

The Goldman Family Story

Jacob Goldman, born in 1874, arrived at Ellis Island in 1904, aboard the SS Vaderland via Antwerp. The family name in Russia was not Goldman, but rather Chayet. Jacob had four brothers and a sister. Before coming to the US, He was a clerk in the Tsar's army. He immigrated from Odesa, Ukraine, intending to join up with his brother, Mandel Chayet, at 198 Chestnut Street in Chelsea.

Mandel, known in America as Max, invented or borrowed the Goldman family name. Jacob did not travel alone. On board the SS Vaderland with him was Max's wife, Lizzy, recorded on the manifest as "Lise Chayet," age 24, from Streshin, Russia, en route to join her husband, Mendel, at 198 Chestnut Street. Max had paid for her passage.



Jacob and Gittel Goldman

By 1909, the first-floor apartment at 40 Bloomingdale Street in Chelsea was occupied by Jacob, identified as a tailor or "presser", and his wife Gittel, who had come to the US from Russia in 1902.

By 1912, Jacob and Gittel had four American-born children: Abraham (1904), Fannie (1905), Morris (1907), and Rosalyn (1912). Jacob became a citizen in 1913. His father, Louis Goldman, also lived at 40 Bloomingdale Street with his wife, Esther, and worked as a rubber sorter.

By 1917, Jacob and Gittel had moved across the street and were living on the first floor at 45 Bloomingdale Street. Jacob's brother, Max, and his family lived upstairs, and his brother, Morris, lived on the third floor. Eighteen Goldmans in all lived at 45 Bloomingdale Street between 1917 and 1920.

In 1930, Jacob and Gittel moved to 61A Washington Avenue, where Jacob opened a clothes-cleansing business. He and his family lived on the second floor, above the store. Living with them at 61A Washington Avenue were their son, Abraham, a tailor; their son, Morris, a salesman known as "Mossie"; and their daughters, Rosalyn and Fannie, known as Fan.

A coal stove in the kitchen heated their apartment; an ice chest refrigerated their perishable foods. When they required more of these basics, they would put a hand-printed sign in one of their street-facing windows stating how many columns of ice or how many pounds of coal they needed, and their coal-and-ice provider would fulfill the request.

Back then, Chelsea had two streetcar lines: one on Washington Avenue operated by the Middlesex Railway, and the other on Broadway, where the streetcars eventually gave way to trackless trolleys.

In 1932, the Goldmans' son Mossie married Ethel Talberth. In 1933, Ethel gave birth to Marty Goldman. Diagonally across the street from Jacob's clothes-cleansing business, on Chestnut Street, was an Orthodox shul that 6- or 7-year-old Marty attended with his grandfather. Jacob spoke only Yiddish, which made it difficult for Marty to communicate with him.

By 1933, the Goldmans' sons, Abraham and Morris, had been replaced at 61A Washington Avenue by Fan and her new husband (and half-cousin), Abe Supinsky, the son of antique dealer Sam Supinsky. Married in 1931, Abe and Fan lived in Philadelphia in 1932. Sam Supinsky, a cabinet maker, came to America in 1909, destined for Philadelphia to join his cousin, Max Schapinko. Sam's wife, Bessie, and their three children (Abe, Ida, and Ethel) followed six months later. Sam established a retail furniture and antiques business in Philadelphia, working with his son Abe. The family grew to include Freda, Harry, and Rose, in addition to Abe, Ida, and Ethel.



**The Goldman Family
Residence at 15
Crescent Avenue**

By 1940, Jacob had saved enough money to purchase a two-decker at 15 Crescent Avenue that had once been the residence of Chelsea's Mayor, Melvin Breath. Jacob moved his clothes-cleansing business to 92 Washington Avenue, a building directly across the street from the Washington Avenue entrance to Crescent Avenue. Living with Jacob and Gittel at 15 Crescent Avenue were their children, Abraham, Rosalyn, Fan, and Fan's husband, Abe, who, in 1936, had changed his surname from Supinski to Sterling.