

The Stepner Family

In Moscow the family was called Steppener. There are many variations to this name: Stepner, Steppner, Steppener, Stebner, Stabiner, etc. The descendants of Wolf & Michle Steppener adopted the simpler Stepner in the United States.

There has been some discussion as to the meaning of the name. In German, steppen means to stitch. Thus a steppener would be one who stitches, a tailor. As this family was originally tailors this seems a good possibility.

Another suggested that the name might come from the Russian steppe or plains.

The following information has been researched and compiled by Wanda Alter, Tom Barlam, Neil Stepner, and David Stepner. We look forward to hearing from anyone with additional information and lines.

Descendants of Wolf Steppener

Generation No. 1

1. Wolf¹ Steppener was born in Russia, and died Bef. 1865 in Russia. He married **Michle**. She was born in Russia, and died Bef. 1891 in Russia.

Known Children of Wolf Steppener and Michle are:

- + 2 i. Meyer² Stepner, born Abt. 1842 in Moscow, Russia; died November 04, 1893 in New York City, New York.
- + 3 ii. David Stepner, born 1850 in Shklov, Mogilev, Russia; died November 18, 1934 in Manhattan, NY.

Generation No. 2

2. Meyer² Stepner (Wolf¹ Steppener) was born Abt. 1842 in Moscow, Russia, and died November 04, 1893 in New York City, New York. He married **Chia/Ida**. She was born Abt. 1845 in Russia, and died April 15, 1928.

Children of Meyer Stepner and Chia/Ida are:

- + 4 i. Bonet Stepner, born November 1863 in Moscow, Russia; died March 07, 1921 in Atlantic City, NJ.
- + 5 ii. Wolf Stepner, born January 1866 in Moscow, Russia; died June 27, 1910 in Newark, NJ.
- + 6 iii. Minnie Stepner, born March 1868 in Moscow, Russia.
- + 7 iv. Slome Stepner, born September 1875; died March 23, 1909 in Newark, NJ.
- + 8 v. Isaac Stepner, born 1877 in Moscow, Russia.
- + 9 vi. David Stepner, born 1881; died August 02, 1912 in Newark, New Jersey. He married Molly and to my knowledge had no children. Buried: Union Field, Newark, NJ

Meyer, his wife and family departed from Hamburg, Germany on the Ship *Marsala*. They arrived Ellis Island on August 12, 1892. The passenger list gave their name, former residence and age

Aron Steppener Moskau 0 (grandchild)

Chave Steppener	Moskau	26	(wife of Wolf)
Chel Steppener	Moskau	50	(wife)
David Steppener	Moskau	11	(son)
Efraim Steppener	Moskau	4	(grandchild)
Gitte Steppener	Moskau	3	(grandchild)
Isaac Steppener	Moskau	15	(son)
Meyer Steppener	Moskau	50	(head)
Slowe Steppener	Moskau	16	(son)
Wolf Steppener	Moskau	27	(son)

Meyer was a tailor. The family was living at 36 Columbia Street in Manhattan at the time of Meyer's death from tuberculosis in 1893. They do not appear on the census there in 1900. Ida appears in the Newark, NJ City directory in 1905 and 1910 living with son Bonet (Bernard).

Meyer's wife appears in the records as Chel, Chaya and Chia. In the US, she went by the name Ida. She died in Newark, New Jersey in 1928 and buried in the Union Field Cemetery on S. Orange Ave. Her father's was named Hirsh.



The grave of Chia B “Ida” Stepner, wife of Meyer

3. **David² Stepner** (Wolf¹ Steppener) was born 1850 in Shklov, Mogilev, Russia, and died November 18, 1934 in Manhattan, NY. He married **Rivka** about 1868. She was born Bet. 1847 - 1852 in or near Moscow, Russia, and died 1914.

Children of David Stepner and Rivka/Rebecca are:

- + 10 i. Abraham³ Stepner, born Bet. 1864 - 1869 in Russia.
- + 11 ii. Wolf/William Stepner, born Bet. 1875 - August 10 1876 in Russia.
- + 12 iii. Aron/Harry Stepner, born Bet. July 05, 1876 - 1877 in of Moscow, Russia; died April 17, 1938 in Brooklyn, NY.
- + 13 iv. Michael Stepner, born Bet. 1880 - December 25 1882 in Moscow, Russia; died May 01, 1967 in Norwalk, CT.
- + 14 v. Chaim Meyer/Charles Stepner, born April 10, 1882 in Moscow, Russia; died January 24, 1950 in Norwich, CT.
- + 15 vi. Moses/Morris Stepner, born April 04, 1885 in Moscow, Russia.

David was born in Shklov in the Mogilev region of Russia presently in Belarus. He married Rivke about 1868 and they had six sons. He and his sons were tailors and were brought to Moscow to make uniforms for the Russian Officers. They lived on Dom Michnoff Kroi Pervuli St near the Kremlin.

Between 1872 and 1890 the Jewish population increased from 8,000 to more than 20,000. By 1890, although there was still a considerable number of needy persons, the Jewish population had grown more prosperous. All this changed when Sergei Alexandrovich, brother of the reigning czar, Alexander III., became governor of Moscow in February 1891. An imperial decree was broadcast on March 28, 1891 ordering the expulsion of all Jewish artisans, brewers, and distillers from the city and government of Moscow. A certain number of these were sent out on the 14th of every month until June 14, 1892. Among these families was that of David and Rivke.

In Hamburg, Germany shipping lines had long sought ways to increase use of their port city which then was second to Bremen. The Hamburg-Amerika line launched advertising campaigns throughout Eastern Europe. They established a network of emigration agencies throughout Germany and the neighboring countries and the Senate enacted laws for the protection of emigrants. With Hamburg serving as a safe haven for the Russian Jews and their fellow brethren from Romania and Galicia the port's reputation improved and attracted more emigrants. These emigration agencies served not only to ensure that the Jewish immigrants traveled to Hamburg but to ensure that they did not attempt to settle elsewhere in Germany. These agencies offered assistance only to those leaving Europe through the cruise lines in Hamburg.

