

the city for reasons which were mostly economic. Sam Alpert, who had ventured from Sosenka to New York to Bucksport and then to Bangor within the space of ten years, returned to New York after spending about five years in Maine. Sam and his wife, Celia, lived in Brooklyn where he was employed as a hat maker. Their eldest son, William (b.1912), graduated from the City University of New York and taught school during the Depression. He returned to the university, took a business degree and became an accountant working for the state of New York. Bessie (b.1915) married Mal Wolin who practiced law in New York after returning from war-time service.

In 1924 Shimsel and Leah Alpert settled in Dorchester, Massachusetts living first at 8 Balfour Avenue and then at No. 12 Balfour where they remained for the next twenty years. With one exception their children married and raised families in the Boston area: Esther (b.1904) married Albert Rice, a factory foreman; Hyman (b.1905) owned a grocery store; Morris (b.1908) worked as a printer for the Boston Herald; Abraham (b.1911) worked in the bakery and laundry businesses; and Miriam (b.1916) worked in the insurance industry. Paul (b.1913), who stood forty-seven inches tall and weighed eighty-six pounds, enjoyed a long and successful career as "Prince Paul," the leading clown with the Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey circus. He performed until he was nearly seventy years old.

Unlike the Alperts of Boston, Edward and Sadie Alpert moved to a city where family had already settled: Sadie's brother, Sol Costrell, had moved his family to Detroit around 1917. The Alperts arrived after a brief residence in Bucksport and settled first on Delmar Avenue and then at 1576 Cortland Avenue. Edward initially worked as a salesman for the Empire Candy Company, of which he became a vice president within two years. By 1926 he had opened a variety store on Mack Avenue; two years later a dry goods store was opened at 1139 Holbrook Avenue and the family had moved to 1664 Elmhurst Avenue. The precise details of his transition back into the scrap business are no longer known, but by 1934 the family had moved back to the same duplex they first occupied in Detroit, this time living in 1574-76 Cortland. Louis E. (b.1910) joined his father in the business, now called Edward Alpert & Son, which was engaged in brokering metals. Because no inventory was kept, the business was conducted from their home which was moved ten years later to 2485 Elmhurst Avenue.

A decade later Edward and Sadie moved to 20317 Forrer Avenue and Louis to 20523 Prevost, where he ultimately assumed control of the family business. Dorothy (b.1907) married Al Jaffin, who operated a service station and worked in the steel industry in Detroit. Bessie (b.1911) married Ben Dubrow, who was originally from Montreal but lived in Detroit; they moved to Chicago and then Los Angeles in the 1940's where Ben owned a liquor store and then worked in the furniture business with a brother. Rose (b.1917) and her husband, Joe Gordon, owned a wholesale jewelry business in Detroit prior to retiring to Florida.

Sol Costrell worked as a plumber in Detroit before opening a store that sold hardware, plumbing and heating supplies. A dry goods store was established at the beginning of the Depression, but gloomy business conditions forced its closure and the family moved back to Bangor in 1931. Sol worked as



*Top:* Edward and Sadie Alpert family, circa 1911. Children left to right: Louis, Dorothy and Bessie. (Courtesy of Harris Dubrow) *Bottom left:* Sol and Annie Cohen Costrell, 1919. Left to right: Rose, Ed and Louis. *Right:* Louis Saltzman family. His sister, Rose, is standing; seated right is Julia Cohen Saltzman with Ada seated on her lap, William, center, and Elmer on Louis' lap. (Courtesy of Pauline Cohen)

a representative for a candy wholesaler before returning to Detroit in 1940. Edwin (b.1913), Louis (b.1915) and Rose (b.1917) graduated from the University of Maine, with Edwin earning advanced degrees from Clark University. He served with Patton's army in France and Germany during the war, after which he remained in Munich with the military government. His post-war career was spent with the State Department in Washington. Louis completed his graduate degree at the University of Maryland while working as a physicist on radioactivity and nuclear instrumentation with the Bureau of Standards. His involvement with Atomic Energy Commission projects sent him all over the world, but his base remained Silver Spring, Maryland. Natalie (b.1922) graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit, where she taught mathematics and later became a computer programmer. Rose and her Winnipeg-born husband Dave Byer lived in Washington where Dave worked for the federal government.

Sophie Cohen Bromberg's 1913 departure from Dunilowicze was well timed, for within a year of leaving Russia, war had broken out with Germany. Her husband, Louis, who was employed in Europe as a *shochet* (ritual slaughterer of animals for kosher meat), had traveled to Chicago in advance, apparently in response to an offer of a similar position in the city where his brother had already settled. Soon after arriving with their three sons, Sophie became a butcher and opened a shop in a basement on Maxwell Street. By 1920 a building was purchased at 1257 W. 13th Street where a shop was installed, and the family lived in one of the two flats above. Louis, who continued in his profession while Sophie ran the butcher shop, soon became a victim of union organizing activities. He resisted pressure to join, believing that union membership had no bearing on his work - which he considered to be essentially religious. An attack by union thugs left him partially disabled, and still unwilling to join. Later, he and son Alex (b.1914) opened two poultry shops on Kebzie Avenue, at 13th and 15th.

