

**Mikhel Leyb and Siegel Family Bits and Pieces of Information**  
**Put together in November, 2009**

**New information: THE PARENTS OF MIKHEL LEYB ARE:  
KHAIMAS (father) married to FRUME YAKHNE (mother)**



Along the way, with the help of others, especially John Singer, who has extensively researched the Dorfs, more information has been uncovered about Mikhel Leyb and Pearl Dorf. The documentation indicates that Mikhel Leyb lived in Balninkai, but I believe he must have returned to Kavarskas in his later years to live with his daughter, Frume. Pearl Dorf may have been born in Kavarskas, but the Dorfs moved to Balninkai around 1860. Kavarskas, Ukmerge and Balninkai form a triangle and are close to one another. Smolinka is located within that triangle. Various members of the family appear to be from one or another of these locations. All of these places are in Lithuania. One of the most exciting finds has been our ability to go back one more generation.

**MIKHEL LEYB SEGAL b. 1847 d. 1930 m. PEARL DORF b. 1855 d. 1890**

**They had 8 children. Chya Rachel, Chaim, Chona, Jennie, Joseph, Fruma, Carl and Fred**

According to the Jewishgen records,(Jewishgen.org) both Mikhel Leyb and his daughter Frume died in Kavarskas, Lithuania and were residents of Kavarskas. The deaths were recorded in Ukmerge, Lithuania, which may have been the center for that District. From the Death Records in Lithuania 1922-1930

SEGELIS / [SEGEL] – Surname  
Mikhelis Leiba – Given Name  
Khaimas – Father  
Frume Yakhne -Mother  
heart disease – Reason For Death  
82 – Age at Death  
30 1 1930 – Date of Death  
Kavarskas – Place of Death  
Kavarskas – Place of Residence  
widower gardener - comments  
LVIA/1827/1/303/103 – Source: Archive/Fond/List/Item  
Ukmerge – Place recorded  
Year recorded: 1930  
Record: M27

SEGELYTE / [SEGEL] - Surname  
Frume - Given Name  
Mikhelis Leibas - Father  
Perl - Mother  
DORFAITE / [DORF] – Mother's Maiden Name  
heart disease – Reason for Death  
46 – Age at Death  
23 10 1939 – Date of Death  
Kavarskas – Place of Death  
Kavarskas – Place of Residence  
LVIA/1827/1/303/324 – Source: Archive/Fond/List/Item  
Ukmerge – Place Recorded  
Year recorded - 1939  
Record: F31

**From Betty Susnowitz (daughter of Chya Rachel and Rafael Delechky) at the 1980 reunion:**

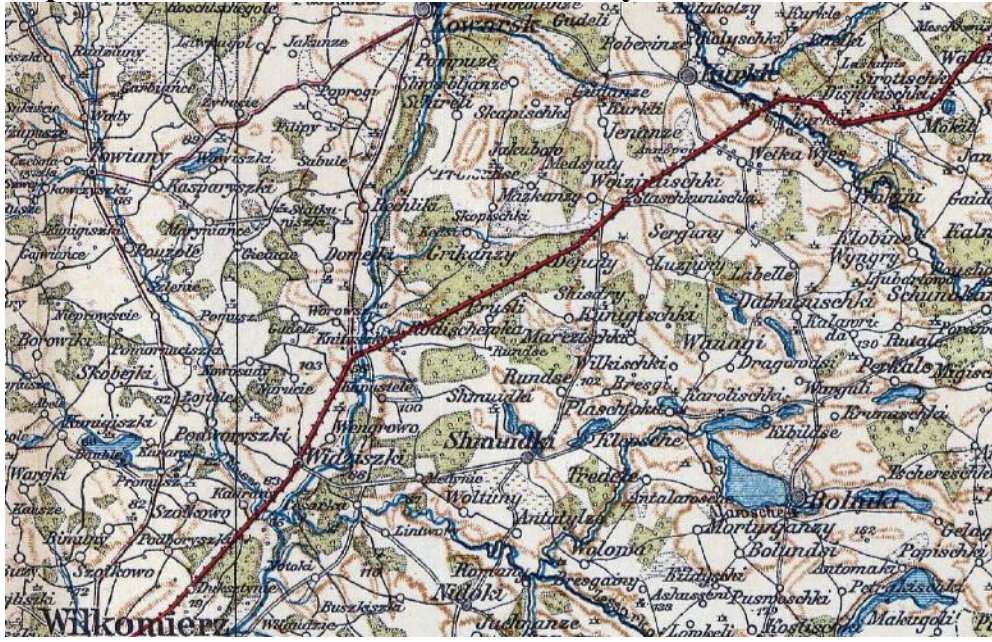
**Mikhel Leyb** had a store. He sold little goods, like vegetables and he had a barrel of herring and pickles. He was also a religious teacher. During the first World War, he was driven out of his house, he slept in a cemetery for a week, and would steal home at night to get food and clothing. With him were Chya Rachel and her husband and children and also Fruma. They landed in a town called Glaboka in Lithuania. Rafael (Chya Rachel's husband) had been injured. The older daughters baked cookies and sold them. One of the older daughters stood in the soup line. Mikhel Leyb sat at a table and sold buttons and threads. Minna, one of the daughters and a sister to Betty, sold sunflower seeds. And they survived.

