

---

# BLOCKLYN

---

## Origin of the Surname

As I have done in my other family narratives I will explore the origin of the surname “Blocklyn.” When I Google, “Origin of the surname Blocklyn” I get websites wanting me to read about “Brickley, Brooklyn, Bloch,” but, something I already knew, nothing on Blocklyn. And that’s because the name is something my father-in-law invented when he decided to change his birth name “Boulotchnik.” He had just started his medical practice and his rationale on making this change was, “No one can spell Boulotchnik.” Well, as it turns out, no one can spell Blocklyn either.

So let’s see what I get when I Google search just the name Boulotchnik. I see he was right! Ochsenbein, Rogriguez, Czopek... really!

I’ll try something else. Boulotchnik written in Russian is булотчник.

Good start! Now, let’s translate Фамилия(surname) булотчник(Boulotchnik) to English. I get, “Name of the Bullman”. Another website translates to “Boulder.” And yet another, “Bullman.” Pop always said the name translated to baker, but when I translate “baker” to Russian I get, “Бейкер” which doesn’t match.

Another possibility is the name in French is close to boulangerie, the French word for baker. I found one instance where a family member in Paris went by the last name Boulanger, so maybe... I will talk more later about the name Baker, Blaik, and Blocklyn.

I think it best just to go with the fact that the name Blocklyn was Pop’s invention and that’s who we are. If you search for “Blocklyn” the results show only members of our family—or a typeface.



---

# BLOCKLYN

## Introduction

---

After spending many hours developing my own family's tree you would think the frustration level would be so high I would never want to embark on a similar adventure again—especially for another person's family. I guess I'm either the eternal optimist or just plain nosey! But I do know that I will NOT become a professional genealogist.

I will admit that doing the Brooklyn family tree was initially not as exciting as researching my own, that is until I, virtually, travelled into the Ukraine. It was also a humbling experience for me to come to the realization of what pogroms were and to relate to the fear of persecution that was aimed, not only at a whole religious society, but specifically, towards family members of people I love. For the life of me, I cannot understand how we humans never learn from history.

Once I started on the Breeden clan I found myself back in Virginia near the same area where my own ancestors settled in America. I started to think that I would find the Moxleys and Breedens had married long before Philip and I met; but that did not happen even though both families were extremely prolific and in the early days of American civilization there weren't that many people to meet. As of this writing, 14 June 2019, Philip and my family tree on Ancestry.com has 3325 relatives.

As with all families, some of those relatives were not educated, but capable. I found that many of our relatives prior to Philip's and my parents' generation had no formal education. Up until the 1930s child labor was legal and common in many

parts of the USA. Though children always worked on farms, it was not unusual to find them, prior to the Depression, also working in mills, factories and shipyards.

Many of our adult male relatives were laborers, farmers, miners, oystermen, railroaders, and shipbuilders. Philip's great grandfather was a ship Captain. I only found one doctor—my father-in-law Maurice Brooklyn. We also had several who made the military their life career.

