

BLOOM FAMILY OF MAINE

(as told by Sylvia Bloom Covitz to Judy Bloom)

Adde and Annie Bloom came to Maine around 1900. Adde was born in Lithuania and immigrated to Hartford, CT as a teenager. Annie was also Lithuanian and came to New York City as a youngster. They lived in Rockland at first and their 3 sons, George Benjamin (Ben), Robert and Sam were born there. Adde worked as a painter and paperhanger and Annie was the proprietress of a paint supply store they ran from their home.

A relative told Adde about better opportunities in New York City so they moved to Brooklyn in the early 1910's. Unfortunately he was injured when paint from a ceiling he was painting splashed into his eye. Paint in those days contained lye and he was unable to work till the injury healed. Somehow word got back to the Rockland Jewish community and some friends traveled down to New York and convinced the family to return to Maine.

The family later moved to Pratt St. in Bath. Adde was one of the synagogue founders and Robert and Sam attended Edward Little High School where Sam excelled at discus throwing. By then sister Ethel had joined the family.

Their last Maine residence was in Auburn. Robert attended and graduated from Bates. Ben married Stella Bronstein and they moved to Boston. Their last child, Sylvia was born while they lived in Auburn. She's now the only sibling left and is 89 years old.

The family moved to Roxbury, MA during the depression where they owned a hardware store. They continued to socialize with other Maine Jewish families who also moved to Boston. These included the Shambans, Bellises, Gedimans, Charlie Siegel and Joe Shapiro. Sam married a Maine girl, Goldie Svetkey who unfortunately died giving birth.

Robert (Bob) was my dad. He taught school and later became a school principal in Boston. He passed away in 2001 and I know he kept many fond memories of his years in Maine. In fact, he had a short story published in "Down East" magazine telling of a Fourth of July celebration in his Maine childhood.