

**From:** David Wilk  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:32 AM  
**To:** Allan Garon ;

Allan

Earlier this year I put together into a printed form the memoir that my great uncle Herman Wilk wrote or really dictated to the American Jewish Committee in 1938. I've had it as a typescript for many years and figured the print version would be better to pass on to my relatives.

At the beginning of the memoir, Herman recounted in quite dizzying form, his recollection of all the relatives on both sides of his parentage.

Pearl Bresky and several others of those we are discussing are mentioned. And there is another Pearl who may be of interest as well.

I find it very difficult to follow him in this part of the book, so rather than try to figure it out for you, I am going to send you the ebook version I made so you can go through the parts that are germane to the genealogical work and maybe you can put it together. I am not positive that Herman is a reliable narrator, but he definitely knew a lot of people you will be interested in. And he does talk about Pearl and her sisters.

Best  
David

Since the ebook version of the Herman Wilk memoir is in a .epub file, I am copying in here the part of the book where Herman talks about the family tree. It is very difficult to follow but has a lot of valuable information.

Also, Arthur Phillips made the Hourglass chart of the Herman branch.  
(The hourglass chart for Herman is shown below the following text.)

### **Herman Wilk Memoir - Discussion of the Family Tree - 1938**

Our paternal grandfather, Elchonon Wilk, and our paternal grandmother Chaya, resided in Jurburkas, now Lithuania, formerly Russia. Their sons and daughters: the sons included the eldest, Eliezer Berzig and Aaron Joseph, the daughters were Etta and Dina. The sons of Eliezer, Hyman and Moritz emigrated to the United States in or about 1870. Hyman begot one son Louis residing now in New York and a daughter Lena of Cleveland, Ohio. Hyman died in 1884. Moritz begot two sons and two daughters. Both sons died in their early youth, the older one died of weak lungs and the younger one was shellshocked during the World War and on his arrival home,

sick and despondent, took his own life. The two daughters, Mrs. Lowenstein, who resides with her mother in Memphis, her husband died from the war effects. The second daughter, Madeline Fist is married and also lives in Memphis. She had no natural children, so they adopted two.

Berzig lived in Jurburkas and died in the same place of a ripe old age; they raised one son Jonah who lived in Sodargen, Poland across the River Nieman about five miles from Jurburkas. He was considered a well-to-do man, but very egotistic ô he had three daughters, Genashe, Matle, and Chaya. Of the first two I have no record. Chaya is still living and resides in Jurburkas. She must now be a woman about 85-years-old. She is a widow and lives with her daughter Ida Friedland, to whom I am sending twice a year some money to relieve their destitution; and I wish that my heirs will continue to help her occasionally.

My parents raised four sons and one daughter ô Elchomore, Chaim Yitzchak, Moshe Leib, and Eliezer and our sister, Tanke. Father's marriage to his second wife produced three sons ô Max, Wolf and Frank. I married a beautiful girl from a good family ô Henriette Alban. To this union was born two children, a son Mortimer, whose real name is Moses, and a daughter Angeline Josephine, whose Jewish name is Ashne Yocheved after our father Aaron Joseph. Mortimer married out of his fold, but she is a God-fearing woman and closely devoted to us; they have one beautiful daughter, Karen. I know she will be a good Jewess. Our daughter is married to a devoted Jew, Felix Moses, and they are blessed with two sons ô Leonard and Charles ô their training is thoroughly Jewish.

Chaim Yitzchak ô his first wife Helene Werbelowsky, a beautiful woman. They have three children, two sons and one daughter: Benjamin, Henry and Harriet. Benjamin is a successful businessman, married and has one daughter and one son, both are beautiful children. Henry died in 1911 at the age of 19. He was a fine young man in the same month she died while still a very young woman. Their daughter Harriet married a Mr. Tarrson but had no children. They adopted a baby girl who was six months old at the time. She is now a young woman and very promising.

Moses Leib married a cousin, Miss Pearl Bresky, they raised five sons and two daughters: Jacob who married Eva Zalk, a gifted young lady. They raised two daughters and one son. Harry married a talented girl, a Miss Jane Brown, no children. Benjamin married

Bess Tishman a bright girl. They raised two gifted daughters who are still at school. Ralph married a young lady, and they have a son who at the age of three want to be called Mr. Wilk. Theodore is still single, so are the two girls, Ethel and Josephine, who are not marriage inclined.

Brother Louis married a fine girl Etká. They have one son Reno who married a Miss Talow and raised one son and one daughter, and a daughter Lucille who married Mr. Rosenstein a gifted young man and raised two handsome children, a boy and a girl. Our sister was married to a Mr. Louis Silverstone who raised two sons Seymour and Myron and one daughter Juliet, none of them married.

Our maternal grandparents raised four sons and four daughters.

Joseph married Ethel, they raised four sons and three daughters. Their oldest son Shlomo Aaron resided in Erzwelik and is married to a young lady Slove Gosos. They had both sons and daughters, but I know of only one daughter who resides now in Los Angeles, Mrs. Gidlowitz.

Max, who received a high education, married, but died when a young man.

Elchomore was deaf and dumb, how long he lived I don't know;

Fitzchak, he emigrated to the U.S. while a young boy; his whereabouts I don't know.

The daughters: Chaya Golde married a Mr. Diamond. They emigrated to the U.S. and live in New York City; they have both sons and daughters.