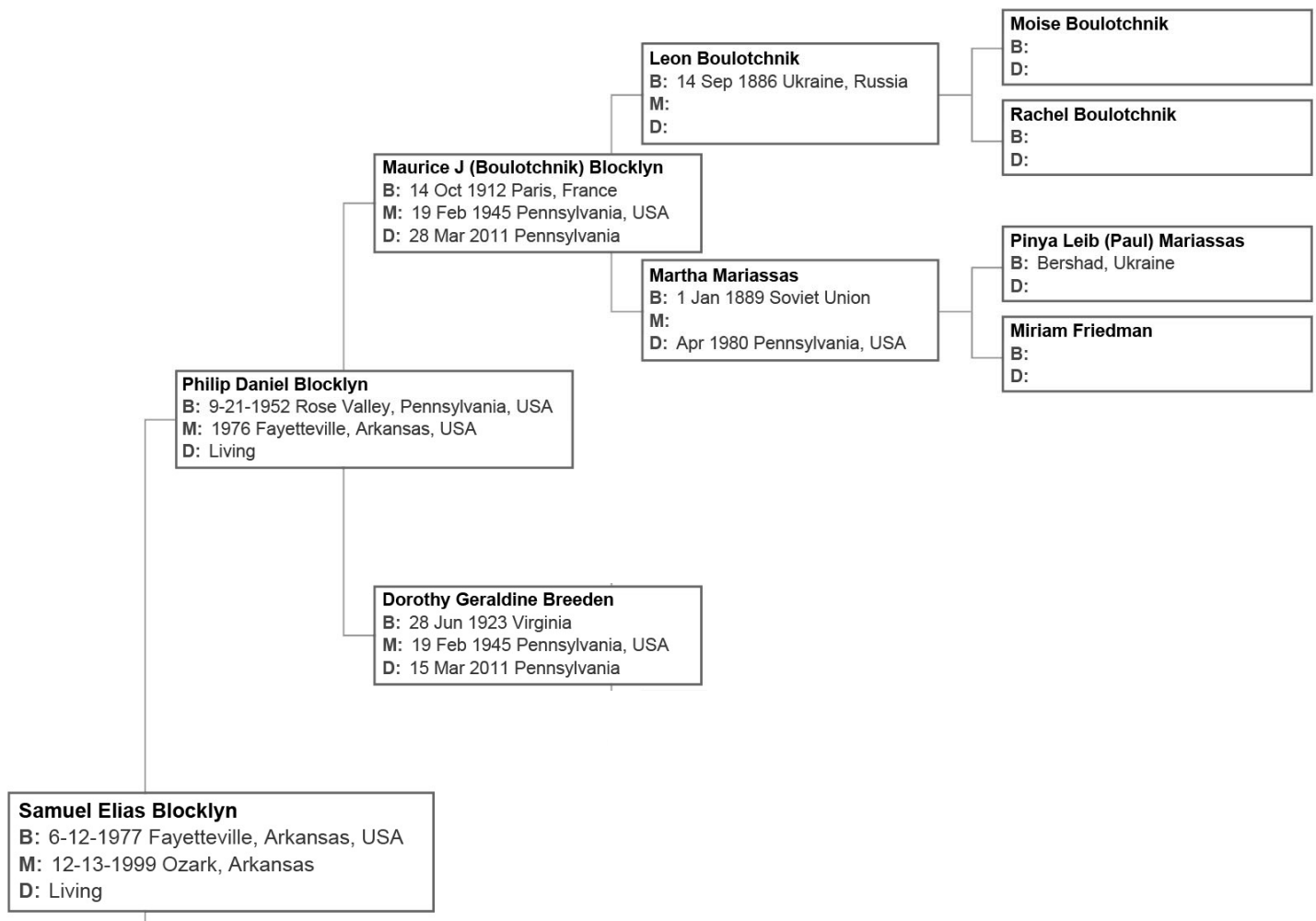
We are sons and daughters of the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and of every war to the present day Afghanistan War. I don't think there was a single Breeden or Williams male who was of the necessary age who did not serve in some capacity during the Civil War.

