

LENA MANDELBAUM
wife of Aaron

by R. Grayson

It has been a family tradition, not previously proven, that LENA MANDELBAUM, wife of Aaron, and mother of Emma, Hannah, Rosa, Irene, and Jacob, was a first cousin to Aaron and that her maiden name was Mandelbaum also.

This tale has been of particular interest because a discovery of Lena's family origins clearly would assist in tracing more relatives and ancestors. A new documentation of Lena's kin has just come to light which is of great interest.

The reader will recall that Aaron M and Simon Mandelbaum were the first two Mandelbaums listed in the Chicago City Directory. The year was 1865. It is known that Aaron was born in 1837 and died in 1926 (see his biography). Simon Mandelbaum, according to the inscription on his gravestone at the Free Sons of Israel Cemetery was born in Gehaus Sachsen, W. Germany Dec. 21, 1836, and died Jan. 17, 1890.

The Estate papers of Simon Mandelbaum have been discovered on file in the Probate Court of Cook County, Ill. They were filed Jan. 20, 1890. A bond was signed by Rosa Mandelbaum, his widow, of 1707 Wabash Ave., Aaron L. Weil, and Julius Stern. The most interesting of the estate papers is the Table of Heirship. The following names are listed as "Only Next of Kin":

- "1. ROSA MANDELBAUM, Widow.
- "2. Emma Mandelbaum, Hannah Mandelbaum, Rosa Mandelbaum, Irene Mandelbaum, and Jacob Mandelbaum, only surviving children and heirs at law of LENA MANDELBAUM, wife of AARON MANDELBAUM, who was a sister of said SIMON MANDELBAUM and who died in the lifetime of said Simon Mandelbaum.
- "3. JENNIE FINKELSTEIN, widow of Maurice Finkelstein, deceased,
...sister
- "4. SOLOMON MANDELBAUM...brother
- "5. ROSA KOBLENTZER, wife of Adoph Koblentzer...sister
- "6. JULIA MANDELBAUM...half sister."

The above document clearly shows that Lena was a Mandelbaum before marriage and that she was a sister to Jennie Finkelstein who was the mother, incidentally, of Mame and Belle Finkelstein, and the step mother to Jacob and Phil Solomon. (Gerald and Helen are children of Jacob and Phil lived with Rosa Mandelbaum, sister of Jacob D. Mandelbaum.)

The Solomon Mandelbaum above is the second Solomon listed frequently as living or working with Simon in the City Directory and is not the same Solomon Mandelbaum as the brother of Aaron who went to Nebraska.

It is clear also, that Simon, Lena, et al. are from a Mandelbaum whose name we do not know, and who probably is a brother to Aaron's father Daniel Mandelbaum. David Mandelbaum, father of Sarah (Joel), Isaac (Ike), Benjamin F., Dora (Unger), and others, is a third brother in the generation of Daniel. That is, there was the line started by Daniel, the line started by David, and the line started by the father of Simon and Lena and Jennie.

Simon Mandelbaum's widow married a Mr. Wald by 1892 according to the estate papers. Perhaps some one will remember an Aunt Rose Wald. Or an aunt Rosa Koblentzer.

Simon, who was ⁴4 at death, and Rosa apparently left no children.

Simon and Jennie were uncle and aunt to Jacob if it is true that Lena was the first cousin of Aaron. Therefore, Simon might be the Uncle Simon of Jake the family recalls as taking the Amethyst ring of Lena's in on pawn at one time. Simon had a cigar shop, however, not a pawn shop. The assets of the store at 1734 Wabash Ave. included a stock of cigars, stationery, and fancy notions.

LENA MANDELBAUM, wife of Aaron and sister of Simon, according to her gravestone at Free Sons Cemetery, was born Oct. 10, 1839 and died March 13, 1884. The cemetery records list the cause of death as "confinement." The 1880 census of Dyer, Ind., listed her birthplace as Sachsen, Germany. (Saxony.) No doubt the town was Gehaus, the same as listed on the gravestones of her bother Simon and her uncle David.

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