**Fruma** took the dowry that her brothers sent and bought a piece of land and took care of her father. She sold vegetables and he taught students. Hitler took the land in later years.

Betty believes that in earlier generation, like around 1850, the family surname was Sagel and that it didn't become Segal until later and Siegel until later still.



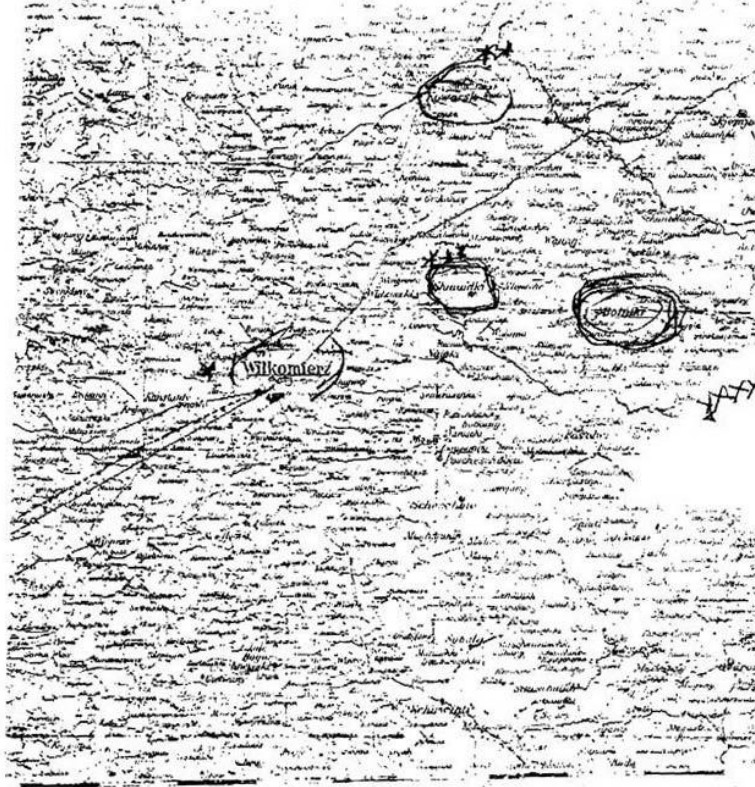
**Old maps with towns in Lithuania the family lived in or near.**



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PAGE 01

*MXC copy*



*Schmuliniski*  
 \* Wilkomierz (K. Meze)  
 \*\* Kawaite (Kowarsk, Kowarskas)  
 \*\*\* Schmuliniski (Schmuliniki)  
 \*\*\*\* Boleik (Balinikais)

*From German map of Lithuania (or a Polish map) - I remember* to John Singer  
 1-831  
 618  
 8200



There are the remains of a Jewish cemetery in Kvaraskas. This is a memorial that was erected for the Jewish residents that were killed there. (taken by Phillip Bennett)

Phillip Bennett, who visited with Tanya, (Minna Siegel Chaet's daughter) in Lithuania, seems to remember that Tanya's mother, Minna, was a sharpshooter, and was wounded and shipped to the Urals and it was there that she met Tanya's father, a photographer. Apparently she was wounded trying to save a school of children.



Tax and Voters Lists

Searching for Town balninkai					
Number of hits: 211					
Run on Tuesday 4 March 2008 at 22:53:33					
Name	Father	Comments	Day	Town	Archive/Fond/Inventory/ File
	Age		Type of Record	Month	Uyezd
			Year	Guberniya	Page #
SEGAL, Mikel/Leyb	Chaim	2 in family Box Taxpayers		Balninkai	KRA/I-49/1/17523
				Ukmerge	20
			1892	Kaunas	160
SEGEL, Mikhel Leyba	Khaim 42	signed in Yiddish with Russian translation Voters	28	Balninkai	LVIA/1567/1/2258
			June	Ukmerge	18
			1881	Kaunas	4, 5

This record indicates that Mikhel Leyb was in Balninkai in 1881 and in 1892.