While their exact route is uncertain the Steppners migrated to Hamburg with other Jewish families displaced by pogroms probably using this agency. They certainly arrived in Hamburg by rail where they were immediately taken to one of the eight large sheds created in 1891 to house 1400 immigrants. Here they spent 14 days quarantined to prevent the spread of disease. They departed in the 2nd compartment in the forward portion of the ship *SS California* and appear on the manifest as passengers 323-329 as follows:

David Steppner, 47, male, tailor, last residence Moscow, intends to settle at New York
Rivve Steppner, 45, female, wife, last residence Moscow, intends to settle at New York
Wolf Steppner, 19, male, child last residence Moscow, intends to settle at New York
Aron Steppner, 16, male, child last residence Moscow, intends to settle at New York
Michael Steppner, 14, male, child last residence Moscow, intends to settle at New York
Chaim Steppner, 11, male, child last residence Moscow, intends to settle at New York
Moses Steppner, 9, male, child last residence Moscow, intends to settle at New York

The ship arrived at New York Harbor on August 15, 1892. Note that in the Ellis Island index, this family is listed as being passengers of the ship *Greece* which departed from London. Review of the actual manifest confirms they actually traveled on the *S. S. California*. Their son Abe and his wife and baby daughter arrived three days earlier on the ship *Marsala*.

The family settled in Manhattan, living on Attorney and Division Streets. David was a tailor by trade and in the 1910 census is also called Rabbi.

Jewish immigrants formed societies based on their towns of origin; these were called *landmanshaftn* societies. Membership in such a group invariably means that the person came from the town or a neighboring town. One function of these groups was to buy land in a Jewish cemetery. Even if it cannot be determined that an ancestor was a member of a *landmanshaftn* society, burial in a plot owned by such a group implies that the ancestor came from that town. David was a member of the *Schklover Independent Benevolent Association*. He sold his reserved graves between 1928 and 1930. A security was made on a stone in 1934.

Little is known about Rivka except that she took the name Rebecca in the US. She died in 1914 and was buried in the Mt Zion Cemetery in Maspeth, Long Island. David was later buried with her as were son Meyer and daughter-in-law Fannie.

In addition to the six son who reached maturity, there were 4 more children born to this couple that died before 1900.



The family of David and Rebecca Stepner.

Back row: Sons Michael, Harry (Aron), Charles (Chaim Meyer), daughter-in-law Sara.
Middle row: Son William (Wolf), David, Rebecca, Son Abraham, granddaughter, Mary (Michle)
Front row: Son Morris "Moe" (Moses), grandchildren, Minnie and William (name uncertain)

Generation No. 3

4. Bonet Stepner (Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born November 1863 in Moscow, Russia, and died March 07, 1921 in Atlantic City, NJ. He married **Lizzie Ida Rafka**, daughter of __ Ralkin and Minnie Rafke. She was born May 1869 in Moscow, Russia.

Child of Bonet/Bernard Stepner and Lizzie Rafka is:

- 16 i. Mary⁴ Stepner, born September 1893. She married Samuel Stickler.

He appears in various records as Bonet, Barnet and Bernard. Bernard (Barnett)² Stepner was born in Moscow, Russia in November 1863. In an early record he states he immigrated in 1889, some three years before the rest of the family. I have not yet found his immigration record but he bought property in Newark, NJ in 1898 and took an oath of allegiance in Court of Common Pleas Essex Co. NJ, December 12 1898. He bought property in Newark, NJ, 1904, 1906, 1909. He resided at 24 Morton St. in Newark, NJ June 29, 1910 and again bought property in Newark, NJ, 1920.

Bernard owned a Commercial Clothing Manufacturing business and also owned a Pawn Broker Business in Newark, NJ. His wife was Ida and sometimes called Tanta Lizzie

Bernard died March 7, 1921 in Atlantic City, NJ, at Atlantic City Hospital of Cerebral Apoplex at 57 years of age. He was buried March 10, 1921, at the Hebrew Cemetery, Newark, NJ. His will was probated on November 7, 1921. He lived at 81-13th Ave Newark and was in the hospital from March 2nd to the 7th when he died at 6:45pm. He is listed as married, 55 yrs of age, a Pawn Broker, born in Russia with both parents born in Russia. No names of parents are on the death certificate. The death certificate lists his name as Bonet Stepner and there is a microfilm copy at NJ archives in Trenton.

Lizzie was born in Russia May 1869. Lizzie was the daughter of Minnie Rafkin. Lizzie died about 1953. Tanta Lizzie died about 1953 according to Don Stickler. Tom Barlam states "I saw a photo of Lizzie, Uncle Hesch, and Aunt Lea taken at 2850 Grand Concourse (probably about Dec 1944) when Hanna stepner died."

She sold property in Newark, NJ, July 27, 1923.

5. Wolf³ Stepner (Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born January 1866 in Moscow, Russia, and died June 27, 1910 in Newark, NJ. He married **Chaya Glicken**, daughter of Hirsch Glicken and Anna Weiss in 1887. She was born October 1865 in Moscow, Russia, and died December 16, 1944 in Bronx, NY.