Sophie's shop was moved in 1941 when the government bought her building and replaced the old neighborhood with a housing project. The Kebzie shops closed during the Depression (Louis died in 1939), but Sophie reopened at 1315 W. Roosevelt where she remained until retiring in the mid-1950's. Sophie also retained her feisty nature into old age. After several robberies she developed a reputation for chasing the hold up men down the street while brandishing a knife.

Several Bromberg children established businesses affiliated with the family trade. After the Kebzie Avenue ventures Alex became a poultry supplier to restaurants, whereas Abe (b.1900), whose first job in Chicago was peddling handkerchiefs on the street in 1913, opened a factory that manufactured feather pillows and comforters. He also opened a store on Michigan Avenue to sell these products; he later moved to Florida where he became involved in real estate ventures. Richard (b.1907) operated a poultry shop for several decades on Garfield Blvd. He was killed there during a robbery in 1971. Anne (b.1916) and Ida (b.1918) both stayed in Chicago where they raised families: Sam Wladovsky, Anne's husband, worked in the laundry business and Ida's husband, Harry Schneider, worked with Marshall Field's for almost fifty years.

Meyer (b.1910) was injured during the Normandy invasion and was permanently disabled.

Three daughters of Shprintze Alperowitz and Abraham Maskind also settled in Chicago. Lena (b.1900), who had traveled from Smorgon to Bangor in her early teens and then moved to Manitowac, Wisconsin to live with her father's relatives, left for Chicago as a young woman of eighteen. Within a short time she was married to Samuel Steinberg, a shoemaker with a shop on Halsted Street. Her sister Sylvia (b.1895), with whom she was very close, followed and also married a Steinberg - Jacob - but he was not related to Sylvia's brother-in-law, Sam. Sylvia and Jacob both worked in Chicago's apparel trade. Esther Maskind (b. circa 1910) remained in Wisconsin until joining her sisters in Chicago after they had established families.

Lillian Maskind (b.1905) settled in Philadelphia with her husband, Abraham Heller, where they operated a neighborhood grocery store. After retiring, their sons William (b.1925) and Manual (b.1929) continued to operate the store for a number of years until it burned down.

Anna Kappellowitz, who had been brought from Sosenka to New York by the Koppelmans, lived with her aunt and uncle's family until marrying Marshall Marks who had arrived from Warsaw as a young man. Their daughter, Sophia, was born 1908 and four years later the Marks moved to Chicago. By 1914 they relocated to Gary, Indiana where Marshall operated several newsstands at the railroad station. The family lived in Detroit for a short time prior to settling in Cleveland where Marshall worked in the insurance industry. Prompted by her aunt, Sophie Kern in Bangor, and relatives on the faculty (Ada Cohen Silverman and her husband, Sam), Sophia attended the University of Maine in Orono. She returned to Cleveland where she taught school for several decades.

Like most transplants from Europe, Leah Alperowitz Rubin's family had remained in New York. Not only had her husband's brothers already settled there but Leah's aunt, Neshe Kappellowitz, and Neshe's son-in-law's family provided a further anchor to the new arrivals. Nevertheless, life was difficult. At first Barnet worked as a building engineer for the Koppelmans, and later for an unrelated company; but after an attack by robbers left him partially deaf he was forced to find less demanding work. Leah, meanwhile, developed cancer in one eye which had to be replaced with a glass substitute.

In addition to Reuben and Sadie, who were born in Sosenka, Esther and David were born in Brooklyn in 1907 and 1908. During the war, Reuben worked at the Brooklyn Naval Yard to help support the family and attended night school at the Cooper Union. He graduated after six years of this work-study program, married Bertha Pollack in 1919, and became an engineer. (His education combined with the experience gained at the Naval Yard were put to use in a variety of ways during his career, which included being one of the structural steel designers of the Chrysler Building in Manhattan.) The family resided at 2000 Bergen Street in Brooklyn where Barnet and Leah occupied the first floor of a three story building and Reuben and Bertha lived on the sec-

ond floor. This arrangement lasted from 1923 to about 1925 when Reuben and Bertha moved their family into larger quarters; Esther and her husband, Harry Musicant then took over the second floor. Harry and his father operated a lumber yard in Brooklyn until a fire, and Mr. Musicant's simultaneous death from unrelated causes, forced the closure of the business. Harry went on to manage a wood frame factory. Sadie married William Herman and moved to Newport News, Virginia whereas David graduated from New York University, married Lillian Meister and spent his career as a teacher and school administrator in New York City.

Circumstances never permitted Leah to visit her brother, nieces or nephews in Maine, but several of them made pilgrimages to see her. SAD recalled that her father requested that she visit his aunt in 1941, just prior to her death. Sylvia's knock on the door of the apartment in Brooklyn was answered by a tiny elderly woman who took one look at her and proclaimed in Yiddish, "*du bis from unser*" - "you are from ours." The only other recollection Sylvia had of their conversation was the Momme Leah's remark that "none of ours are ditch diggers." Indeed, the struggle to secure the opportunities denied by Russian legislation had been achieved in America.