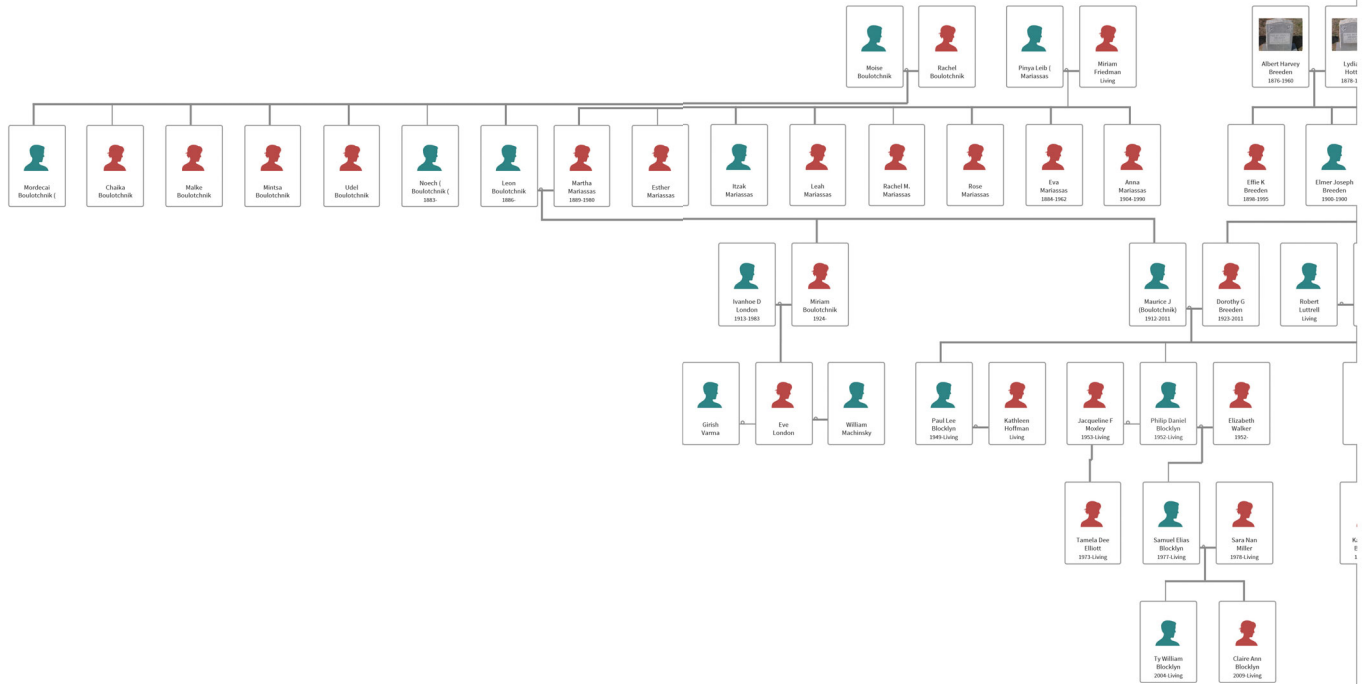
I've organized this narrative by family lines. The Boulotchnik and Mariassis families could not be traced farther than Philip's great grandparents sometime around 1800. However the Breeden line traced back to Scotland in 1675, the Hottle line back to Switzerland in 1600, and the Williams and Stant lines back to the 1700s, but I haven't fully researched them because after awhile it just became too much. Imagine, we know Ty's and Claire Ann's 10th Great Grandfather. Dorothy Brooklyn had eight great grandparents, sixteen 2G grandparents, thirty-two 3G grandparents, etc. Enough is enough!

With all that said, I hope you find this narrative fun, exciting, and useful.

