

Yankl⁴ Khazanovich (Jacob Singer) (Yehuda³ Khazanovich, Moshe², Yudel¹) was born January 10, 1883 in Nemunaitis, Russia (now Lithuania), and died June 21, 1951 in Akron, OH. He married **Feyge Wasserman (Fannie Laura Waterman)** November 22, 1904 in Portland, ME. She was born January 18, 1886 in Russia, and died April 23, 1966 in Akron, OH.



Russian records show that the Khazanovich family had moved to Nemunaitis (in Yiddish, Nemoneitz) between 1835 and 1844. Yankl's father was born in the town in 1845, and continued to live in the town after his marriage, staying in the home of his father Moshe. At the time of his birth Yankl's Uncle Genokh also lived in the town, probably in the same household. Genokh's daughter Khaye Etl was born only two months prior or Yankl. Yankl also had older siblings Meyer, Sore and Mortke living at home. His brother Abram may have immigrated to America at about the time of his birth. His sister Ester had married and was probably living in the nearby town of Alytus when she immigrated in 1889.

Yankl's Aunt Sheyne may also have been living in Nemunaitis with her family at this time. Yankl would have been part of an extended family.

The following birth record was found for Yankl, showing that he had a twin, Faytl. Faytl apparently didn't survive to adulthood.

Child		Father		Mother	
Surname	Given Name	Given Name	Paternal Grandfather	Given Name	Maternal Grandfather
Khazanovich	Yankel	Yudel	Movsha	Golda	Iosel
Khazanovich	Faytel	Yudel	Movsha	Golda	Iosel

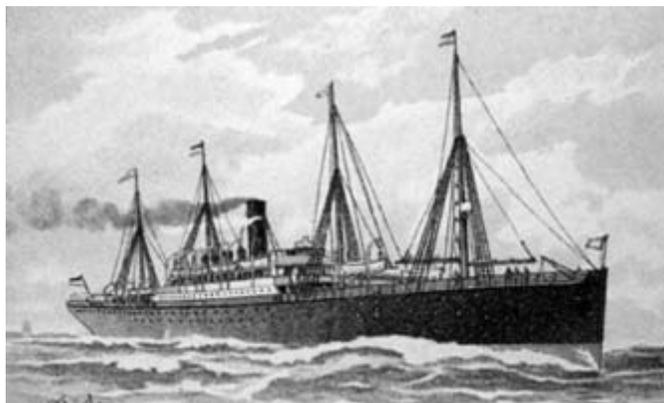
Date of Birth			Hebrew Calendar	Place of Birth Town	Comments
D	M	Y			
10	1	1883	14 Shevat	Nemunaitis	The child was a twin. Brit on 21 Shevat by Efraim GOTLIB.
10	1	1883	14 Shevat	Nemunaitis	The child was a twin. Brit on 21 Shevat by Efraim GOTLIB.

Probably within a few years of Yankl's birth, his family moved across the Nemunas River into Suwalki Province in Russian Poland, settling in the village of Miroslavas. Miroslavas was only 6 miles from Nemunaitis. It's possible that the move related to pogroms that were occurring in Russia from 1881-1884. Russian Poland may have seemed safer. Prior to WWI it was also called Slabada, which was probably its Yiddish name. The town's Polish name was Miroslaw.

Yankl's father traded in furs and had a tannery. His mother Golde, who had been born in the town of Merkine, was considered a wise woman in the community. It's not known that Yankl attended a yeshiva. He may have worked to help the family, as was common in the shtetl. He emigrated at the age of 14 with his sister Sore, leaving behind his parents, brother Fayvl and (temporarily) this brother Meyer. Boys emigrated for better opportunities, and to avoid military conscription at age 16.

According to Jay Berger, Jay's grandmother Sara had said that Jacob (Yankl) was her favorite sibling. This may have been in part related to their traveling to America together. In 1898 they traveled (probably by train) to Hamburg, and then to New York City on the ship Palatia. They arrived March 31, 1898. (See more about their journey in the section on The Immigration Experience.)

The Palatia was in service between 1893 and 1904 and had accommodation for 2500 third class passengers. It had four masts and one funnel. In 1904 it became part of the Russian Navy and was renamed the Nikolaieff. The Palatia's sister ships were the Patria and Phoenicia.