This next excerpt comes from a book that John Singer found. The author talks about the celebration of Shabbat and speaks of Chana Rachel, the oldest daughter of Mikhel Leyb and Pearl Dorf.



*THE  
SHTETL  
THAT WAS  
RALPH JAFFE*

whether in winter or in summer. Shabbat was Shabbat and did not change with the seasons.

After we had partaken of the *cholent*, some of the older folk would take a nap, a very proper thing to do on the day of rest. After some twenty or thirty winks, they would go *shtatziring*, not as lonely walkers but, in the spirit of the *shtetl*, with their friends and neighbors, as part of a community. They would stroll less as individuals than as an assemblage of associates on a symbolic wandering, whose essence was less where they were going than the fact that they were going wherever they were going together. They were reenacting, on a Saturday afternoon in Kavarsk, the story of the wandering Jew over generations, undoubtedly unaware that they were doing so.

My parents, together with the Shmucklers and some friends and neighbors, would walk to the town square, where they would be joined by my mother's cousin Zelda and her husband, by Chana Rachel and her husband Chatze Dilatski, and by other relatives and guests. All came in their Saturday best. They would start out by walking up Wilkomer Street; then they would walk to the *krenitzeh*, on church property, a short and pleasant walk through an arcade of overarching trees. The spot was called *krenitzeh* because it had bubbling cold springs at the bottom of a hill. Wooden troughs carried that water to the road where other troughs, about six feet high, had been installed, enabling us to get at the water that was in continuous flow. To capture the water for drinking purposes, enamel cups, attached to chains, were made available for our use. This refreshing spot was our "pit stop," an oasis for us, the ever-wandering Jews.

**Mikhel Leyb's daughter, Chya Rachel is remembered in Ralph Jaffee's book which speaks of his family spending Shabbat with their family.**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof.

State of Minnesota } In the District Court
County of St. Louis } ss: of St. Louis County, Minnesota

I, Henry Siegel, aged 38 years,
occupation Butcher, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Color white, complexion light, height 5 feet 9 inches,
weight 175 pounds, color of hair dark brown, color of eyes brown
other visible distinctive marks Scar base right little finger; scar right fore-
arm; Scar under left eye;

I was born in Bollnek, Russia
on the 10th day of June, anno Domini 1876; I now reside
at 412 Hayes St. Evoloth, Minnesota
(Give number, street, city or town, and State.)

I emigrated to the United States of America from Bremen, Germany
on the vessel Do not remember; my last
foreign residence was Bollnek, Russia

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Nicholas II Emperor of
all the Russias, of whom I am now a subject;

I arrived at the port of New York, in the
State of New York, on or about the 1st day
of July, anno Domini 1896; I am not an anarchist; I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:

SO HELP ME GOD.

Henry Siegel
(original signature of declarant.)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th
day of November, anno Domini 1914

J. P. JOHNSON
Clerk of the District Court.

By W. H. Heroway, Deputy Clerk.
at Virginia, Minnesota.

[SEAL.]

1909

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Chaim Segal/Siegel: Declaration of intention to become a citizen



No. 2860

ORIGINAL

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

To the Honorable the Court of

The petition of Henry Siegel hereby filed, respectfully sheweth

First. My place of residence is 12 Hayes St. Eveleth Minnesota

Second. My occupation is Butcher

Third. I was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June anno Domini 1876, at Bolnek, Russia

Fourth. I emigrated to the United States from Germany, on or about the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June anno Domini 1896 and arrived in the United States at the port of New York N.Y. on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July anno Domini 1896 on the vessel So not remember

Fifth. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November anno Domini 1914 at Virginia in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Court of St. Louis County, Minnesota

Sixth. I am married. My wife's name is Sera She was born in Steshich, Russia and now resides at 12 Hayes St. Eveleth Minnesota

I have five children, and the name, date and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children is as follows:

Clara born May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1899, at New York N.Y. resides at Virginia, Minnesota;  
Isadore born July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1902, at New York N.Y.;  
Anna born June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1905, at Superior, Wisconsin;  
Charles born April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1911;  
John born June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1912; last two born at Eveleth, Minnesota, last five reside with parents.

Seventh. I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposed to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and it is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and

Eighth. I am able to speak the English language.

Ninth. I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of five years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July anno Domini 1896, and in the State of Minnesota continuously next preceding the date of this petition, since the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September anno Domini 1905, being a residence within this State of at least one year next preceding the date of this petition.

