Introduction

This family history was created in 2004-2008 by Laurel Singer, and contains information gathered in the course of researching the family tree. The initial family tree was established in the 1970s by **Sylvia Liberman Harris** (working on the Liberman side) and by **Rebecca Singer Robinson**, **Eva Lelansky Gediman**, and **Golda Singer Sneider** (working on the Singer side). The individual family trees at that time were traced back to Jennie Liberman, Julius Singer (Yehuda Khazanovich) and Henry Levinson, and contained almost all the family members in subsequent generations who had been born as of that time.

Since the 1970s various family members, particularly Sylvia's daughter **Helen Harris**, added to the family tree, keeping it up to date. Helen also began recording family stories. **Jay Berger** interviewed Golda Singer Sneider, and Golda also provided information and stories to the *Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation*, and to the *Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine*.

In 1999-2005 Laurel Singer obtained copies of the existing trees and put the information into Family Tree Maker. Following the format of Family Tree Maker, she completed the gathering of standard information about everyone (e.g. filling in birth and death dates, occupations, locations, marriage dates). In the process she investigated and recorded the history of the family, including data gathered from census records, directories, birth and death records, etc. She discovered additional ancestors, tracing the family back three more generations.

This has been a family effort. Without their participation, this report would not have been possible. In addition, Helen Harris provided access to a scrapbook of photos of the Libermans, and these photos are used extensively in the family report. She also provided articles about the family, some of which were quoted. **Erle (Bucky) Rappaport** allowed the use of excerpts from his family's memoir *Growing Up in Rochester with Sam and Ida Rappaport*. Many people provided memories and stories that are quoted in the family report, or photos.

A huge THANK YOU goes to everyone who helped make this story possible.

From *Life Is with People: The Culture of the Shtetl:* "It is a standing joke, enjoyed as much by them as by others, that when Eastern European Jews meet, they will always try to establish some bond of relationship or residence – and that it is assumed they will usually succeed. First they find out whether the stranger is Jewish, then comes the question of country, then of province; next the shtetl. The ultimate tendency is to find common relatives. Once these data are established they feel secure. 'Among Jews one is never lost.'"

Notes Regarding This Version of the Family History

- Spelling of Hebrew and Yiddish names has been standardized, using the *Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names*, by Alexander Beider. A major change is that the "kh" replaces the "ch" in Russian/Yiddish surnames and given names, to represent a more accurate pronunciation. This same use of "kh" has been carried over to use that spelling alternative for Yiddish words (e.g. kheyder instead of cheddar; sokhet instead of sochet.)

- When showing an immigrant's original name, the Yiddish version is shown if it was available in records. If no records were found, the Hebrew name (from the Beider reference) is used. In the case of Yehuda Khazanovich, he is referred to by this Yiddish name, which was used by others in the family, even though his name on records is Yudl. The reason for this exception is to distinguish between him and his grandfather who was also named Yudl.

- Where Russian records are shown in their translated forms, they are shown with the spelling applied by the records translator, even though this disagrees with the Beider standards. This is so that you can see the original interpretation of the records translator. Russian records were written in the Cyrillic alphabet, and the same name may be translated in a variety of ways by different translators.

- Except where a Russian birth record was found, birth dates and ages for those who immigrated are unreliable.

- In reading the family report, the numbers that precede a person's name were generated by Family Tree Maker, and are meant to help you find the person in the report. (Names are in order by this number, within each generation.)

- When listing children, the plus sign indicates that there is more information later in the report. This is used where this child is married with their own children, or if there is other information to show about them. Where only the name and/or birth date is known, they may appear only as part of the parents' household, without the "+".

- The superscripts within a person's name represent the person's generation number.
    Note that the original report was generated before our earliest known ancestor, Yosl, was discovered. Therefore the numbering stars with the next generation, Yudl. Yosl is "generation zero."