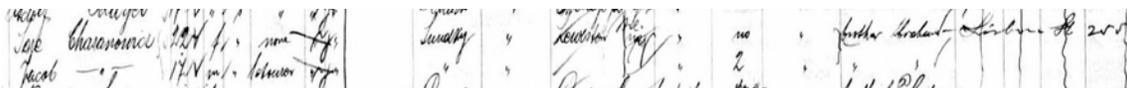


The Palatia

The ship manifest shows:

Sore Chasanowicz, age 22; single; no occupation; Russian; last residence Suwalky; Destination Lewiston, ME; by whom was passage paid: self; whether having money: no; whether joining a relative: brother Abraham, Lisbon St.

Jacob Chasanowicz, age 17; single; laborer; Russian; last residence Suwalky; Destination Lewiston, ME; by whom was passage paid: self; whether having money: 2 (dollars); whether joining a relative: brother Abraham, Lisbon St.



Note that after the family moved to Russian Poland, the family name was spelled with the Polish "wicz" ending, instead of the prior Russian "vich" seen in earlier records.

Jacob, though listed as age 17, was only 15 years old (b. 1883). "Suwalky" was the province of Suwalki. Miroslavas was in that province, and it was common for people to list the province in which they lived, rather than the town.

Also, though it says that the siblings paid their own passage, it is believed that their brother Abraham Singer, whom they were joining, had paid the passage. The notation "self" was not actually entered, but just dittoed for the entire page. Even though only 14, Jacob was in possession of all their money - \$2 (the equivalent of about \$50 in 2008).

Jacob Singer in America

In America Yankl Khazanowicz became Jacob Singer. The family story is that he started out as a "pack peddler" who carried goods from town into the countryside to sell them. This was a common occupation in the shtetl and for new immigrants. Jews had long been involved as middlemen, buying and reselling goods. (See more in the section Notes on Life in the Shtetl, Occupations.) According to the later article in the Board of Trade journal in Brunswick, he worked for two years in his "traveling dry goods business," saving money to open a store.

In 1900 he was living at the same address as his brother Abraham (and sister Sara), but listed separately on a different page of the census. He is listed at 39 Ash Street, born May 1881, age 19 (he was actually 17), single, born in Russia, parents born in Russia, immigrated in 1900, an alien, occupation "salesman, dry goods." He is shown as being able to read, write and speak English, and finally as renting.

39	Singer	Yankl	W	M	May	1881	19	S	Russia	Russia	Russia	1900	0	At	39 Ash St	0	0	English	R
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This birth year was apparently his best guess at that time. He used other dates on other documents. It could also be that someone else provided the information, or that Jacob's Yiddish accent caused the enumerator to make some mistakes.

Jacob started his own dry goods business in Brunswick soon thereafter, probably in 1901 or 1902, at age 18 or 19. According to an article about Clara Hennessey, a former employee, she had worked at a business called Libby's that closed in 1901 after just a few months of operation, and then became Singer Dry Goods. The article notes that Jacob moved into the 2-story building in Brunswick, at 50 Maine St., where he "carried a full line of dry, fancy and millinery goods."

However, this may have been the ad from the business opening, in which case it opened in March 1902:

"GO WAY BACK AND SIT DOWN!"
With High Prices!

COME ONE, COME ALL

To the Grand Opening of our New and very latest styles of Spring and Summer line of Ladies' and Children's **GARMENTS, HOSIERY, LINEN, LACES** and a full line of **FANCY DRY GOODS, ETC.**, which will take place at . . .

50 MAINE STREET, BRUNSWICK, NEXT TO THE JEPSCOT BANK

Where we will offer **GREAT BARGAINS** that this town and many miles around have never before offered. We have succeeded after a careful search for the latest styles, to place our Order with the most reliable and leading **Manufacturers** at our own cash price, which means a great saving to us in the price and this we are ready to share with our patronizers.

Our motto which is **QUICK SALES and SMALL PROFITS** will be executed to the full meaning of the words. Our Goods being made up at the most fashionable manufacturing place and every Garment is guaranteed to fit and of the best quality of Goods at a price that can't be beat. We Defy Competition

Would You Miss This Opportunity ?

Of course not! Remember the place and bring your friends. This Opening Sale is limited, therefore **Come Early and Avoid the Rush.**

 We also offer a souvenir of an imported Japanese Jewel Basket with a Bottle Cologne with every 98 cents worth of Goods purchased during the Sale

The Singer Dry Goods Co.,
50 MAINE STREET, BRUNSWICK, MAINE

In June of 1903 Abraham and Jacob took out a mortgage of \$3500 from Charles Whitney for the property in Brunswick at what would be 50 Maine Street, to be repaid in annual payments of \$700. They put down one dollar.