Children of Wolf Stepner and Annie Glicken are:

- + 17 i. Abraham⁴ Stepner, born August 1887 in Russia; died November 22, 1934 in New York, New York. He married (1) Beatrice Bef. 1918; born 1893; died October 09, 1918 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He married (2) Victoria Dayton 1920 in Chicago, Illinois.
- + 18 ii. Gitte/Kittie Stepner, born March 1889 in Moscow, Russia; died September 10, 1967 in Far Rockaway, New York.
- + 19 iii. Aaron/Harry Stepner, born Bet. July 19 - September, 1891 in Russia; died August 12, 1951 in New Jersey.
- + 20 iv. Minerva Stepner, born September 18, 1894 in New York; died April 13, 1984 in Brunswick, Cumberland Co., Maine.
- 21 v. Michael Stepner, born March 27, 1897 in Newark, New Jersey; died June 09, 1968 in West Orange, New Jersey. He married Lea Watenmaker June 29, 1929 in Newark, New Jersey; born January 10, 1901 in Newark, New Jersey; died November 12, 1993 in Cedar Grove, Essex, NJ. Michael served in the military in Ft. Hancock, NJ, Oct 21 1918. Michael lived at 33 Barclay St. He had brown eyes, black hair, 120 lbs, and 64 inches height (5'3"). He was a Clerk and registered on June 5, 1918 with order number 106 at the 3rd local board in Newark. There is no mention of length of service. This record is on microfilm at the NJ archives in Trenton. Michael was a Merchandise Manager for men's furnishings, Kresge Dept. store, Newark, NJ. He was honored in Newark Evening News, 3 Oct 1961. Michael retired 1964 after 54 years of continuous employment
- + 22 vi. Hesch/Herman Stepner, born April 06, 1899 in New Jersey; died January 01, 1952 in Miami, Florida.
- 23 vii. Morris Stepner, born June 05, 1901 in New Jersey; died August 06, 1966 in Newark Airport, Newark, NJ. He married Lillian Sandler November 16, 1929 in Newark, New Jersey; born April 08, 1904 in Volnov, Russia or NJ; died November 14, 1983. They are buried at Talmud Torah Cemetery, Newark, NJ

Wolf was a tailor. Wolf and Annie and their eldest three children immigrated from Russia with Wolf's family on the ship Marsala, arriving at Ellis Island on August 12, 1892. Sometime between 1894 and 1897, Wolf left New York City and moved his family to Newark. He bought property in Newark, NJ, 1904.

Wolf declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States in Newark, NJ, on November 10, 1902. He resided 33 Barclay St. He took an oath of allegiance in Court of Common Pleas Essex Co. NJ, 10 Nov 1902. He petitioned the court to become a citizen in Newark, NJ, December 18, 1905.

He fell ill two days after his daughter Gitte married Herman Nelson and died of tuberculosis the following week. He made a will in Newark, NJ, June 23, 1910 and was buried at Hebrew Cemetery, Newark, NJ 4 days later.

"Hannah" sold the house at 33 Barclay St. August 23, 1923. She is listed in the 1924 and 1925 City Directories as living at 516 Belmont Ave in Newark. She was buried December 17, 1944, at Hebrew Cemetery, Newark, NJ.

6. Minnie³ Stepner (Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born March 1868 in Moscow, Russia. She married **Simon Horowitz** Abt. 1889 in Russia?. He was born April 1864 in Russia.

Children of Minnie Stepner and Simon Horowitz are:

- 24 i. David⁴ Horowitz, born December 1889 in Russia.
- 25 ii. Mollie Horowitz, born November 1891 in New York City, New York?; died Abt. 1979. She married Jack Braunstein.
- + 26 iii. Abraham Horowitz, born September 1893 in New York City, New York?.
- + 27 iv. Mary E. Horowitz, born December 01, 1898 in New Jersey; died June 1978 in Paterson, NJ.
- 28 v. Lizzie Horowitz, born 1902.

7. Slome³ Stepner (Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born September 1875, and died March 23, 1909 in Newark, NJ. He married **Bessie Patkowsky** Abt. 1898, daughter of Abraham Patkowsky and Fannie Hofman. She was born August 1878 in New York, and died October 24, 1963.

Children of Louis Stepner and Bessie Patkowsky are:

- + 29 i. Max/Michael⁴ Stepner, born February 16, 1899 in New York; died August 1980 in Culver City, Los Angeles, California.
- + 30 ii. George Stepner, born February 12, 1902 in New York; died June 1955.

Slome became Louis. He was a tailor. He and his brother Isaac ran Stepner Brother Tailors in Newark in 1900. His body was interred March 12 1909 Old Field Cemetery on S. Orange Avenue in Newark, NJ. Bessie survived him by 54 years and is buried in Wellwood Cemetery, Farmingdale, NY



The grave of Louis Stepner
Union Field Cemetery, Newark NJ

8. Isaac³ Stepner (Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born 1877 in Moscow, Russia. The name of his wife is unknown.

Child of Isaac Stepner is:

- 31 i. Sarah⁴ Stepner.

In 1900, Isaac and his brother Louis ran a tailor shop in Newark called Stepner Brothers.

10. Abraham³ Stepner (David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born Bet. 1864 - 1869 in Russia. He married **Sarah**. She was born Abt. 1872 in Russia.

Children of Abraham Stepner and Sarah are:

- + 32 i. Michle/Mary⁴ Stepner, born July 26, 1891 in Russia; died May 11, 1968 in Los Angeles, CA.
- 33 ii. Minnie Stepner, born Abt. 1895 in Brooklyn, NY. She married Harry Miller Abt. 1922; born Abt. 1890 in Russia.
- 34 iii. Michael Stepner, born Abt. 1896 in NJ?. He married Leah.
- 35 iv. Sadie Stepner, born April 02, 1899 in Brooklyn, NY.
- + 36 v. Archie Stepner, born Bet. April 25, 1901 - 1903 in Brooklyn, NY; died July 1970 in Brooklyn, NY.
- 37 vi. Lester Stepner, born 1907 in Brooklyn, NY.
- 38 vii. Florence Stepner, born 1909 in Brooklyn, NY.

Abbe Steppner and wife were said to be from Molihev, Poland on the Ellis Island record. Research has placed Molihev in present day Belarus and in the same District as Shklov. They immigrated from Russia departing at Hamburg on the Ship Marsala with their baby daughter Michel, arriving at Ellis Island on August 12, 1892. On the same ship were Abbe's uncle Meyer and his family of 10. Abbe's parents and brothers arrived at Ellis Island three days later.



