

## JACOB DANIEL MANDELBAUM

by R. Grayson

Jacob Daniel Mandelbaum, son of Aaron and Lena Mandelbaum, was born September 15, 1877 according to the records of the Grand Secretary of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the state of Illinois. Their files show that he was raised in Prudence Lodge No. 958 on August 30, 1918 and died a member of good standing of that lodge on February 13, 1955.

Jacob (Jake) was the 5th and youngest living child of Aaron and Lena, the 6th, a daughter, having died in infancy and the mother Lena, having died in confinement, March 13th, 1884 when Jake was but 6½ years of age. Jake's other sisters at the time of the mother's death were Emma, age 15; Hanna, age 13; Rosa, age 11, and Irene, age 9. Their father, Aaron was 44 and never remarried. Jake and all his sisters were born in Illinois according to the 1880 census of Dyer, Indiana. Inasmuch as there is no record of them having lived outside of Chicago before going to Dyer, it is assumed that all were born in the city of Chicago.

According to Sylvia, his daughter, Jake left school to support himself and to run away to his uncle Solomon Mandelbaum in Nebraska by "hitch Hiking" on a grain. Bernice stated that Jacob quit school after the 4th grade and went to Nebraska. He loved it there and would tell his children later how he rode a horse bareback on a farm. Solomon Mandelbaum's son, also a Jacob Mandelbaum was tall and known as Big Jake from the country. Big Jake visited the Mandelbaum family in Chicago many times at the home above the hardware store on Lincoln Avenue. Big Jake, the 1st cousin of our Jacob D. Mandelbaum, was born to Solomon and Adaline (nee Weinberg) Mandelbaum about 1871 in Illinois (no doubt Chicago) according to the 1885 census of Webster county, Nebraska. Therefore, Big Jake was about 16 six years old when little Jake was born in 1877. Solomon and Adaline had only one other child, Carrie, born about 1870, who married Sam Grabschied of Pipestone, Minn. Adaline, age 62, wife of Solomon, died September 28, 1912, at her home, 4827 Harrison Street, Kansas City. Solomon Mandelbaum died at age 81 at the same home address in Kansas City on March 1st, 1924. According to the death certificate, his son Jacob was still living at the same home address at the time.

It is probable that Jacob D. Mandelbaum returned to Chicago by 1888 at the age of 10, although it is not known whether he went to Nebraska before or after the age of 10. The clue to this is the 1888 Chicago city Directory which lists a Jacob Mandelbaum as a student at the Bryant & Stratton Chicago Business College. Perhaps that is too advanced a school for our Jacob and the listing refers to his uncle, Jacob Mandelbaum, the brother of Aaron. The uncle would have been about 36 years old in 1888; perhaps he went to school to learn the real estate business.

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At any rate, Jaske did go to night school and studied mechanical drawing. By the time he was 13 he lived in a boarding house, had a good job, and was completely self supporting, according to Bernice. At the age of 16, in 1893, he was listed as a "machinist", living ("boards") at 48 Hastings street, Chicago, the same address as his father Aaron Mandelbaum, who was listed as a salesman.

Early in the year 1899 Jacob D. Mandelbaum, age 21, married Estella Hambujer (Hamburg, Hamburger), daughter of Ephraim and Annie, who had moved from Detroit to Chicago in 1890. Stella had been born in Detroit December 19, 1881, the youngest of 11 children. She was 17 years old when she married. Their first child, Anna Leah, was born the 10th of December 1899. Ann married Jacob Joseph Lans, born 1889 in Kiev, the Ukraine, U.S.S.R. (died 1964, Pasadena, Calif.). They had two children: Sherman Bennet Lans, born Feb. 3, 1923, married Joan Olive Selwood, born Feb. 27, 1927, London, England; and Elizabeth (Betty), born Jan. 19, 1924, married 1st William Edward Davies March 24, 1946; second, David Abraham Kahn, (b. Oct. 13, 1916) married March 26, 1970.

Apparently Jake had started his first store before he married. According to a news clipping from October 1939, he started a "lock shop" which later became a bicycle shop at the space where Wiebolt's store is now at Lincoln and Belmont Avenues. "When Jacob Mandelbaum, the hardware merchant, came to Lincoln Avenue ....in 1897 in that place, he paid only \$8.00 a month rent."

Stella had lived at 3250 Lincoln Avenue in a four-room flat over a candy store, as a young girl, according to another news clipping. "Her parents were offered the house and lot for \$2,500 and they paid only \$6.00 a month rent." This address is where the Bond Clothing store was at the time of the news article.