An article in the Board of Trade Journal dated November 1904 (left) noted that "his patronage is large," and ends with the statement, "Although he has been in Brunswick but five years he has earned for himself an enviable reputation of which he may well feel proud." According to his niece Rebecca Robinson, he lived in a very nice apartment above the store. The article noted that he owned the building, but Rebecca said that he had rented the building. The "five years" comment is also questionable, since the 1900 census showed Jacob living in Lewiston.

Jacob Singer.

The youngest business man in Brunswick is Jacob Singer, proprietor of the Singer Dry Goods Company at 50 Maine street. Mr. Singer came to this country from Russia when he was fifteen years old. He chose Lewiston as the starting point for his business career, and after two years of careful management of his traveling dry goods business, during which he traveled miles to supply his ready patrons, Mr. Singer saved enough to start him in the present enterprise. Two years ago he moved from his first quarters into his present two-story building, of which he is the owner.

Mr. Singer carries a full line of dry, fancy and millinery goods, and his patronage is large.

Mr. Singer was born in Russia in 1882, where he attended school. Although he has been in Brunswick but five years, he has earned for himself an enviable reputation of which he may well feel proud.

According to his niece Rebecca, Jacob had been a dashing young man and very successful in his business. (Jacob had blue eyes and blond hair, and was almost 6' tall.) He was known as being very kind, and Rebecca said that every Saturday night after paying his employees, he took them out for ice cream.



Jacob was 21 years old when he married Fannie Waterman in November 1904. (He lists his age as 23 on his marriage record.)

According to Rebecca Robinson, another woman named Sophie Mikelsky had taken an interest in Jacob when he was single, and Jacob might have married her, but Abraham's wife Minnie wanted Jacob to marry Fannie.

[The Mikelsky family lived in Bath, ME, where Sophie's father Isaac had 12 children and was listed as a "trader" in the 1900 census. In 1902 he was the manager of a store at 155 Front Street, and by 1905 he was the proprietor of a music store at that address. The family retained the business over the years and after the Mikelsky sons attended college and left Bath, Sophie and her sisters ran the business. By 1930 Isaac had retired and Sophie (Sophia) was listed as the owner Mikelsky's Music Store, then at 168 Front Street in Bath. The store also sold jewelry. Her three sisters worked in the store as clerks and they all lived with Isaac. Sophie died in 1964. The Mikelsky family story is that theirs was the first Jewish family to settle in Bath, and Sophie was the

reason. While the family was returning to Maine from a failed business venture in Philadelphia, Sophie developed a bad case of croup. They stopped in Bath to take care of her. Friendly town residents convinced them to stay.]

Fannie was thought to be prettier, and considered to be from a well off family, because she lived with her sister Thressa Waterman Bernstein, and the Bernstein Brothers owned a clothing store and a jewelry store in Portland. Rebecca said this was important to Minnie. Apparently Jacob was won over.

Fannie wore her sister Thressa's wedding dress, and as of 2004 dress was in the possession of Thressa's granddaughter Ruth Frank, who lives in Jerusalem.

Their wedding was announced in the newspaper as follows:

Singer-Waterman

Tuesday evening at Wilson's dancing academy in Portland Jacob Singer of Brunswick and Miss Fanny Waterman were united in marriage in the presence of about 200 relatives and friends. The ceremony was performed at 8 o'clock by Rabbi Weinstein [listed as Feinstein on the marriage record], assisted by Rev. Glassman. The bride was given away in marriage by her brother-in-law J.S. Bernstein. The bride was gowned in a white tulle dress trimmed with gold spangles and carried a bouquet of pinks and roses. She also wore a handsome diamond necklace, the gift of the groom.

The maid of honor was Miss Pauline Bernstein. Miss Bernstein wore a pink silk dress and carried a bouquet of pinks. The best man was Ellis Waterman, a brother of the bride.

The ushers were Morris Waterman, Samuel Sacknoff, John Draker and Sol Soloway of Portland; Samuel Leavitt of Fall River, Mass.; Mitchell Fitzner of New York and Samuel Magdad of East Boston.

After the ceremony a supper was served in the banquet hall under the direction of a committee composed of Messrs. J. S. Bernstein, Mr. Waterman, Harry Stein, Miss Blumenthal, Miss Lena Levinsky and Philip Livensky.

During the evening music for dancing was furnished by the Fort Williams military band. Prizes for the best dancers were awarded to Master Harry Stein and Lena Levinsky.