Tenth. I have not heretofore made petition for citizenship to any court. (If made petition for citizenship to the Court of \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ anno Domini \_\_\_\_\_ and the cause of such denial has since been cured or removed)

Attached hereto and made part of this petition is my declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States and the certificate from the Department of Labor, together with my affidavits and the affidavits of the two verifying witnesses thereto, required by law. Wherefore your petitioner prays that he may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America.

no4043

Henry Siegel  
 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 1916

Declaration of Intention and Certificate of Intent to be filed in the United States on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1916, under the whole reading and Certificate of Approval of \_\_\_\_\_

### AFFIDAVITS OF PETITIONER AND WITNESSES.

The aforesaid petitioner being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the petitioner in the above-entitled proceeding; that he has read the foregoing petition and knows the contents thereof; that the said petition is signed with his full, true name; that the same is true of his own knowledge, except as to matters therein stated to be relied upon information and belief, and that as to those matters he believes it to be true.

Charles Petrov occupation Merchant residing at 1034 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N. Virginia Minn  
C. Siegel occupation Butcher residing at 503-5 1/2 St. Virginia Minn

Henry Siegel the petitioner above mentioned, to have resided in the United States continuously immediately preceding the date of filing his petition, since the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September anno Domini 1905 and in the State in which the above-entitled petition is made continuously since the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September anno Domini 1905 and that he has personal knowledge that the said petitioner is a person of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and that the petitioner is in every way qualified, in his opinion, to be admitted a citizen of the United States.

Charles Petrov  
Siegel

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the above-named petitioner and witnesses in the office of the Clerk of Court this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December anno Domini 1916

J. C. Johnson Clerk  
A. C. Johnston Deputy Clerk

Chaim Segal/Siegel: Petition for naturalization



STATE: Minnesota COUNTY: St. Louis TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY: NAME OF INSTITUTION: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910-POPULATION SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 7 EDUCATION DISTRICT NO. 2 WARD OF CITY: 8

NAME OF INSTITUTION	NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE	ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE	WARD OF CITY	EDUCATOR
	Eveleth city	6. 12. 1910	8	

SURNAME	BIRTH	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	RESIDENCE	EDUCATION	OCCUPATION	INDUSTRIAL	NUMBER OF CHILDREN
Harry Chiam	1871	Head	W M S	511 Adams Loc.	8	Miner		3
Pearl	1871	Wife	W M S	511 Adams Loc.	8	Housewife		3
Isadore	1871	Son	W M S	511 Adams Loc.	8	Student		3
Anna	1871	Daughter	W M S	511 Adams Loc.	8	Student		3