The couple settled in Brooklyn. While I have been unable to find the family in the 1900 census, Abraham Stepner, tailor, 10 Hick St is listed in Lain's 1897 Brooklyn Directory. I have no record of the couple after 1920.

Abraham's year of birth is uncertain at this time. Records have the date fall within a five year window.

Year of birth uncertain:

1892 ship manifest - 25 yrs (1867)

1910 Census-46 yrs (1864)

1920 census-51 yrs (1869)

11. Wolf³ Stepner (David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born August 10 1876 in Russia. He married **Dora** Bet. 1904 - 1907. She was born Bet. 1879 - 1882 in Russia.



Children of Wolf Stepner and Dora are:

- | | | | |
|---|----|------|--|
| | 39 | i. | Beatrice ⁴ Stepner, born Abt. 1906 in New York. |
| + | 40 | ii. | James George Stepner, born February 18, 1912 in New York. |
| + | 41 | iii. | Bernard Stepner, born Bet. January - April 1907 in New York; died Abt. 1960. |

Wolf immigrated from Russia with his family departing at Hamburg on the Ship *California*, arriving at Ellis Island on August 15, 1892. Wolf settled in Brooklyn where he worked as a tailor. He lived at 232 Division Street on July 23, 1902 when he was naturalized. His brother, Harry, served as witness.

12. Aron³ Stepner (David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born Bet. July 05, 1876 - 1877 in of Moscow, Russia, and died April 17, 1938 in Brooklyn, NY. He married **Mary** January 1900 in Brooklyn, NY. She was born July 1880 in New York.

Children of Harry Stepner and Mary are:

- | | | | |
|---|----|------|---|
| + | 42 | i. | Lester ⁴ Stepner, born January 06, 1901 in Brooklyn, NY; died March 1978. |
| | 43 | ii. | William Stepner, born February 10, 1902 in Brooklyn, NY; died March 1983 in Brooklyn, NY. |
| | 44 | iii. | Lillian Stepner, born Abt. 1905 in Brooklyn, NY. |
| | 45 | iv. | Blanch Stepner, born 1912 in Brooklyn, NY. |



Aron immigrated from Russia with his family departing at Hamburg on the Ship *California*, arriving at Ellis Island on August 15, 1892. Once here, he took the name Harry. He was naturalized in New York City on August 18, 1898. At that time he was living at 233 Division St in New York City and was employed as a clerk. He served as witness to his brother Wolf, when he was naturalized on July 23, 1902. He was then living at 231 Monroe St, New York City. His occupation was conductor. Harry resided at 920 Madison St, Brooklyn when his son registered for the draft in 1918. He ran a restaurant in 1930.

13. Michael³ Stepner (David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born Bet. 1880 - December 25 1882 in Moscow, Russia, and died May 01, 1967 in Norwalk, CT. He married **Dora Schreiber**. She was born July 04, 1889 in Russia, and died May 12, 1980 in Fairfield, CT.

Children of Michael Stepner and Dora Schreiber are:

- + 46 i. Harvey⁴ Stepner, born Abt. July 1916 in New York.
- + 47 ii. Roslyn Stepner, born June 06, 1919 in New York; died January 27, 1981 in Norwalk, CT.



Michael was naturalized on June 9, 1905 in New York City. He was then living at 233 Division St. His occupation was given as vocalist. On this document he gave his birth date as December 25, 1882. When he registered for the draft in September 1918, he gave his birth date as December 25, 1880, and his occupation as cigar salesman. He and wife "Dorothy" were then living at 1318 Avenue U. In 1920, he ran a restaurant in Brooklyn, New York. Michael had black hair and blue eyes.

Dora was residing in Westport Connecticut when she died.

14. Chaim Meyer³ Stepner (David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born April 10, 1882 in Moscow, Russia, and died January 24, 1950 in Norwich, CT. He married **Feige Breier** December 1920, daughter of Jakob Breier. She was born February 27, 1888 in Lokot, Austria, and died August 1979 in Norwich, CT.

Children of Meyer Stepner and Fannie Breier are:

- + 48 i. Henrietta⁴ Stepner, born October 18, 1922 in New York City, New York; died March 12, 1994 in Norwich, CT.
- + 49 ii. Jerome Stepner, born February 27, 1923 in Hudson, New York.
- 50 iii. Marion Stepner, born March 15, 1927 in Hudson, New York. She married Jerome Silverstein April 21, 1974 in Norwich, CT; born December 27, 1932. Molke & Jerry live in N Franklin, CT. Before her retirement, she ran the liquor store in Norwich.



Born Chaim Meyer, he took the name Meyer Charles in the US. In 1910 he worked as a motorman on the street railway. At that time he was called Charles but when he joined the Shklover Benevolent society in 1920 he gave his name as Meyer. He was then 35, single, and a saloon keeper.

On September 12, 1918, Meyer Stepner, of 242 Division Street, NY, NY registered for the draft. He was 33, a bartender for S Solomon at 188 Cantor Street, NY, NY. He had dark brown hair and brown eyes and was described as tall and thin. His nearest relative was listed as David Stepner of 242 Division Street.

Feige Breier was a 22-year-old, seamstress when she immigrated on SS *New Amsterdam*, departing from Rotterdam on July 2, 1910. A native of Lokot, Austria (Bryansk, Russia region) she was bound for her cousin Abraham Breier's home at 467 Houston Drive, New York, New York. Once here, she took the name Fannie. Fannie was just 4'11" tall with brown hair and blue eyes.

According to his son, Meyer married Fannie in December 1920 and moved to Graham Street in Brooklyn but when he applied for citizenship in December 5, 1921 he gave his address as 242 Division Street. Either he actually married in December 1921 or they lived on Division Street for a while after the marriage.

Meyer & Fannie had their first child, Henrietta, while they lived in Brooklyn but soon after moved to Hudson, New York where some of Fannie's family had moved. Here their last two children were born.