Ninety-five telegrams and letters of congratulations were read during the dancing, from relatives and friends in different states of the Union.

After a brief wedding trip to New York and as far west as St. Louis, Mr. and Mrs. Singer will take up their residence in Brunswick, where Mr. Singer is engaged in business.

Among the out of town guests in attendance were: Mr. and Mrs. A. Singer, Mr. and Mrs. M. Singer, Mr. and Mrs. Silverman, Mr. and Mrs. Feldman, Mr. and Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Jane Kurtz, all of Lewiston; Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Waterman, Bangor; Mr. and Mrs. Mack, Brunswick; Mr. Mitchell Fitzer, Troy, N. Y.; Mr. Samuel Maggett, Boston.



Cumb. 1904
[Record Continued].
GROOM'S FATHER AND MOTHER.

Father's Name Judee Singer
 " Residence Russia
 " Color W
 " Occupation Mill owner & Supt
 " Birthplace Russia
 Mother's Name Hedda L. Singer
 " Residence Russia
 " Color W
 " Occupation Housewife
 " Birthplace Russia

BRIDE'S FATHER AND MOTHER.

Father's Name S. E. Waterman
 " Residence Bangor, Me.
 " Color W
 " Occupation Teacher
 " Birthplace Russia
 Mother's Name Sarah G. Libman
 " Residence Portland, Me.
 " Color W
 " Occupation
 " Birthplace Russia

STATE OF MAINE.

I hereby certify that the above marriage record is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Harry W. Sinclair
 Clerk of Portland, Me.

RECORD OF A MARRIAGE.

Groom Jacob Singer
 Bride Fannie S. Waterman
 Residence of Groom Brunswick, Me.
 " Bride Portland, Me.
 Age of Groom 23
 " Bride 18
 Color of Groom W
 " Bride W
 Occupation of Groom Merchant
 " Bride
 Birthplace of Groom Russia
 " Bride Russia
 No. of Marriage of Groom 1st
 " Bride 1st
 Groom Widowed or Divorced N
 Bride " " " N
 Intention Filed 15 November 1904
 By whom Married Rabbi S. M. Feinstein
 Residence Portland, Me.
 Official Station* Rabbi
 Date of Marriage 22nd November 1904
 Place Portland, Me.
 *Clergyman, Justice of the Peace, etc.

*Record continued over.

According to the marriage certificate, above, Jacob lists his father as "Judee Singer" and his occupation as "mill owner and Supt." It is unclear why he was listed with this occupation. (He actually owned a tannery. See more on his father Yehuda in that section.)



Rebecca Robinson said that initially Jacob and Fannie lived in a nice apartment above Jacob's store, where Maurice was born. Apparently marrying an attractive girl paid off in one area, -- Rebecca's mother Bessie said that she hated to admit it, but Jacob's babies were prettier than hers. (!) She thought Maurice was the "handsomest baby in Brunswick."

Rebecca said that Jacob had been doing very well in business before he married, but that afterwards he had money problems.

Rebecca said that when Fannie and Jacob moved out of the apartment, the landlady was so upset with the mess they left behind that she boxed up everything in a wooden crate and mailed it to Fannie and Jacob. Perhaps this was related to Fannie's aristocratic origins in Bialystok, and lack of training in

how to take care of a house and family, or her expectation of having servants. There was a story that relatives from Bialystok visited at one time, but were disappointed by the lack of servants in America, so returned to Bialystok.

In August 1905 another deed appears in which Jacob Singer and his brother-in-law Bennett Berger passed on the 50 Maine Street property in Brunswick (noted above as purchased in 1903) to Telesphore LaPointe, another dry goods merchant. It isn't clear how Bennett was connected to the store. We do know that when the Bergers' third child, Edward (Isaac), was born in Brunswick November 8, 1905, it showed Bennett as a merchant, living in Brunswick. But he may have left Brunswick soon thereafter. (The family story is that Bennett eventually left Brunswick because of financial issues.)

OPENING
o SATURDAY o
New Store! New Goods!

Large Line of
**Cloaks and
 Garments,**
 Furs, Waists, Petticoats, Trimmed Hats, Children's Garments, Etc., at

178 Front Street
 UNDER COLUMBIA THEATRE
 Most desirable goods at VERY LOW Prices. Come in and see the bargains.
J. SINGER
 Branch of the Singer Dry Goods Co. of Brunswick.

In December 1905 Jacob opened a second dry goods business in Bath (see ad). It's not clear how long this business lasted.