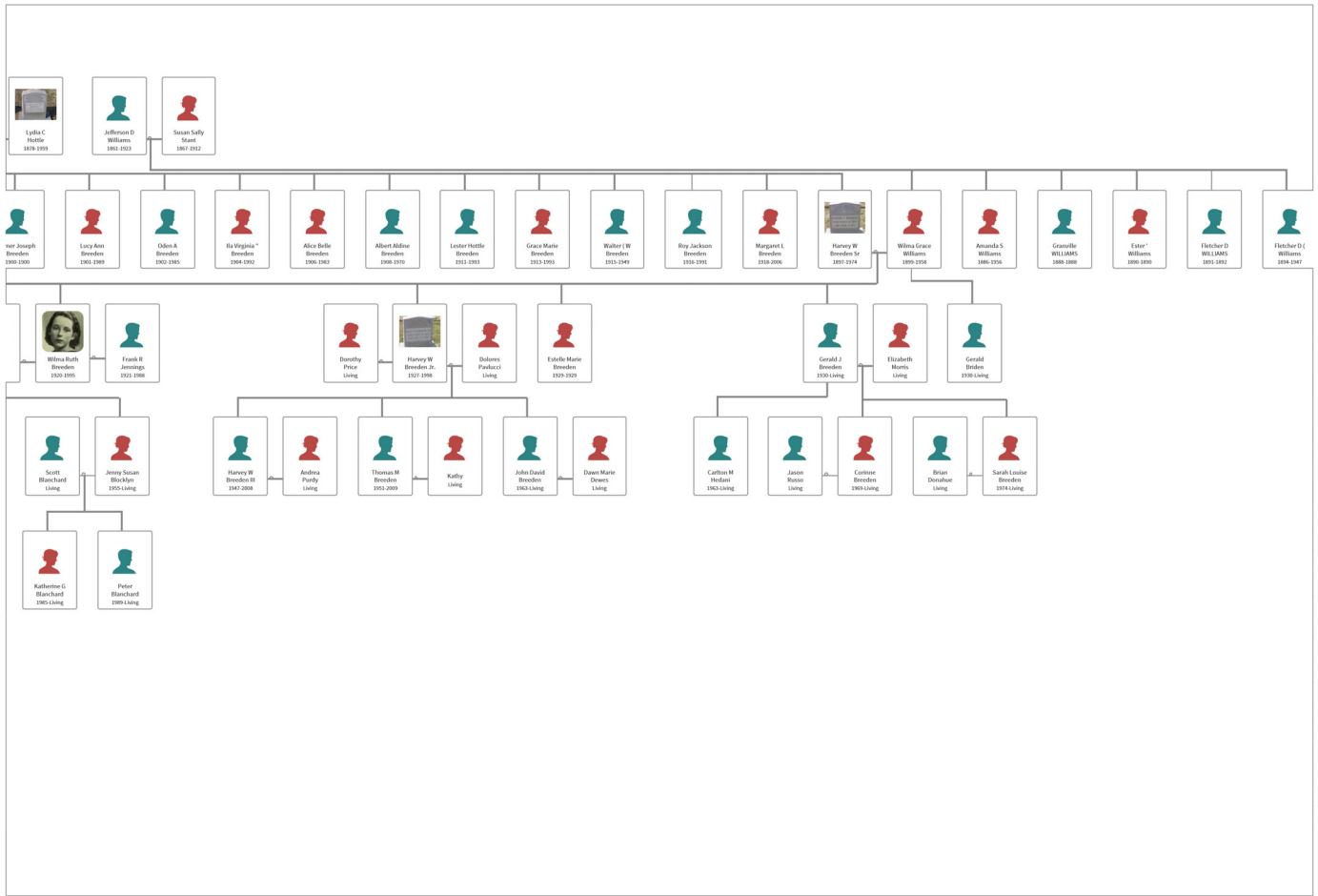
# BOULOTCHNIK MARIASSIS

## Family Tree









---

# BLOCKLYN

## CHAPTER ONE

---

### Life in the Ukraine

The Russian Empire, which previously had very few Jews, acquired territories with large Jewish populations from the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth during 1791–1835. These territories were designated "the Pale of Settlement" by the Imperial Russian government, within which Jews were reluctantly permitted to live. The antisemitic May Laws of 1882 prohibited Jews from moving to any other parts of the Empire outside the Pale, unless they converted to the Russian Orthodox state religion.

Pogroms were large-scale, targeted, and repeated anti-Jewish riots. Pogroms initially swept through south-western Imperial Russia (present-day Ukraine and Poland) from 1881, after the assassination of Tsar Alexander II, to 1884. The Russian Empire largely blamed the murder of Alexander on "foreign influence agents," implying the Jews. The pogroms of the 1880s caused a worldwide outcry and, along with harsh laws, propelled mass Jewish emigration. The majority of High Commission for the Review of Jewish Legislation (1883-1888) actually noted the fact that almost all of the pogroms had begun in the Pale of Settlement attempted to abolish the Laws. Yet, the minority of the High Commission ignored the facts and backed the anti-semitic May Laws. Two million Jews fled the Russian Empire between 1880 and 1920, with many going to the United Kingdom and United States.

A bloody wave of pogroms broke out from 1903 to 1906, leaving an estimated 2,000 Jews dead and many more wounded, as the Jews took to arms to defend their families and property from the attackers. The 1905 pogrom against Jews in Odessa

was the most serious pogrom of the period, with reports of up to 2,500 Jews killed.

This series of pogroms affected 64 towns (including Odessa, Yekaterinoslav, Kiev, Kishinev, Simferopol, Romny, Kremenchug, Nikolayev, Chernigov, Kamenets-Podolski, Yelizavetgrad), and 626 small towns and villages, mostly in Ukraine and Bessarabia.

On 31 July 1905, the first pogrom outside the Pale of Settlement occurred in the town of Makariev (near Nizhni Novgorod), where a patriotic procession led by the mayor turned violent. At a pogrom in Kerch in Crimea on the same day, the mayor ordered the police to fire at the self-defense group, and two fighters were killed (one of them, P. Kirilenko, was a Ukrainian who joined the Jewish defense group). The pogrom was conducted by the port workers apparently brought in for the purpose.

After the publication of the Tsar's Manifesto of 17 October 1905, pogroms erupted in 660 towns mainly in the present-day Ukraine, in the Southern and Southeastern areas of the Pale of Settlement. In contrast, there were no pogroms in present-day Lithuania. There were also very few incidents in Belarus or Russia proper. There were 24 pogroms outside of the Pale of Settlement, but those were directed at the revolutionaries rather than Jews.