In 1936, the family moved to Albany, New York. While there his nephew, George (James G. Stepner, s/o Wolf) lived with them while he worked for the state. It was here, that George met and married his wife, Zelda about 1940.

In 1948 Meyer moved his family to Norwich CT where his daughter Hennie had settled after nursing school. He ran a liquor store and lived next door. Meyer died there two years later. His body was returned to New York where he was buried in the Mt Zion Cemetery, Maspeth, Long Island. Fannie was buried there on August 15, 1979.



Fannie & Meyer Stepner

15. Moses³ Stepner (David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born April 04, 1885 in Moscow, Russia. He married **Olga Schaeffer** February 18, 1916, daughter of Adolph Schaeffer. She was born Abt. 1891 in Austria.

Children of Morris "Moe" Stepner and Olga Schaeffer are:

- + 51 i. Leo⁴ Stepner, born September 09, 1916 in New York; died June 1973.
- 52 ii. George Stepner, born Abt. 1921 in New York.



Morris petitioned for naturalization at New York City on May 25, 1906. He was living at 233 Division St and was employed as a rail road guard. His brother Michael served as a witness.

Marriage posting appeared on February 18, 1916 in the *Brooklyn Standard Union*
Morris STEPNER...26...Manhattan,NY
Olga SCHAEFER...22...146 Patchen av

After their marriage Moe & Olga lived at 2072 West 10th St, Brooklyn, NY. They lived here when Morris registered for the draft on September 12, 1918. Morris was listed as a member of the Schklover Independent Benevolent Association in 1918, age 33, married, Brooklyn novelties native of Russia. He was still a member in 1938 for the Theater Affair (1/8/1938)

In 1942 the couple lived on Coney Island: 2930 W 36th. He was then 57 and unemployed. He had black hair and brown eyes.

Generation No. 4

17. Abraham⁴ Stepner (Wolf³ Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener), born August 1887 in Russia; died November 22, 1934 in New York, New York. He married (1) Beatrice Bef. 1918; born 1893; died October 09, 1918 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He married (2) Victoria Dayton 1920 in Chicago, Illinois.

He is called Efraim on the manifest of the ship Marsala, August 15, 1892. The following info is from Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Steppe) Abraham was a vaudevillian actor who went by the name Harry Steppe. He was working with Bud Abbott when Abbott and Lou Costello met. Harry is also the originator of the famous "Slowly I turned, step by step" routine. The 3 stooges performed it first with it's originator, Harry Steppe and the location was "Niagra falls". Lou Costello and Bud Abbott later performed it on stage with a man called Murray Leonard and it later was in the movie "Lost in a Harem."

Vaudeville comedian Harry Steppe coined the phrase "top banana," an expression to describe the top comedian performing in the show. "Second banana" was used for the supporting performer who played a secondary role.

Abe's occupation: Singer in Newark, NJ, 1905. Abe's occupation: Comedian "Girls from the Follies in Cleveland, Ohio, 29 Aug. 1913. Cleveland Plain Dealer

Occupation: Comedian "Girls from the Follies 19 Jan 1915 in Rochester NY. Article in Rochester Democrat.

Abe's occupation: Comedian "Girls from the Follies in Cleveland, Ohio, 27 April 1915. Cleveland Plain Dealer

Abe's occupation: Comedian "Girls from the Follies in Pittsburgh, Pa., 4 May 1915. Pittsburgh Leader. Abe played Ignatz Cohen (a stowaway)

Abe's occupation: Comedian "Girls from the Follies in Philadelphia, Pa., 11 May 1915. As written in the Philadelphia Record

Abe's occupation: Actor in Chicago, Illinois, at the Gayety Theater 14 Aug 1918. Abe registered for the WW I draft on this date and indicated that his father was born in Moscow, Russia and that Abe was an Actor for I. H. Hirk at the Gayety Theater in Chicago where he is listed as "Harry Steppe".

His first wife, Beatrice died from Spanish flu after a short illness. She was working in Harry's show "The Razzle Dazzle of 1918" at the time. She was twenty-five.

Abe was a Chamberlain & Lyman Brown member 1920. They were a Theatrical Agency that had Harry Steppe's clippings.

In 1920, Harry married Vic Dayton in Chicago. Occupation: Vaudeville Performer 1 Dec 1920. Abe was a Talented Player in "Tid Bits of 1920" and worked for I.H. Herk. A photo of Abe and his wife Vic appeared on the front cover of the N.Y. Clipper on 12-1-1920. The couple separated in 1922.

Abe Occupation 2 May 1925 Manhattan, NYC. Abe appeared as 'Harry Steppe' as a principal Burlesque Comedian for the summer show called "OK" at the Columbia Theater in NYC.

Abe died November 22, 1934 of Pulmonary Edema at 46 years of age. He was at Bellvue Hospital for 2 days and had been ill for a month according to a story in Variety (Nov. 27, 1934). The Dec. 1, 1934 issue of Billboard listed Abe's Obituary on the 'Feature News' page 5. His body was interred 11/23/1934 Elizabeth/Hillside, NJ, B'Nai Jeshurun Undertaker A. Gutterman & Son 15 E. Broadway He married twice.



18. Gitte/Kittie⁴ Stepner (Wolf³, Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born March 1889 in Moscow, Russia, and died September 10, 1967 in Far Rockaway, New York. Buried: Wellwood Cemetery, Farmingdale, NY. She married **Herman Patkowsky Nelson** June 18, 1910 in Newark, New Jersey, son of Abraham Patkowsky and Fannie Hofman. He was born Bet. September 17, 1885 - October 1886 in New York, New York, and died January 07, 1970.

Kittie and Herman had one daughter. Herman worked as a trainman at the time of his marriage.

+ 53 i. daughter⁵ Nelson.

19. Aaron/Harry⁴ Stepner (Wolf³, Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born Bet. July 19 - September, 1891 in Russia, and died August 12, 1951 in New Jersey. He is buried at Mt Lebanon Cemetery, Iselin, NJ. He married **Minnie Cooperman** February 17, 1927 in Newark, New Jersey. She was born December 28, 1897 in New York.