The 1906-1907 Maine Register still lists Jacob as "J. Singer" with a Dry and Fancy goods business in Brunswick.

Rebecca said that after Pauline was born in 1907, the family moved to Market Lane so that the children could have more room. Rebecca wrote that at Market Lane her family "lived on the first floor and he and his family resided above us."

According to Rebecca, Abraham arranged for his brother Max to take over Jacob's store, and told Jacob to take a position as Max's employee. Jacob may have filed for bankruptcy. Rebecca said Abraham's motivation was that he wanted his brother Max to leave Lewiston so that there wouldn't be two Singers running dry goods businesses there. Jacob and Fannie subsequently left town with their family, and apparently Jacob rarely spoke of Abraham afterwards. (Jacob's son Maurice was unaware that he had an

Uncle Abraham until traveling to Maine in the 1970s, long after Jacob's death.)

What caused the bankruptcy (if there was one)? Jacob was only 18 or 19 years old when he opened his business and 23 or 24 when Max took over this store. It appears that he ran the businesses with little capital (\$1 down) and (based on the newspaper ads) an extensive inventory. Both Abraham and Bennett Berger, both older men, seemed to have some hand in the ownership. There were many reasons that the businesses could have failed.

Rebecca recalled that Jacob and Fannie left Brunswick in 1907, the year that Jacob's second child Pauline was born. The 1910 census shows the family living in Rumford, Maine, which is about 40 miles northwest of Lewiston. Their address is 226 Pine St. Jacob is listed as the proprietor of a grocery store. Why Rumford? According to Wikipedia, "Much of the mill town was built in the spurt of prosperity at the turn-of-the-century." It may have seemed to offer great opportunity at the time.

Frank	son	1870	10	11	Maurice	son	1870	10	11	Frank	son	1870	10	11
Anna	daughter	1870	10	11	Anna	daughter	1870	10	11	Anna	daughter	1870	10	11
Francis	son	1870	10	11	Francis	son	1870	10	11	Francis	son	1870	10	11
Maurice	son	1870	10	11	Maurice	son	1870	10	11	Maurice	son	1870	10	11
Pauline	daughter	1870	10	11	Pauline	daughter	1870	10	11	Pauline	daughter	1870	10	11

At some point Fannie's mother Sarah lived with them there. She is shown there in the 1912 Rumford directory (which may have been compiled the year before).

Waterman Sarah, wid Bernard, bds 226 Pine

Rumford:



Apparently the Rumford business wasn't successful, and by 1912 the family had moved to Akron, Ohio, where Jacob planned to work in the rubber factories. However, he ended up going back to peddling and eventually had a fruit market. The family stayed in Ohio and Jacob and Fannie both lived out their lives in Akron.

Jacob's obituary read in part:

Jacob Singer, 70, of 861 Packard Dr, who had been in the retail produce business at Bowery and W. Bartges streets for years until his retirement 10 years ago, died today in City Hospital after a long illness.

Born in Poland, Mr. Singer came to this country in 1896 and to Akron from Brunswick, Me., 42 years ago. He was a member of the Anshe Sfard Congregation. He was one of the first produce dealers in Akron to use a horse and wagon in his business.

Services will be held at 4:30 p.m. today in the Kesler funeral Home. Burial will be in Sandy Hill Cemetery.

(He was actually 67, born in Russia and arrived in Akron about 40 years prior.) He was buried in Anshe Sfard Cemetery, Akron, OH

The inscription on Jacob's tombstone reads, in Hebrew:

Our beloved father, Yakov son of Yehuda. Died on the 13th of Sivan
5711 [June 17, 1951]. May his soul be bound up in the bonds of everlasting life.



Maurice and Bernard



Maurice and Pauline



Maurice, Pauline, Bernard

Children of Jacob Singer and Fannie Waterman are:

- + i. Maurice Henry⁵ Singer, born September 07, 1905 in Brunswick, ME; died November 04, 1990 in Akron, OH.
- + ii. Pauline Eunice Singer¹⁵⁹, born January 25, 1907 in Brunswick, ME¹⁵⁹; died September 09, 1997 in Willowick, OH. She married Bill Finkel between 1929 - 1930^{160,161}; born June 10, 1908; died July 1983 in Akron, OH.
- + iii. Bernard Sanders Singer, born April 19, 1912; in Akron, OH, and died September 06, 1984 in Los Angeles County, California.

Compiled and researched by Laurel Singer

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