The hardware store on the corner of Lincoln and Newport that the children and grandchildren all remember so well was at 3430 Lincoln Avenue and the phone number was L.V. 5551, according to a 1939 newspaper advertisement. (Jake advertised: "Serving This Community for 41 years. Mandelbaum's Hardware. J.D. Mandelbaum, prop. Everything in Hardware Tools and Paints.")

Theresa, the second daughter of Jake and Stella was born 14 months after Ann, Feb. 10, 1901. She married Bernard (Barney) Lewis. Their only child was Flora Estelle Lewis, born Dec. 21, 1924 in Chicago. Flora married Frank Henry Yaffe of St. Louis, Mo., born March 17, 1921.

The third daughter of Jake and Stella was Sylvia, born April 27, 1905, married on June 1st 1924, to Roland Howard Grayson, of Chicago, born April 15, 1903, in Indianapolis, Ind. Their children were: Richard Roland Grayson, b. Oct. 21, 1925, mrd. Gertrude June Lind, b. June 2, 1925; Patricia Vivian Grayson, b. Aug. 21, 1927; & Priscilla Rose Grayson, mrd. b. Dec. 24, 1940. Pat mrd. Robert Jebavy, b. June 5, 1925; Priscilla mrd. Roger Rutter, b. Feb. 3, 1935.

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The 4th and last child of Jake and Stella was Bernice, born Oct. 21st, 1910, in Chicago. Bernice married Michel Robert Beck, born 1900 in Russia, died Chicago Feb. 19, 1952. Their children are Michel Dimitry Beck, born Nov. 24, 1938, mrd. Gail \_\_\_\_\_; Nicholas David Beck, b. Sept. 21, 1942; and Bonnie Susan Beck, b. Dec. 14, 1945, mrd. \_\_\_\_\_ Mullen.

"Aunt" Nora Coughlin was the housekeeper of this family for 53 years, according to Anna Leah, and she was so loved that she was regarded as a member of the family. She was a strict Catholic and it "never bothered Nora when Gram observed any Jewish holidays...Gram would buy her fish on Fridays and during Lent." Nora lived to a very advanced age with Stella in California.

The Lincoln-Belmont-Ashland Business Association, still a going concern, was formed in 1902 by three men, according to an old newspaper clipping. They were Jacob D. Mandelbaum, Charles Siegler, and Dr. Christian Keller, an optometrist. Dr. Keller had his office above the store of Roland Grayson on Lincoln Avenue and Jake's hardware store was across the street. Dr. Keller's son, by coincidence, now an old man, is an optometrist in St. Charles, Ill., the home of the author of this biography.

In January of 1945 the Lincoln-Belmont Booster newspaper announced that Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Mandelbaum, "owners of the Mandelbaum hardware store, 3430 North Lincoln, have sold the business to Bill Schmieg and will go in for fishing, loafing, and general leisurely living." The sale of the business occurred on Jan. 6th, 1945, after 46 years in the hardware business and 46 years of marriage. "Cheery Mr. Mandelbaum, who doesn't look his 68 years, says, 'We're both in good health so we're going to quit now and enjoy life. My wife has helped me with the business all these years ~~now~~ and, by gosh, she deserves a rest and some fun.' They then "took it easy at their home address, 1325 Newport."

Ten years later, Feb. 13, 1955, Jake died. Betty Lans Kahn saw him a few days before he died in the hospital. He told her what his favorite poem was and asked her if she would like to hear it. She said yes, and he recited it completely. The poem is beautiful. It is Abou Ben Adhem, by James Henry Leigh Hunt. From "One Hundred and One Famous Poems," 1924. See appendix for complete poem.

Jake was 77½ years old. He died leaving 4 children, 9 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren, according to his obituary in the Feb. 15, 1955 Chicago Tribune. He was given a Masonic burial by his nephew Daniel Maerker, and was interred initially at Ridgelawn cemetery, Chicago, then permanently at Hollywood Memorial Park Cemetery, Los Angeles, Calif.

Stella lived another 13 years. She died aged 86 on Feb. 7, 1968, in Los Angeles, Calif., and is buried at the side of Jacob in the Hollywood Memorial Park Cemetery.

ABOU BEN ADHEM

by James Henry Leigh Hunt

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)  
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,  
And saw within the moonlight in his room,  
Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,  
An angel writing in a book of gold:  
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,  
And to the Presence in the room he said,  
"What writest thou?" The Vision raised its head,  
And with a look made of all sweet accord  
Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord,"  
"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"  
Replied the Angel. And spoke more low,  
But cheerily still; and said, "I pray thee, then,  
Write me as one that loves his fellow-men."

The Angel wrote, and vanished. The next night  
It came and with a great wakening light,  
And showed the names whom love of God had blessed,  
And lo, Ben Adhem's name led all the rest!