The greatest number of pogroms were registered in the Chernigov gubernia in northern Ukraine. The pogroms there in October 1905 took 800 Jewish lives, the material damages estimated at 70 million rubles. 400 were killed in Odessa, over 150 in Rostov-on-Don, 67 in Yekaterinoslav, 54 in Minsk, 30 in Simferopol, over 40 in Orsha.

## The Family in Bershad

The settlement of Bershad was established in 1459. It was a private town owned by the Zbaraski and Moszyński families. Polish nobleman Piotr Stanisław Moszyński built a palace complex in Bershad. Only the park and the family chapel remain.

In 1648, during the Khmelnytsky Uprising under the Cossacks, Maksym Kryvonis conquered Bershad and killed many of the Catholics and Jews there. Before World War Two, the city had an important Jewish community. Bershad was famous in the middle of the nineteenth century for its Jewish weavers of the tallit, a ritual shawl worn by Jews at prayer. By the end of the century the demand decreased, and the industry declined, leading many of the weavers to emigrate. In 1900 the Jewish population of Bershad was 4,500, out of a total population of 7,000. The Jewish artisans numbered about 500. The community had synagogues and several houses of prayer. One synagogue survived World War II and was not closed during Soviet times. It is still active.

During the 1800s two of our ancestral families lived in Bershad, the Ukrainian province of Vinnytsya. It is unknown the exact year the Rachel Boulotchnik and Piny Leib (Paul) Mariassas families fled Bershad' and emigrated. They probably left between 1900 and 1906. What is known is that they left most likely due to Jewish persecution and the fear of pogroms.

**Moise and Rachel Boulotchnik** had four daughters (Chaika, Malke, Minsta, Udel) and three sons. We know the three sons emigrated to Paris—Mordecai, Noech, and Leon Boulotchnik.

**Pinya Leib (Paul) and Miriam Mariassas** had five daughters and one son. Daughter Esther went to Paris first, then Eva, then Martha.

*Above: Rachel. The photo does not label the three younger people.*

*Left:  
Rachel Boulotchnik*

*Below: The Mariassis:  
Selma, Paul Mariassis,  
Kunia, Rachel, Mary,  
Moses Fishman, Anna.  
Standing: Miriam and  
Gittel*

## Emigration to Paris

As is natural for emigrants, these families sought out others from the Ukraine and settled in the same areas of Paris. At some point the three brothers met and married the three sisters.

Mordecai Boulotchnik, a journalist, married Esther Mariassas, a seamstress. They had one son, Edouard Emil Boulotchnik, on 16 May 1903.

Noech Boulotchnik, a businessman, married Eva Mariassas. On 31 October 1911, they had one daughter, Miriam Nannette Boulotchnik.

**Leon Boulotchnik**, a printer, married **Martha Mariassas**, a seamstress. On 14 October 1912 in Paris, they had a son, **Maurice Joseph Boulotchnik**. After their arrival in America they had a daughter, Miriam, born 27 July 1923.



*Esther and Mordecai Boulotchnik, and son, Edouard. Paris*



*Noah Boulotchnik, first on left. Leon Boullotchnik, fourth from left.*



*All photos taken in Paris. Below:  
Martha Mariassis Boulotchnik. Right:  
Martha and Leon Boulotchnik. Far  
Right: Leon Boulotchnik.*



*All photos taken in Paris. Above: Maurice  
and his nurse, 1912. Center: Leon  
Boulotchnik. Right and Far Right:  
Maurice and Edouard Boulotchnik.*

## Emigration to America

Noech and Eva Boulotchnik with their 2-year-old daughter Miriam Nannette, arrived in Baltimore aboard the *La France* on 10 May 1913. They made their home at 3139 Westmont Street in Baltimore. Noech and Eva changed their names to Nathan and Eva Blaik. Nathan became an egg inspector and Eva was a seamstress. In July 1918 they applied for citizenship but before 1920 Eva and Nathan divorced and he married Francis Sheer. Eva lived on Reisterstown Road in Baltimore until her death in 1962. Their daughter, Miriam Nannette, married Allen Kahn and they made their home with three daughters in Baltimore. Nannette and Maurice were first cousins and were very close friends throughout their lives. Nannette died on 5 August 2011.