Faige married a Mr. Ries of Gavor, Lithuania, they raised two daughters who married a Mr. Sohrieber in Memphis and the older daughter married a Mr. Shanedling and resided in Virginia, Minnesota. The older daughter died while still in the prime of her life, the number of children they raised I am not familiar with. When Mr. Ries died, Faige married her cousin Myer Masinter; they raised one daughter, Dollie who married a Mr. Koff.

Aunt Etta married Samuel Shobse Bresky and raised five sons and one daughter - Elchamon, Yitzchok Meir, Moses (called Moritz), Reuben and Chaim. During my stay in Jurburkas, they all resided there. In later years Moritz emigrated to the U.S. and Reuben to South Africa.

Of Elchamon and his family, I have no record. He lived in Jurburkas and no doubt died there, so did Yitzchak Meir. His wife and daughters I understood emigrated to the U.S. and made their home in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Of Reuben and his family, I lost track, the same with Chaim and his family. Etta and her husband supported themselves by baking and selling bread and by manufacturing tallow candles, which was then the only medium of light. (Remember I am speaking of 70 years ago in a small city, Jurburkas.) Their daughter Geneshe then a young girl, was running a small notion store. She married to a Talmudist whom she had to support. I understood she died while young, of her family I do not know.

Aunt Dina married a man by the name of Feinberg and died when young. She was left a widow with two sons. Elchamon married and emigrated to the U.S. and made his home in St. Louis. David also emigrated with his wife to the U.S. and made his home in Minneapolis, where they raised several sons and daughters, but their names and whereabouts I do not know. David died while in middle age, but poor, his wife died a few years later. One of their daughters married a Mr. Harris and resides in Minneapolis.

Aunt Dina's daughter also emigrated to the U.S. and made her home in St. Louis, her married name I do not know.

Aunt Dina after many years a widow, married a well learned man who used to go from town to town lecturing, some kind of a revivalist in order to make a living for his family. How much good he has done the hearers of his sermons, I do not know, but he eked out a poor living. No doubt he will get his reward in the world to come. The number of children that union brought forth I do not know.

They raised a family of two sons who are medical men and two girls who are at school. After 25 years of wedded life the union was dissolved in a divorce court. The first divorce in the Pashaltuner Mishpacha to my knowledge. I do not approve of divorces especially when there are children. A bargain should remain a bargain, but the contracting parties should know beforehand before they make the contract. The third daughter was Hinda, she died a girl of 18. She was beautiful and smart. Raphael married a girl Chasya Klugman of a very fine family. They lived in Pashaltune, a small village near Erzwelik in Lithuania where they raised a family of three sons and two daughters; Zalucan David, Ohr Hirsch and Meir, Dina and Zlota. Zalkin David raised four sons, Juan,

Moritz, Raphael, and the fourth, I don't know his name. All the boys came to the U.S. about 30 years ago; they settled in Virginia and Eveleth, Minnesota. None of them married, they brought over their parents about 12 years ago, provided them with a beautiful home and with all that it requires to make a comfortable home. Zalucan David died at the age of 75 or thereabout living in Minnesota. Aaron Hirsh died after the world war and from his family I have no record.

Meir after marrying his cousin Faige came to the U.S. and settled in Virginia. He was never a good provider and his wife had to support him by keeping roomers and boarders.

Dina died at the age of 12. Zlota, who was left a baby of a year old when her mother died, married a cousin, the son of Abe Alexandrowitz, and raised a family of three sons and three daughters. They live in Jurburkas Lithuania, one of the daughters married and lives in Memmel, Lithuania. One daughter, Rachel is not married and lives in St. Louis, Missouri.

Abe Alexandrowitz and his wife Fruma Yechiela lived in Sakaline on the road from Jurburkas to Tawrig, Lithuania. They raised four daughters. Minna was married to a widower a Mr. Weinberg in Kalu, Lithuania. They raised two daughters, both married; they live in that vicinity, and one son who lives in Los Angeles and is struggling to make a living. Sarah lives in New York City, married, their name I do not know but understood that they have a very bright son. Rachel married to a Mr. Kalpen who lives in St. Louis and gave a home to her sister Tilly, who remained unmarried. Yosel married a cousin, the daughter of Raphael.

Aaron Jacob Alexandrowitz married a step-sister, a Miss Pearl, they raised two daughters, Esther, who was married to a Mr. Rudin, the other daughter died when a young child. Their son Morris married, his wife died. They raised two daughters, they are still unmarried and live in Los Angeles.

Hannah Hinde married Aaron Joseph Wilk. Their family is already described under the paternal genealogy. Taube married Shaya Bresky, they raised two daughters. Chana married a Mr. Dobrin, they raised two sons and two daughters, their names are unknown to me. Pearl married her cousin M.L. Wilk. Their family is already listed. Pearl died in 1937. Pearl married Shaya, the husband of Taube, after Taube died. [ed note: this sentence does not make sense and requires some research. Pearl Bresky did not marry Shaya]

Hinde married a Mr. Abrahams; they made their home in Virginia. They raised three daughters.

Grune married a Mr. Kenner; they also raised sons and daughters. Their names and whereabouts are unknown to me, they made their home in Virginia, Minnesota.

Tillie married a Mr. Tandel Naftalin. They raised two sons Arthur and Mortimer, both are promising young men and two daughters. One daughter died at the age of 14 or 15. The other Jeanette married to a physician and lives in River Falls, Minnesota. These are the names of our family as far as I know.

## **Hourglass Chart of the Herman Wilk branch**

created by Arthur Phillips

courtesy of David Wilk

(note that the chart has been divided into several segments for presentation here.)

[Go on to the next page to see the images.](#)