Child of Aaron/Harry Stepner and Minnie Cooperman is:

54 i. Bernard⁵ Stepner, born Abt. October 1927 in Newark, NJ.

Harry served in the military in Ft. Slocum NY, beginning May 4 1917. Harry was in service for one month until June 5, 1917 when he was discharged with a service connected disability. He was in Co G 22 inf while in service.

Harry's occupation: Jeweler in Newark, NJ, 1924. is listed as a Jeweler in 1924, 1925, 1926, 1928, & 1931 in the city directory.

Harry's occupation: salesman in Newark, NJ, 1927. He resided in Newark, NJ 1928, 42 Goodwin Ave. He resided in Newark, NJ 1931, 39 Boston. He resided in Newark, NJ 1932, 39 Boston Av. He resided in Newark, NJ 1934, 568 S 19th.

20. Minerva⁴ Stepner (Wolf³, Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born September 18, 1894 in New York, and died April 13, 1984 in Brunswick, Cumberland Co., Maine. She married **David Barlam** June 11, 1918 in Newark, New Jersey, son of Tanchim Barlam and Golder Chymowitz. He was born January 15, 1892 in Marseille, France, and died August 03, 1966 in Bronx, New York.

Children of Minerva Stepner and David Barlam are:

- 55 i. William⁵ Barlam, born in Newark, NJ.
- 56 ii. Barney Barlam, born in Newark, NJ.
- 57 iii. Thomas Barlam, born in Newark, NJ.
- 58 iv. Gerald Barlam, born February 19, 1928 in Bronx, NY; died October 03, 1998 in resident of San Marino, Los Angeles, CA.
- 59 v. Norma Barlam, born in Bronx, NY.

Minne worked as a saleslady.

In 1900 David was living at 38 Boyd St, Newark. David was a jewelry engraver in 1905 and from 1919 to 1925. He was a driver for the Newark Morning Ledger in Newark, NJ on June 5, 1917 when heregistered for the WW I. He lived at 503 Hunterdon St. with his Mother, Father, and brother Louis. He asked to be deferred because he had his parents to support. He gave his birth date as Jan. 15, 1893 in Marseille, France. He was listed as Short, grey eyes, hair brown. The record is on 35mm microfilm NJ 82 at the National Archives in NYC. It is record 29 2 16 A.

David's occupation: Jewelry Engraver in Newark, NJ, 1905. He worked as an Engraver until 1919 to 1925.

David's occupation: Engraver in Factory in Newark, NJ, 20 Apr 1910. David's occupation: Driver for the Newark Morning Ledger in Newark, NJ, 5 Jun 1917. David registered for the WW I Draft on this date. He lived at 503 Hunterdon St. with his Mother, Father, and brother Louis. He asked to be deferred because he had his parents to support. He gave his birth date as Jan. 15, 1893 in Marseille, France. He was listed as Short, grey eyes, hair brown. The record is on 35mm microfilm NJ 82 at the National Archives in NYC. It is record 29 2 16 A. There are two Barlams listed on this film, David and Louis Barlam. David joined the in Newspaper Mail Delivery Union of NYC on date 6/21/1919.

He resided in Newark, NJ 33 Barclay St. (1918), 59 Quitman St. (1923) , 492 Belmont Ave. (1924) 293 Jellif Ave (1927). He moved to Bronx, NY about 1928 and lived at 2967 Webster Ave. He worked as a newspaper deliveryman for the Daily News in Brooklyn and Harlam. By 1932 he had moved his family to 1286 Webster Avenue. He later lived at 1321 Franklin Ave (1937) and 1361 Lyman Place (1938)

He applied for a social security number on November 26, 1936. He listed his birthdate as Jan 15 1892 Marseille France father: Tanchim Barlam mother: Golder Lifshiz. He resided in Bronx, NY at 1350 Fulton Ave.

In 1940 the family resided at 85-87 Parsons Blvd. in Jamaica. They had returned to the Bronx about September 1943, when they were at 2850 Grand Concourse. David retired in Bronx, NYC, 1960 after 36 years working for the Daily News.

They resided at Moshula Parkway in Bronx, NY about 1961 and in 1963 they removed 455 Gramatan Ave. in Mount Vernon, Westchester, NY. He remained there the rest of his life. He died of cancer and was buried August 7, 1966 at Mt Lebanon Cemetery, Iselin, NJ

After David's death, Minnie lived at 231 Prospect Ave in Mt Vernon. In 1977 she went to live with daughter Norma in Brunswick, Maine. She was buried with her husband on April 15, 1984, Mt Lebanon Cemetery, Iselin, NJ.

22. Hesch⁴ Stepner (Wolf³, Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born April 06, 1899 in New Jersey, and died January 01, 1952 in Miami, Florida. Buried January 06, 1952, B'Nai Jeshurun, Elizabeth/Hillside, NJ. He married **Leah Newman** January 14, 1922 in Newark, New Jersey, daughter of Henry Newman and Berthe Cahn. She was born January 1900 in New York, and died February 08, 1968 in W. Hartford, CT. She was buried February 09, 1968, B'Nai Jeshurun, Elizabeth/Hillside, NJ

Child of Herman Stepner and Leah Newman is:

- 60 i. Wilbur W⁵ Stepner, born February 15, 1923 in New Jersey; died December 08, 2001 in Jupiter, FL. He appears in the list of free masons and was a member of the Grand lodge in NJ. He retired to Palm Beach Gardens prior to 1996.

Hesch registered for the draft on Sept 12, 1918 under the name Herman Harry Stepner, age 19. He lived at 33 Barclay St in Newark, NJ. He had brown hair and eyes. Leah worked as a bulb maker, in Newark, NJ

26. Abraham⁴ Horowitz (Minnie³ Stepner, Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born September 1893 in New York City, New York. He married **Ruth S.** Abt. 1922. She was born Abt. 1898 in New Jersey.