Mordecai stayed in Paris for the rest of his life, but his wife Esther and her son, Edouard, left on the

*Edouard Boulotchnik*

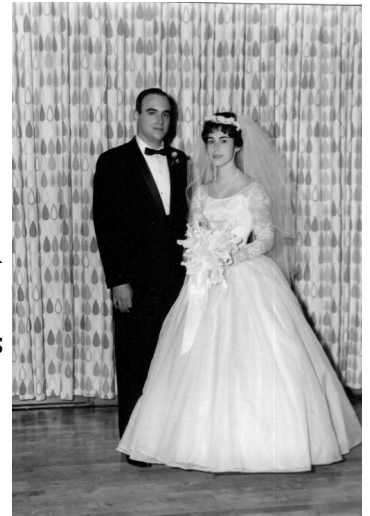


ship *Rochembeau* which arrived in New York on 10 August 1915. Esther was an accomplished seamstress and set up an atelier in New York. *[This makes me wonder if she had learned to sew and worked on the tallits in Bershad]* Shortly after arriving in America, Edouard changed his name to Edward Baker and became a manufacturer and exporter in New York City. His 20 June 1922 affidavit for citizenship was witnessed by Max

Gerber, a dress designer in NYC. Edward married Sabra (Sara Riva)

Friedman who was also born in Russia, and they had two children. David A Baker lives in Roslyn, NY. Miriamne Eisenstadt lives in Brooklyn.

*David and Rosalee Baker*

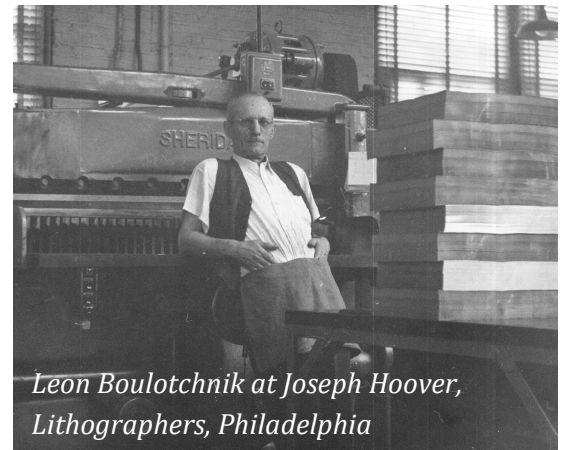


Leon Boulotchnik first came to America in 1913, but returned to Paris. On 29 August 1915, Leon, Martha, and their son, Maurice Joseph boarded the *Rochambeau* in Bordeaux, France, and entered America through Ellis Island, New York on 6 September 1915. *[On 8 September 1988, Maurice and Dorothy registered Leon Boulotchnik's name to be entered in The American Immigrant Wall of Honor at Ellis Island.]* The original intent was to move to

Baltimore where Leon's brother was living, but for unknown reason, they settled in

Philadelphia. Leon had worked as a stationer in Paris, so he sought employment in Philadelphia at The Hoover Printers. Martha was a seamstress.

The 1920 US Census, the first to include Leon and Martha after their arrival in America, shows the family renting on Westmont Street in Philadelphia. This census page has 50 entries, and with the exception of maybe 5 people, everyone on this street spoke Yiddish and had parents who were born in Russia. One exception was Maurice, who is



recorded as being born in France and speaking French. It is my understanding that his mother Martha was fluent in several languages and probably spoke French only to Maurice. Also interesting on this census record is that listed as residing in the house with them is Uncle Nathan Blaik, which tells me he and Eva were divorced already. Leon worked as a paper cutter, and Martha kept house.



*Marcha Boulotchnik*

This census also records the family as “alien.” In 1920 Leon filed for citizenship, but was denied. He filed again in 1925, listing both Maurice and Miriam as dependents.

The 1930 Census locates them now renting a house on Euclid Avenue, Philadelphia. Uncle Nathan has moved out, Miriam is included and they are now “naturalized.”

In 1942 Leon lived at 128 S. 48th Street in Philadelphia, and Martha lived at 902 Highland Avenue, Chester, PA. I understand both were difficult people, and it was an unhappy marriage. I doubt they divorced, but they lived the rest of their lives apart. Leon died 28 April 1961 and is buried at Mt. Sharon Cemetery, Springfield, PA. Martha died on 5 April 1980 in Media, PA. and is buried next to Leon.