1910 Eveleth Census with Harry (Chiam), Pearl, Isadore and Anna

R. L. POLK & CO.'S EVELETH DIRECTORY—1915.

Sherman Margaret, moved to Red Wing, Minn.  
 Shimerick Frank, clk Hotel Glode, b same.  
 Sholund Anna, tchr, b 55 Adams Loc.  
 Sholund Ellen, asst librarian Eveleth Public Library, b 55 Adams Loc.  
 Sholund Hilding E, bkpr Oliver I M Co, b 55 Adams Loc.  
 Sholund Hugo D, rodman Oliver I M Co, b 55 Adams Loc.  
 Sholund Peter E, carp Adams Mine, r 55 Adams Loc.  
 Shukle Martin, fireman, r 49 Adams Loc.  
 Shute Jno, saloon 405 Grant av, r same.  
 Shutte Jos, miner, r Troy Loc.  
 Shutte Jos Jr, lab, b Jos Shutte.  
 Shutte Mary, clk, b 308 Jones.  
 Shutte Peter, lab, r 308 Jones.  
 Sicotte Sidney J, timekpr Oliver I M Co, rms office same.  
 Siebert Frank, meatctr, r 711 A av.  
 Siegel Bros (Saml and Michael), furniture 315 Grant.  
 Siegel Chas, live stock, r 426 Adams.  
 Siegel Fred, live stock, b 412 Hayes.  
 Siegel Henry, hides 412 Hayes, r same.  
 Siegel Michael (Siegel Bros), r Gilbert, Minn.  
 Siegel Saml (Siegel Bros), r 219 Adams.  
 Siipakka Alma, cook, rms 421 Monroe.  
 Siloris Matt, lab, r 322 Elba av.  
 Simech Nicholas, lab, r Adams Loc.  
 Simons Jas, eng, r 308 Douglas av.  
 Simons Mrs Nellie, propr Windsor Hotel, r 308 Douglas av.  
 Sirok Jno, miner Spruce Mine, r 66 Spruce Loc.  
 Sirok Met, miner Spruce Mine, r 66 Spruce Loc.  
 Sisson Arthur O, moved to Portland, Ore.  
 Sitarich Jacob, lab, b 89 Adams av.  
 Sitarich Jno F, miner, r 89 Adams av.  
 Siveny Jos, lab, r 517 Pierce.  
 Sivula Matt, eng, r 706 Garfield.  
 Sjan Frank, motorman, r 58 Sparta av.  
 Sjobeck Chas, lab, r 703 Harrison.  
 Sjobeck Gust, lab, b 703 Harrison.  
 Skerjance Anth, miner, r 170 Spruce Loc.  
 Skerjance Jno, miner, r Spruce Loc.  
 Skerjance Martin, lab, r 19 Spruce Loc.  
 Skoff Jno, pipeman Fayal Mine, r 16 Auburn av.  
 Skoff Jos, pipeman Fayal Mine, b 16 Auburn av.  
 Skotovich Mrs Rosa, r 12 Virginia rd.  
 Skraba Frank, lab, b 63 Old Town Loc.  
 Skramstad Alvin, cutter Brince & Branovick, r 614 Jones.  
 Skramstad Carl G, fireman, b 307 B.  
 Skramstad Mary (wid Hogan G), r 307 B av.  
 Skramstad Reinhold B, lab, b 307 B.  
 Skrinar Jno, lab, r 66 Old Town Loc.  
 Skul Frank, rms 429 Fayal rd.  
 Skumautz Matthew, painter, r 531 Jackson.  
 Slagle S Edw, pumpman Fayal Mine, r Gilbert, Minn.  
 Slobodnick Nicholas, tmstr, b 427 Fayal rd.  
 Slyton Mrs Anna, moved to Minneapolis, Minn.  
 Smith Adam, switchman Fayal Mine, r 601 Jackson.  
 Smith Alf, carp, r 610 Hayes.  
 Smith Chas, fireman Fire Dept, b 407 Fayal av.  
 Smith Clementine, b 625 Jones.  
 Smith Edw, asst capt Fayal Mine, r 407 Fayal av.  
 Smith Jos, b 511 Roosevelt av.  
 Smith Marie, waiter Hotel Glode.  
 Smith Mary E, asst bkpr Home Elec & H Co, b 407 Fayal av.  
 Smith Matthew, moved to Duluth, Minn.  
 Smith Robt, eng Fayal Mine, r 532 Jackson.  
 Smith Mrs Rosa, b Adam Lasota.  
 Smith Walter J, pres Miners' National Bank, r St Paul, Minn.  
 Smith Wm, r 625 Jones.  
 Smoley Jno, lab, b 74 Old Town Loc.  
 Smoley Lawrence, clk Siegel Bros, r 311 Douglas av.  
 Smolka Anna, ironer, b Mrs Elizabeth Smolka.  
 Smolka Elizabeth (wid Jno), r Adams Loc.  
 Smolka Frank, lab, b Mrs Elizabeth Smolka.  
 Smolka Jno, lab, r Adams Loc.  
 Soder Saml, miner, r Adams Loc.  
 Sokol Jno, lab, rms 212 Monroe.  
 Sopko Louis, lab, r 726 Hayes.  
 Sopon Mathias, lab, b 12 Virginia rd.  
 Sorcan Jos, lab, r 213 Fayal rd.  
 Souba Fred J, asst Wm E Harwood, b Fabiola Hospital.  
 Spadoni Dominico, miner, b 720 Hayes.  
 Spaziano Dominica, clk Jos Baldi, r 519 Adams av.  
 Spehor Anton, lab, b 519 Hayes.  
 Spehor Peter D, miner, r 615 A av.  
 Spero Jos, lab, b 40 Adams av.

**EMIL OJANPAA PLUMBING AND HEATING CONTRACTOR**  
 ESTIMATES FURNISHED  
 PHONE: 411  
 ARBUTT, HAGEN & MATCHEETE PHONE Mountain Iron

Eveleth Business Directory 1915 listing the Siegels



# Bassoonist retiring from the BSO

## ■ BASSOON

Continued from Page 25

fella from Virginia, Minn., it's been quite a life. Last August I turned 65 and I told Seiji Ozawa I wanted to retire after the end of another season. All of a sudden I wasn't the youngest member of the orchestra anymore!"

Walt's mother played the piano for silent movies, and the young Sherman played the violin - he recalls performing when Al Smith and Herbert Hoover came through in the 1928 presidential campaign when he was 5. He took up the bassoon when he was 12 for the usual reason - the local band and orchestra needed someone to play it. "I took to it like a duck to water. I loved the sound of it," Walt recalls. "I still do."