Children of Abraham Horowitz and Ruth are:

- 61 i. Jerome M⁵ Horowitz, born in E Orange, NJ.
- 62 ii. Robert M Horowitz, born in E Orange, NJ.

27. Mary E.⁴ Horowitz (Minnie³ Stepner, Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born December 01, 1898 in New Jersey, and died June 1978 in Paterson, NJ. She married **Charles S Goodman** Abt. 1923. He was born September 01, 1892, and died November 1978 in Paterson, NJ.

Child of Mary Horowitz and Charles Goodman is:

- 63 i. Myra E.⁵ Goodman, born August 1926 in New Jersey.

29. Michael⁴ Stepner (Slome/Louis³, Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born February 16, 1899 in New York, and died August 1980 in Culver City, Los Angeles, California. He married **Dora Katzman**. She was born 17 Jan 1906, and died Oct 10, 1996.

Children of Michael Stepner and Dora Katzman are:

- + 64 i. Neil⁵ Stepner.
- 65 ii. Lester Stepner.

Michael registered for the WW I draft in September 1918. He gave his birth as Feb. 16, 1899. He lived at 58 W 116th St and was a clerk at the post office. He asked to be deferred to support his mother Bessie. He indicated that he was medium height, medium build, brown eyes and brown hair. His information is from microfilm NY 318 at the National Archives in NYC. His local board was 169 in NYC.

Michael remained at this address until 1925 when his mother is no longer at this address but Michael and Max Stepner do. Michael still listed as a postal clerk. Max's relationship is unclear.

By 1933 Michael had moved to 3510 Decator Ave in the Bronx. He is listed there in 1935 city directory.

30. George⁴ Stepner (Slome/Louis³, Meyer², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born February 12, 1902 in New York, and died June 1955. He married **Lee**. She was born April 08, 1904 in New York, and died September 1981 in Hallandale, FL.

Children of George Stepner and Lee are:

- + 66 i. Paula⁵ Stepner.
- + 67 ii. Lewis B Stepner, born April 23, 1931; died November 1987.

He resided 3560 Olinville Ave. 1933-1935, and worked as a postal clerk. Lee worked at Phelan Dollar Cleaners 180 E Burnside Ave., 1933-1935.

32. Michle/Mary⁴ Stepner (Abraham³, David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born July 26, 1891 in Russia, and died May 11, 1968 in Los Angeles, CA. She married **Marcus J Federman**. He was born Bet. 1873 - 1880 in Hungary, and died Aft. 1934.

Children of Mary Stepner and Marcus Federman are:

- 68 i. Beatrice⁵ Federman, born October 23, 1912 in Scranton, PA.
- 69 ii. Dorothy Federman, born August 29, 1916 in New York City, New York.
Dorothy does not appear on the 1930 census with the family
- + 70 iii. Walter Federman, born March 04, 1918 in New York City, New York; died May 08, 1990 in Los Angeles, CA.



Michle was named for her paternal grandmother. She departed from Hamburg, Germany with her parents on the Ship *Marsala* when she was about a year old. They arrived Ellis Island on August 12, 1892 and yet all subsequent records found on her state that she was born July 26, 1891 in Brooklyn, New York.

She married a man about 18 years her senior. Her husband Marcus was a partner in a dry goods business and later the President of a chair company in New York City. He was apparently successful, as he and Mary traveled to France on many occasions.

On the passenger list for the SS Majestic dated July 19, 1922 from Cherbourg, France arriving at port in New York were found:

Marcus J Federman, 49 yrs naturalized 1893 resided 838 West End Ave, New York City

Mary Federman, 31 years, naturalized by marriage

On a passenger list for the Ship Bremen dated July 17, 1929 from Cherbourg, France arriving at port in New York July 22, 1929 were found:

Marcus Federman, 56 yrs 3 mos, naturalized Sept 5, 1893 No District NY [b. ca April 1873]

Mary Federman, 38 years, b. Brooklyn, NY, b. July 26, 1891

Beatrice Federman, 16 yrs 9 mos. b. Scranton, PA, Oct 23, 1912

Dorothy Federman, 12 yrs 11 mos., b. New York City , Aug 29, 1916

Water Federman, 11 yrs 4 mos, b. New York City, Mar 4, 1918

Two years later on the ship Leviathan passenger list dated July 14, 1931 from Cherbourg, France arriving at port in New York July 20, 1931 were found:

Marcus Federman, 58 yrs passport 33817, naturalize Sept 13, 1893 resided 617 West End Ave, New York City

Mary Federman, 39 years, b. Brooklyn, NY, b. July 26, 1891

A year later on the ship Europa passenger list dated June 8, 1932 from Cherbourg, France arriving at port in New York July 13, 1932 were found:

Marcus Federman, 59 yrs 3 mos, resided 1617 West End Ave, New York City

Mary Federman, 41 years, b. Brooklyn, NY, b. July 26, 1890

On the ship SS Rex passenger list dated August 8, 1934 from Villefranche, France arriving at port in New York August 15, 1934 were found:

Marcus J Federman, 62, naturalize Sept 13, 1893 resided 617 West End Ave, New York City

Mary Federman, 43 years, b. Brooklyn, NY, b. July 26, 1891

Notes for Marcus J Federman:

Marcus was a partner in a dry goods business and later the President of a chair company in New York City. He was apparently successful as he and Mary traveled to France on many occasions.

