



Philip Hauben
(1880-1942)

Bertha (Lantz) Hauben
(1883-1935)

Golda, Mindel and Mindel's husband



Golda, Mindel and Mindel's husband

Mac

Sidney

Louis

Sammy

Murray



Philip

Esther

Bertha

A Little Hauben Genealogy for TG 2020

Hello, nice to see you all at this Hauben Family and Friends TG celebration, even if it is only virtual.

I am Jay Hauben. I am the second son of Sidney and Beatie Hauben. They were both born in NYC. I am the grandson of Philip and Bertha Hauben, both from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. And the great grandson of Yoshea and Golda Hauben who lived in the Austrian province of Galicia.

I want to briefly tell you about my Hauben grandparents and then look back to where they came from and how and when these Jewish people got the German name Hauben.

My grandfather Philip came to America by steamship around 1898 with his brother Joe. Philip was likely 18 years old and Joe 16. At Ellis Island, the inspectors got Philip's name correct Hauben but they wrote Houben for Joe. They came here from Galicia, at that time a province of Austria. They brought their sister Sarah to NYC from Austria but the rest of their family stayed

there. My Uncle Louis told me his father Philip started selling bananas on a push cart but eventually sold fruits and vegetables using a horse drawn cart. the horse's name was Charlie.

Philip met and married Bertha Lantz who had come to America from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, not from Austria but from Hungary. Bertha and Philip had 5 sons and a daughter, starting with Maxwell, my Uncle Mac in 1908. As her sons grew up, Bertha played baseball with them and I was told rooted for the Yankees.

Sadly, just as her sons started to get married, my grandmother died. It was around 1935. She was 52 years old and died from asthma. It was a great tragedy especially for Philip. To honor her and keep her name alive, Mac and Betty named their daughter Barbara. So did Sammy and Mary. Murray and Pauline named their second son Robert. Lou and Dora named their daughter Bonnie. Milton and Esther named their first son Bob. And my parents gave me the middle name Robert. My first name, Jay, is to keep the name of great Uncle Joe Houben alive.

Seven years later, in 1942, Philip died. Soon, in his honor, my sister and cousins were named Phyllis, Pamela and Peter.

Many years later, I asked my Uncle Louis where in Europe did his parents come from? He told me. as a teenager, he took letters from his parents to be mailed to their families to a post office. Letters from his father Philip were addressed to Strzyzow, Galicia, Austria. Letters to his mother Bertha's family were addresses to Kisvarda, Hungary. I looked these up. Strzyzow is a small town, what was called a shtetl. About the time Philip and Joe left it had about 2000 people half Jewish, half gentile. Kisvarda is a small town in NE Hungary. The name means "Little Castle". Very sadly just about all the Jews who were living in these two towns in the early 1940s perished in the Holocaust. We know this because the few who survived gave testimony about those they knew who were killed. Among those murdered were Philip's brothers Lipa and Abba Hauben and their families, except for Lipa's daughter Pnina who added the names of her father, sisters and brothers and of her uncle to the book of the dead.

What about my great grandparents, Philip's parents Yoshea and Golda? They died long before the Holocaust. My father Sidney was born in 1915. He was likely named after Yoshea as were Sidney Houben and Sylvia Libert. Likely, Goldie Libert was named after Golda.

But how did our Hauben ancestors get to Strzyzow and when and how did they get the name Hauben?

Just briefly, a little history. The Austrian Empire had been expanding in the 1600s and 1700s. The Imperial Army was sent to the borders as the empire expanded. Austria encouraged its citizens to move as settlers to the provinces. In 1772, Poland was divided with Galicia becoming a large province of Austria and stayed that way until 1918.

In 1787, the Holy Roman Emperor, Joseph II issued an Edict that compelled Jews to adopt German surnames. I heard from Haubens in Belgium that they had traced their Hauben ancestors back to tradesmen who accompanied the Austrian Army when it came and stayed in the Low Countries. Their ancestors were armor and helmet makers and they were compelled to take the name Hauben corresponding with their trade as head piece makes, Haube is an old word meaning

head piece. This is confirmed by the practice at the time of mandating Jews to take for surnames the German name of the city of their origin or their trade.

I am coming to the end. We are the Haubens, likely descended from craftsmen who served the Austrian Army in the 18th Century in Galicia, what is now Poland.

But, there is a problem. All the tracing I did until now was using the name Hauben. How could we trace our family further back in time when they did not have the name Hauben before about 1790? I hope someone will find a way to solve this problem and we can learn more about our ancestors.

Thanks for your attention and happy thanksgiving despite this pandemic, but stay safe.

Hauben Family Webpage:

https://www.ais.org/~jrh/hauben_family/

My email address:

hauben@columbia.edu