Michael and Sophie.

GOLDBERG ISAAC 1888; **ANNIE** 1890, children of Rebecca and Sam.

GOTTLIEB MAISIE 1924, daughter of Fanny and Nat.

HALPERN BETTY 1927, daughter of Hetty and Philip.

HELINGOE JOSEPH 1912; JOHN 1916, sons of Sim and Lily.

HELINGOE STANLEY 1916 son of David and Esther.

HYMAN BARRY 1930, son of Polly and Maurice.

KAUFMAN HENRIETTA 1895; LENA 1909, daughters of Michael and Rebecca.

LANDE EMMA 1904, daughter of Zipporah and Moses.

LEVINE ISAAC 1896, son of Annie and Peter.

LEVY BESSIE 1884; HARRIS 1886; GOODALL 1887; LOUIS 1889; SIDNEY 1902; MAURICE 1904, children of Hannah and Zachariah.

MARLOW MYER 1883; RACHAEL 1887, children of Marks and Sarah.

MENDELSON ROSALIND 1923, daughter of Sam and Esther.

PHILLIPS LILIAN 1891, daughter of Amelia and Harris.

PHILLIPS LEAH 1886; HARRY 1887; DAVID 1889; JOSEPHINE 1890; CHARLES 1892; children of Barnet and Dorah.

REUBEN ANNIE 1890; JANE 1893; children of Philip and Rachel

STRANG VIVIENNE 1936; JEANNETTE 1940; daughters of Morris and Irene.

VALENTINE MARTIN 1905; HELEN 1909, children of Abraham and Esther.

YAFFE ESTHER 1926, daughter of Simon and Katie.

OCCUPATIONS OF OLDHAM'S JEWISH RESIDENTS

AU PAIR GERDA HOPFINGER

ANALYTICAL CHEMIST ABRAHAM HENRIQUES VALENTINE

BOOT MAKERS MYER COHEN, JACK COHEN, MENDEL CRAFT

CLOTHIER/MAKERS SAM BRATSPIES, PHIL and SIMON CONN

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER MICHAEL FREEMAN

DENTAL WORKSHOP HARRY SILVER

DENTIST BARRY HYMAN

DRAPERS JACOB ASHER; FANNY DAVIS; NAT GOTTLIEB

DOCTORS SAM ADLER; BARNET FINK; MAXIMILIAN GOLDBERG; STANLEY GRUNSTEIN; ISRAEL KOPMAN ; JULIUS LIVINGSTONE; NORMAN ROSS; MORRIS STRANG; LIESLOTTE SCHREIBER;

FURNITURE DEALERS CHARLES BARNARD; DAVID BURMAN; LOUIS BERNSTEIN; NATHAN AND GOLDA LEACHINSKY; JOHN LINDAY; SIMON LEVY

FASHION RETAILERS PERCY COHEN; PHIL COHEN; HARRIS FLACKS; KATIE YAFFE;

GARAGE PROPRIETOR RONALD HYMAN

GLASS/CHINA RETAILER SIMON (SAM) YAFFE

GLAZIER MAURICE EDDLESTONE

GREENGROCCERS/FISHMONGER PHILIP HALPERN; DAVID HELINGOE; SIM HELINGOE;

HAULAGE CONTRACTOR STANLEY HELINGOE

HARPIST PEGGY ADLER

HAIRDRESSER SAM AND LILY CAPLAN

LEATHER GOODS DAVID PHILLIPS, NATHAN BASIL ROSE

MILL ENGINEER ALFRED SCHNEIDER

MILL OPERATIVES/WINDERS ROSL FRIED; FRIEDA FRIED; WOLFGANG FRIED

PHOTOGRAPHER JACK ABRAHAMS

PHARMACIST AND OPTICIAN HOWARD ASH

PUBLICAN LEWIS BENJAMIN (aka Henry Lewis)

RETAIL MANAGER MAURICE HYMAN

SHOP ASSISTANT DESMOND BROWN

SOLICITOR TONY ADLER

TAILORS

HYMAN BERNSTEIN; BARNET and RACHEL BROWN ; PHIL COHEN; HAROLD COHEN; MORRIS COWEN, ISRAEL COSSACK; PHILIP CRIEN-SKIE; MAURICE DAVIS; LAZARUS FINEBERG; MYER FOOTE; ISAAC JOHN FOOTE; MICHAEL FREEDMAN; SOPHIE FREEDMAN; LEAH FREEDMAN; POLLY HYMAN; ZACHARIAH LEVY; LEWIS LEVY; MAX MASHTAB; MARKS MARLOW; SAM MENDELSON; CHARLES MARKS; SOLOMON TAYLOR; PHILIP RUBEN; MORRIS ROSENBLOOM.

TAILOR'S CUTTER SOLOMON COSSACK

TAILOR'S MACHINISTS PETER SEVIN; MORRIS MARRILISKY

TAILOR'S PRESSERS MYER FISKIN; ABRAHAM LEVI

TEACHERS JOSEPHINE PHILLIPS; CHARLES PHILLIPS

TEXTILE PRINTERS ERWIN and ALICE FRIEDLER; MORITZ FRIED

TOBACCO DEALERS BARNETT FRUMIN; TEODOR FRUMIN

UMBRELLA MAKER FANNIE PHILLIPS

WATCHMAKER/JEWELLERS SOLOMON COHEN ; ELI JOSEPH COHEN;REBECCA GOLDBERG; MAURICE LYONS;JULIAN and DAVID PRAG; HARRY SILVER (SILVERMANN) ;DAVID SMITH.

**WATERPROOF MANUFACTURERS/INDIA RUBBER MANUFACTURER/
WORKERS**

LEWIS DELAKOSKI;DAVID FINEBERG ;BARNETT AND DORAH PHILLIPS;
HARRY PHILLIPS; DAVID PHILLIPS ; HARRIS PHILLIPS; AARON PHILLIPS.

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