Five great conductors played pivotal roles in advancing Walt's career. The first was Dmitri Mitropoulos, who heard him play as a teen-ager and told his parents, "This boy has to play the bassoon." His parents replied, "But maestro, he's going to be a doctor!" Mitropoulos put money aside in a special fund and during Walt's student years at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia sent him an allowance every month. "That is the kind of thing Mitropoulos did for many young musicians," Walt says. "He was obviously a very special person."

Years later, Mitropoulos conducted a concert in which Walt was playing principal bassoon. Walt took the conductor to lunch and offered him a check, saying it was time to begin paying him back. Mitropoulos tore up the check, saying "The way you played just now paid me back in full."

At Curtis, Walt studied with the bassoonist of the Philadelphia Orchestra and with Marcel Tabuteau, its great principal oboist, who was also a major figure in the musical education of such other BSO stalwarts as clarinet Harold Wright, oboist Alfred Genovese, violist Burton Fine and former concertmaster Joseph Silverstein.

World War II interrupted Walt's musical education, and his experience as a 19-year-old infantryman is something he still doesn't like to talk about. "I walked from Omaha Beach to Hanover, Germany, and that's all I want to say."

Walt's first job was in the Chicago Symphony, which he joined in 1946, becoming principal a few years later. Bruno Walter, the second of Walt's influential conduc-

**'I've devoted my whole career to the serious side of the bassoon. I want it to play beautiful lyrical solos.'**

tors was a regular guest in Chicago at that time, and coached Walt extensively in the Viennese repertory. Another Chicago guest, George Szell, recommended Walt to the Boston Symphony in 1953; it was Charles Munch who hired him. The last name on Walt's list of conductors is that of BSO music director Seiji Ozawa - "a friend, a colleague, an inspiration," Walt says.

"I have really loved playing in the BSO," Walt says, "working with such colleagues, soloists and conductors. There have been great highlights over the years - recording the Beethoven and Mendelssohn Violin Concertos with Heifetz, playing 'L'Histoire du Soldat' with Joseph Silverstein. And the highlights keep coming - "Elektra" this year, and Shostakovich's 15th Symphony under Kurt Sanderling last season. It was worth anything to be in that performance." Walt has particular memories of discussing Shostakovich's many bassoon solos with the composer during the BSO's historic tour of the Soviet Union in 1956, and such conductors as Fritz Busch, Rafael Kubelik, Leonard Bernstein and Colin Davis hold honored places in his affections. The most stressful situation, he feels, was the concert on the afternoon of the assassination of President Kennedy. "Erich Leinsdorf announced his death both to the orchestra and to the audience, and then we played the funeral march from Beethoven's 'Eroica' Symphony."

And although Walt is a gentlemanly person, he will admit that there have been conductors of "the other kind" too. "But in this orchestra I think everyone always does his best. I read in the papers that we had trouble with Christoph von Dohnanyi recently and didn't really play for him, but that was the first I heard about it - it just doesn't happen that way. Maybe it happened that way in other generations or maybe it happens in other orchestras, but it doesn't happen here."

Walt says the great composers for bassoon are Mozart, Tchaikov-

sky, Shostakovich and Stravinsky. "It was wonderful to play the solo in 'The Rite of Spring' under Pierre Monteux who had conducted the world premiere." The major composer who did least for the bassoon, Walt says, is Bruckner. "There's not one solo or exposed passage for the bassoon in all his work - maybe he didn't have any good players. When William Steinberg was music director here I worked out an arrangement so I wouldn't have to play Bruckner."

Walt's famous sound - once it made this writer think of the story of the frog who became a prince - has been the result of lifelong work. "I still practice for an hour or two each and every day." Reed-making, too, is a time-consuming part of every bassoonist's life. "I spend about a half hour a day on reeds, trying to keep ahead of myself. It takes about an hour to make a reed, and because cane is a piece of wood, and every piece is different, you're lucky if you get two out of three that will really work." Walt also keeps himself in good physical shape, running, skiing, working out on his exercise bike.

"My conception of sound," Walt says, "came from when I heard Walter Guetter play in the Philadelphia Orchestra. He was the first bassoonist to play with vibrato, a dark sound, like a cello, even like a human voice. I still think of that sound. I conceive of the bassoon as an extension of myself, and I sing into the instrument. I tell people that as soon as you start to play the bassoon, it becomes technical. I know that some people think the bassoon makes a funny noise, and you have to exploit that when you are playing something like 'Peter and the Wolf.' But in the Tchaikovsky Symphonies the bassoon is so sad and haunting - I've devoted my whole career to the serious side of the bassoon. I want it to play beautiful lyrical solos."