On the passenger list for the SS Majestic dated July 19, 1922 from Cherbourg, France arriving at port in New York were found:

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Marcus Federman, 58 yrs passport 33817, naturalize Sept 13, 1893 resided 617 West End Ave, New York City

Mary Federman, 39 years, b. Brooklyn, NY, b. July 26, 1891

A year later on the ship Europa passenger list dated June 8, 1932 from Cherbourg, France arriving at port in New York July 13, 1932 were found:

Marcus Federman, 59 yrs 3 mos, resided 1617 West End Ave, New York City
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On the ship SS Rex passenger list dated August 8, 1934 from Villefranche, France arriving at port in New York August 15, 1934 were found:

Marcus J Federman, 62, naturalize Sept 13, 1893 resided 617 West End Ave, New York City
Mary Federman, 43 years, b. Brooklyn, NY, b. July 26, 1891

Marcus's age is really unknown as the records all record something different.

1922 passenger list - age 49 [ca. 1873]
1929 passenger record - age 56 yrs 3 mos [ca. April 1873]
1930 census - age 50 [b. ca 1880] - immigrated 1880
1931 passenger list - age 58 [ca. 1873]
1932 passenger list - age 59 yrs 3 mos. [ca. April 1873]
1934 passenger list - age 62 [ca. 1872]

36. Archie⁴ Stepner (Abraham³, David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born Bet. April 25, 1901 - 1903 in Brooklyn, NY, and died July 1970 in Brooklyn, NY. He married **Ina**.

Child of Archie Stepner and Ina is:

- 71 i. Phyllis⁵ Stepner, born Abt. 1928. She married Leonard Goldman Abt. November 1947. NY Times dated 11/9/1947 an announcement of Phyllis Stepner , daughter of Mr . & Mrs . Archie Stepner to Leonard G . Doldman .

40. James George⁴ Stepner (Wolf /William³, David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born February 18, 1912 in New York. He married **Zelda Schneider** Abt. 1940 in Albany, New York. She was born February 15, 1916.

Children of James Stepner and Zelda Schneider are:

- + 72 i. Ellen⁵ Stepner, born in New York, New York.
- + 73 ii. David Stepner, born in New York, New York.

George and Zelda live in Hollywood FL

41. Bernard⁴ Stepner (Wolf /William³, David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born Bet. January - April 1907 in New York, and died Abt. 1960. He married **Bessie/Betty Grablefsky**.

Children of Bernard Stepner and Bessie/Betty Grablefsky are:

- 74 i. Jane⁵ Stepner.
- 75 ii. _ Stepner.

42. Lester⁴ Stepner (Aron/Harry³, David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born January 06, 1901 in Brooklyn, NY, and died March 1978. He married **Maria C.** She was born Abt. 1900 in New York.

Lester Stepner, 920 Madison St, Brooklyn, NY, age 19, registered for WWI draft on September 12, 1918. He gave his birth date as January 6, 1899 and his occupation as unemployed clerk. He listed his father as nearest relative Harry Stepner, 920 Madison St Brooklyn, NY. He had black hair, brown eyes, was of short stature, and medium build.

Child of Lester Stepner and Maria is:

- 76 i. Rita⁵ Stepner.

47. Roslyn⁴ Stepner (Michael³, David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born June 06, 1919 in New York, and died January 27, 1981 in Norwalk, CT. She married **Henry E. Nurin**. He was born Abt. 1918.

Unconfirmed Child of Roslyn Stepner and Henry Nurin is:

- 77 i. Marci B.⁵ Nurin,. She married Norman Davis November 22, 1962 in Westport, CT.

48. Henrietta⁴ Stepner (Chaim Meyer/Charles³, David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born October 18, 1922 in New York City, New York, and died March 12, 1994 in Norwich, CT. She married **Haskell Seymour Alter** September 14, 1942. He was born September 02, 1920 in New London, CT, and died September 24, 1996 in Franklin, Long Island, NY.

Children of Henrietta Stepner and Haskell Alter are:

- + 78 i. David Gary⁵ Alter, born in New London, CT.
+ 79 ii. Rochelle Alter, born in New London, CT.
+ 80 iii. Charles Alter, born in New London, CT.
81 iv. Betsy N Alter, born in New London, CT. She married Steven Eicholz.. Divorced. Betsy lives in Norwichtown where she runs a liquor store.

Henrietta was a nurse. Haskell served in the Army during WWII. He worked as a meat cutter for Stop & Shop. The family lived at 35 Neptune Avenue for many years. He sold this home on September 5, 1996 and moved into a retirement apartment complex less than 3 weeks before his death. He died in Pennsylvania Station, Long Island awaiting a train to return home to New London. He had been visiting his son, Charles and family for Yom Kipper.



Haskell, David & Henrietta (Stepner) Alter

49. Jerome⁴ Stepner (Chaim Meyer/Charles³, David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born in Hudson, New York. He married **Eleanor Gordon** abt. 1955. She was born in Putnam, CT.

Children of Jimmy Stepner and Eleanor Gordon are:

- + 82 i. Tova Anne⁵ Stepner, born in Hartford, CT.
- + 83 ii. Meyer Charles Stepner, in Hartford, CT.
- + 84 iii. Dodie Lee Stepner, in Hartford, CT.
- + 85 iv. Saul Zelig Stepner, in Jerusalem, Israel.

51. Leo⁴ Stepner (Moses/Morris³, David², Wolf¹ Steppener) was born September 09, 1916 in New York, and died June 1973. He married **Selma Wildfeuer**. She was born March 05, 1917, and died April 30, 2004 in Baltimore, MD.

Children of Leo Stepner and Selma Wildfeuer is:

- + 86 i. Hope Stepner
- ii. Allan Mark⁵ Stepner

The following appeared on [Jewish Times.com](http://JewishTimes.com) Baltimore, MD

STEPNER — On April 30, 2004, **SELMA** (nee Wildfeuer), beloved wife of the late Leo Stepner, loving mother of Hope Ignatowski and Allan Stepner; beloved sister of Ruth Wertman of DelRay Beach, Fla. and the late Esta Thomas, Freda Weiser and Gertrude Dansky. Loving grandmother of Lance and Tiffany Ignatowski, Robyn and Marti Leigh Stepner, adored aunt of Shelly and Joseph Ulman. Interment in Beth Jacob Congregation Cemetery.