

The Sol Shatz Family

[From Sam Baum Papers - Recorded in 1950 as dictated by Sol Shatz]

Sol Shatz was born September 17, 1865 in Pelevisky, Poland. He died September 5, 1955. He married Flora Marks of the same city August 16, 1885. She was born ----- -- 1866 (died April 13, 1923). They came to America in 1886. Upon arriving in New York, they stayed with friends a few days and then came to Jackson, Tennessee and stayed with her brother, Philip Marks, 140 W. Deaderick Ave. Later, they settled in Jackson for about two years where Mr. Shatz went to night school in order to learn to speak the English language. Within two years he secured his citizenship papers and became an American citizen.

To this union was born ten children, nine of which are now living. One died in infancy at age of 4 months and 4 days. The children that are living is as follows:

Sam L. Shatz, born July 14, 1886, Jackson, Tennessee

Abe Shatz, born December 25, 1887, Toon Station, Tennessee

Louie Shatz, born July 8, 1889, Medina, Tennessee

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Sadie Shatz, born October 3, 1892, Medina, Tennessee

Bessie Shatz, born August 8, 1894, Medina, Tennessee

Gertie Shatz, born March 1, 1896, Jackson, Tennessee

Dave Shatz, born July 1, 1898, Jackson, Tennessee

Lillian Shatz, born October 10, 1899, Jackson, Tennessee

Joe Shatz, born April 22, 1901, Jackson, Tennessee

After arriving in this state his first venture into any sort of business he started by peddling merchandise throughout the country house to house. After a very few months he gave this up and moved to Toon Station, Tennessee, a small place not far from Jackson, remaining there less than a year. He went from there to Hatchie, another small town in partnership there with Joe Marks. He only lived there about a year when he lost his business on account of a fire. He moved from there to Medina, Tennessee, where he

remained about ten years in the general merchandise business. At that time, their residence burned down with all of its contents, same being a total loss. Not having any living quarters, he moved his family and business back to Jackson and went into partnership with Joe and Sam Rosenbloom at 203 N. Market Street, and at the same time he operated a small cigar factory at 218 ½ E. Lafayette Street, which wasn't profitable. A few years afterwards he sold his interest in the mercantile business and moved to the small town of Kenton, Tennessee. In 1905 he suffered a total loss of his [word missing] by a fire. In a short while he went back into business by forming a stock company under the name of "Shatz Co.," as which it remains to this day. At the same time in 1910 he opened a small produce business under the name of Shatz Bros. with my three oldest sons, Sam L. Shatz, Abe Shatz, and Louie Shatz. This produce business is still in operation to this day in the same location.

Sol Shatz was one of the first to own and operate a cotton gin in Obion County. As years passed and their business grew, the junior partners and their father branched out into farming and livestock. Then they established their first branch store in Union City, Tennessee in 1915 under the direction of J. L. Shatz, who was called into the armed services in 1918 in World War I, serving as a "supply sergeant" in the States and overseas. After the Armistice, he was held overseas in the army of occupation. At the outbreak of World War I, this business was taken in charge by Dave Shatz at the age of 18, who at the time was called out of school at the University of Tennessee and remained in charge of this unit.

In January 1921 another unit was opened in the name of Shatz and Byer, (a son-in-law Sam H. Byer of Webb, Mississippi) a gent's clothing store at Union City. This store was still in operation at this writing in 1950.

In 1924 the second Shatz Bros. unit was opened in Martin, Tennessee, with Joe Shatz, the junior member of the family, took over and another unit was opened in Mayfield, Kentucky in 1925 under the direction of J. Louie Shatz. This business still continues to this date under the [remainder indecipherable].

In 1929 a unit was opened in Hickman, Kentucky under the direction of a daughter, Mrs. Max Scher. This business still continues to operate in the same location, but under different management.

In 1936 a unit was opened in Dyer, Tennessee with a son-in-law, Sam Lox in charge. In 1940 he moved to Flat River, going into business for himself. The Dyer unit remained in operation until 1946, when it was sold to a local person.

In 1945 a branch was opened at Union City, Tennessee with all of the Shatz family enterprises being interested.

The first of the children to marry was Sam L. Shatz, to Yetta Herwitz of Indianapolis, Indiana, January 2, 1916. To this union was born two sons, Sydnor Shatz and Mark Floyd Shatz. Both saw service in World War II, Sydnor in the Navy on a mine layer named Mintanoah, which struck a mine and was blown up. In this he was presented the Purple Heart serving as Lt. Jr. Grade.

Mark served in the Infantry. He was in the Belgian Bulge. During the extreme cold weather he was taken very ill and was returned to the States; later he was given a discharge. He married Gladys Walderman of New Orange, New Jersey, September 1, 1947.

Abe Shatz, the second son, still lives in Kenton, Tennessee, unmarried. He was in World War I.

Louie Shatz, who served in World War I, married Leona Landauer of St. Louis, Missouri April 27, 1924. Born to this union was one daughter, Florine Shatz, now married to Tom Boaz of Mayfield, Kentucky.

The oldest daughter, Sadie, was married to Sam H. Byer of Webb, Mississippi, formerly of Louisville, Kentucky, January 30, 1921. They have one daughter, Phyllis Byer, married to Lawrence H. Blum of Beaumont, Texas September 4, 1949. He is an English teacher in East Texas Teacher's State College of Commerce, Texas.

The second daughter, Bessie, married Isadore Altman of Cincinnati, Ohio, July 6, 1919. They have two children, a son and a daughter. The son, Robert Louis Altman, is married to a Pennsylvania girl. The daughter, Sally May Altman, lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The third daughter, Gertie, was married February 24, 1923, to Sam Lax [could possibly be Lox] of Greenwood, Mississippi. They have one son, Albert --- Lax, now serving in the Army of today, 1950.

Lillian Shatz, who was first married (later divorced) to Max Schor of Louisville, Kentucky, is now married to Martin Tohrner of Franklin, Tennessee, in August 1947. They have no children.

Joe, the youngest of the children, was married to Mildred Strauss of Brownsville, Tennessee, January 11, 1931. They had one son, Sylvain Shatz. Mildred died February 28, 1935, then January 5, 193?, Joe married Minna Bear of Sidney, Australia. They live in Martin, Tennessee.

My wife, Flora Marks Shatz, the mother of all of my children, died April 13, 1923. About three years after I married Mrs. Mamie Marks of Jackson, Tennessee in 1926. She was the widow of Louis Marks who was a brother of my first wife, and who had died several years before. Mamie died May 13, 1936. Then later I was married to Rebecca Bach of Memphis, Tennessee, January 31, 1943. We lived in Kenton, Tennessee about five years, then went to Memphis to live, leaving all of my business interests in charge of my sons.

The foregoing history was given in year 1950. As stated above, Mr. Sol Shatz passed away September 3, 1955 and is interred in the B'nai Israel Cemetery at Jackson, Tennessee as is his first and second wife.

Joe Shatz, member of Congregation B'Nai Israel, residence in Martin, Tennessee, married Mildred Straus, born October 21, 1910, deceased February 28, 1935. Had one son, Sylvain Soloman Shatz, born August 9, 1932. Her parents were Stella Ullman Straus and Henry Straus.

Joe remarried January 6, 1938 to Minna Bear daughter of Rose Leach Baer and David Baer [spelling fluctuates between Bear and Baer] of Reading, Pennsylvania. She was born November 6, 1906