Walt plans to keep his house in the Berkshires and to commute to Boston a few days a week; his wife Phyllis teaches at Massachusetts Bay Community College. "I plan to cook, ski, ride my motorcycle, and play with my eight grandchildren," says Walt, with satisfaction. "I may even come to hear the orchestra," he adds. "I sometimes come into the hall to hear a soloist when I'm not playing in the concerto, but it's been a long time since I have sat through a whole concert in the audience. I hope I like it."

**Sherman Walt**



## Obituaries

### Sherman Walt, 66; bassoonist struck by car in Chestnut Hill

Sherman Walt, principal bassoon of the Boston Symphony Orchestra since 1953 until his retirement in May, died Thursday night after being struck by a motorist as he and his wife, Phyllis, 55, were crossing Hammond Pond Parkway in Brookline by the Mall at Chestnut Hill. He was 66 and lived in Brookline.

Mr. Walt died at Beth Israel Hospital, where Phyllis Walt was listed in satisfactory condition yesterday. They were taken there after being struck around 7 p.m. Thursday.

During much of his career, which began with the Chicago Symphony in 1946, Mr. Walt was considered the greatest of American bassoonists.

#### ●Appreciation, Page 20.

According to Metropolitan Police Officer Brian Hermes, Mr. Walt and his wife crossed Hammond Pond Parkway to the island dividing the highway, but they were struck when they proceeded across the northbound traffic lane. He said the couple crossed the highway a short distance from the pedestrian crossing.

The driver of the vehicle, identified as Gary P. Jorgensen, 25, of Jamaica Plain, was cited for failure to grant the right of way to a pedestrian, driving to endanger and motor vehicle homicide, according to police.

Preliminary results from the investigation did not indicate that drugs or alcohol played a role in the accident, Hermes said. Investigators have not yet determined whether excessive speed was a factor, he added.

According to a spokeswoman for the Registry of Motor Vehicles, Jorgensen had an active driver's license. His license had been suspended in March 1987, but spokeswoman Kathi Connelly said state privacy laws forbade her from identifying the reason for the suspension.

When Mr. Walt was a teen-ager, the conductor Dmitri Mitropoulos told the youth's parents: "This boy has to play the bassoon."

Mitropoulos sent Mr. Walt an allowance every month while he was a student at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. Years later, after Mitropoulos conducted a concert with Mr. Walt as principal bassoon, Mr. Walt took the conductor to lunch and



SHERMAN WALT

offered him a partial reimbursement. Mitropoulos tore up the check, saying, "The way you played just now paid me back in full."

Seiji Ozawa, the BSO's principal conductor since 1973, said yesterday:

"From the beginning, Sherman made me feel tremendous joy and pride to be the music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. His death is a great loss for all of us in the Boston Symphony family. Sherman was a magnificent musician, a wonderful human being and my dear friend. We are all shaken by this tragedy and will mourn this day forever."

Since his final concert at Symphony Hall on May 2, Mr. Walt resumed teaching the bassoon. He also began playing the viola and pursuing other interests - cooking, riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle and playing with his grandchildren.

A native of Virginia, Minn., Mr. Walt served in the Army's 83d Infantry Division from Omaha Beach to Hanover during World War II and received a Bronze Star.

During his 36 years with the Boston Symphony, he taught at the Tanglewood Music Center, the New England Conservatory of Music and Boston University. He performed often as a soloist with the orchestra and was also a member of the Boston Symphony Chamber Players.

Besides his wife he leaves two daughters, Barbara Gustin of Newton and Nancy Partridge of Cambridge; a son, Stephen, of Williamstown; and eight grandchildren.

John J. Manning, 69

Sherman Walt



## **Jenny Siegel Root wrote her thoughts about her Grandpa Carl Siegel after his death in 1987:**

We grandchildren have been blessed to have our Zada with us into our adult lives. He was a living connection to times and places that would be difficult to imagine without his stories. Zada loved to tell us stories from his past, and we loved to listen. His life was an example of old-fashioned ideals and values: hard work, initiative, love of family and home.

Zada told us about tending cattle and sleeping in straw on top of a brick oven in a log house. It's a far stretch of the imagination from his turn-of -the-century boyhood in Lithuania to how we live today! He liked to tell about his early days in the grocery business, when he sold hamburger two pounds for a nickel and broke wild mustangs for his delivery wagon. A photo from those days shows him standing so straight the way he did in his tin-ceiling store, proud of what he'd accomplished only a few years after arriving in America speaking hardly a word of English. He was the classic immigrant story, a young fellow who graduated from the school of hard knocks and made a success of himself.

More than anything else, Zada loved to tell about winning Bubby Bessie's hand and heart. After fifty years of marriage, his face still glowed pink and his eyes sparkled when he described Bubby at twenty. I believe he was bewitched from the first time he laid eyes on her, and he worked hard to earn her affections. A lot of young fellows could take a lesson! He made friends with Ma and Pa and the sisters, brought presents and candy, took kid brother Max to the shows, wrote love letters and voila! - the start of a happy family now in its fourth generation.

We grandchildren learned a lot from the example of Bubby and Zada's true love. an attachment that grew stronger for over sixty years. Family was the most important value to our grandparents. Bubby speaks often of the joy she and Zada took in their four boys, how they loved to watch them play cards in front of the fireplace or swim at the cabin or tinker with their cars. They shared their happiness with the Siegel and Rothchild cousins as well -- there was always another place at the table. Many of the cousins have told me how much fun it was to visit Uncle Carl and Aunt Bess, even if you did gain five pounds at every meal!

I have never known a man with a greater gift for contentment than Zada. He knew how to take pleasure in each day's activities, however simple. Some hand-ground hamburger. a few quarts of green tomatoes pickled, some sauerkraut bottled up -- these were all small jobs to enjoy, and ways to share his fun with others. He made the best hamburger in Minnesota, and his hands were human scales. He could weigh meat to the half-ounce in his palm. His tomato pickles were so sour they brought tears to your eyes, and were they good! Sauerkraut I won't touch, but I hear it was pretty nice, if you go in for that sort of thing.

The greatest lesson Zada's life gives us is his sense of comfort and pride in what he accomplished. He knew what was important and what his responsibilities

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were, and he did them, without fuss. He was a loving and helpful husband and father and grandfather and brother and uncle and cousin and friend. His role as a family man was paramount to him.

We were all very sad when illness narrowed Zada's life in the last few years. But I am sure that he was happy and content. Shortly before he had to move to Sholom Home, Zada patted a photo of Sheldon and Sammy and Palmer and Marvin. and he said to me, "Four good boys. All good boys." Words didn't come easily to him by that time, but the proud beam in his sweet old face said so much. I believe that he had a sense of inner purpose, and that he had achieved what he wished to achieve. I hope that I will feel that way at the end of my life.

It's so hard to understand why Zada had to be ill for so long, why such a vigorous man had to fade the way he did. It was heart-rending to see him decline. But Bubby and Zada's love continued, across the barrier of illness, and that was inspiring to all of us. Despite the wider barrier that separates us from Zada now, I know that his legacy to us -- our heritage of quiet love, willing responsibility, and joy in family -- will continue on in each of our lives.

The NAME SIEGEL – from the Musuem of the Diaspora

The name Siegel: Literally “seal” in German. Siegel could be a trade name for an engraver of seals, a popular Jewish occupation in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in central Europe. However, this Jewish family name is usually based on Segal. An abbreviation of the Hebrew “segan-Leviyyah” which means “prince of the Levites” or “assistant of the high priest.” Segal was originally a function and title, which became a family name.

#### MORE DISTANT RELATIVES

Ida Siegel was the sister of **Mikhel Leyb** Siegel. She married Joseph Williams. They had six children: Charles, Samuel, Libba, Louis, Irving and Sol. Charles, Irving and Sol settled in Johannesburg, South Africa. Louis Williams settled in Chicago as did Samuel Williams. Libba married Gerson Frank, a shochet. Not sure about the city. Louis had three children: Ruth (Bernstein), Dr. Ernest Bernstein and Howard Bernstein. Sam Williams had two children: Rose and Emil. Libba and Gerson Frank had six children: Etta, Jacob, Sol and Morris (twins), Esther and Dorothy. Ruth Bernstein had one son. Rose had one daughter, Patricia. Etta had one son: Shmuel Mayer Gedwiser. Jacob had one daughter; Syril Alene and Sol had one daughter, Billy Frances.

1. Ida Siegel m. Joseph Williams
2. Charles (Johannsburg, SA)
3. Samuel (Chicago)
  - a. Rose
    - i. Patricia
  - b. Emil
4. Libba (city unk) m. Gerson Frank
  - a. Etta m. Gedwiser
    - i. Shmuel Mayer Gedwiser
  - b. Jacob
    - i. Syril Alene

- c. Sol
  - i. Billy Frances
- d. Morris
- e. Esther
- f. Dorothy
- 5. Louis (Chicago)
  - a. Ruth
    - i. One son
  - b. Dr. Ernest Bernstein
  - c. Howard Bernstein
- 6. Irving (Johannsburg, SA)
- 7. Sol (Johannsburg, SA)