## The Next Generation

Rachel married Moise Fishman and in 1898 had a daughter Gertrude (Gittel) Fishman. Though Rachel did not emigrate to Paris with her sisters, her daughter left Russia and eventually made it to America. In 1921 Gertrude married Herschel Schwartzstein and they crossed the border into

Kechenov, Romania, where their daughter Sylvia Bernice was born. They next moved on to Cherbourg, France, where they boarded the *Mauretania* and sailed to Baltimore, Maryland. Their naturalization application is dated 25 November 1922 showing he had changed his name to Harry Schwartz. Gittel and Harry, their son, Paul Leon, (1923-1989) and daughter, Sylvia (1922-1999) lived in Baltimore. Gittel was Maurice Joseph’s first cousin, whom he visited throughout his life. When I met her in 1985 I found that she still spoke very little English—or so she led you to believe. Gittel died at the age of 93 in 1991.



*Gittel Schwartz, Baltimore, 1986*



*Paul and Anna Uman*

Another sister, Anna Mariassas (1904-1990) came directly to America, according to Dorothy Blocklyn’s notebook. I have found few documents to track her movements. Through US Census records I find she came to America in 1911, was married in 1925 to J. Paul Uman (1895-1975). They lived in Baltimore, MD and had two daughters, Miriam (1921-1992), and Phyllis (1930-2015).

Dorothy’s notebook also says sister Rose Mariassas came directly to America, but as of this writing I have not found her.

I’m going to put Miriam Boulotchnik in this section as she is of this generation, though was born in America. Miriam is the only sibling of



*Miriam Boulotchnik*

Maurice Joseph and was born 27 July 1923 in Philadelphia. I imagine she went to a public high school in Philadelphia, but I haven't found any information about her college years. In 1947 she married



*Ivan and Miriam, Switzerland, 1947*

Ivanhoe Daniel London whose parents were also born in Russia. After a three month honeymoon in Switzerland, they made their home in New Orleans, Taiwan and New York. Their daughter, Eve, was born in 1952. Eve married Girish Varma



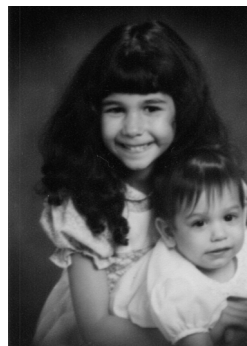
*New Orleans, 1975*

and they had two daughters Anjali and Sarita. Eve and Girish divorced and in 1995 she married William Machinsky.



*Eve, 1975*

There were interesting stories about Miriam and Ivan. Ivan was a physicist, a secondary school teacher and principal, and served from October 1942 to January 1946 in the US Army. Both he and Miriam were fluent in several languages—at the least, French, Russian, and



*Anjali and Sarita Varma, 1984*

Chinese. The story goes that they were employed by either the State Department or the OSS (Office of Strategic Services) for espionage purposes. I met Miriam only once, in her apartment in Brooklyn overlooking the Hudson River and the Verrazano's Narrows Bridge. She was gracious, witty, and obviously, intelligent.

**Maurice Joseph Boulotchnik**, born 14 October 1912 in Paris, France, was two years old when his family emigrated to America. His childhood was spent in Philadelphia among his family, nanny, friends and relatives.

In 1933 Maurice graduated Philadelphia's Central High School and went to the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine for a degree in medicine. In 1937 he began his internship and residency at Chester Hospital. It was around this time that he changed his name to Maurice Joseph Blocklyn.

During 1939-1941, he was a general practitioner in Chester. Then, in 1941, Maurice went into the Radiology Department in a Preceptorship in Roentgenology sponsored by Dr. A Maxwell Sharpe. During this preceptorship he also attended Graduate School in Radiology at the University of Pennsylvania. Upon completion of the Preceptorship in 1944 he became a Staff Radiologist at Chester Hospital. During his career he served as Chief of Radiology and Chief of Staff at Crozer Chester Medical Center. He also instituted and taught at the Crozer-Chester Medical Center's School of Radiologic Technology, and was on the Board of Governors at Sharpe Associates. In 1993 CCMC dedicated the Radiology Reading Room in honor of "his outstanding contributions during more than 50 years of distinguished service to the hospital."

On 14 February 1945 Maurice married Dorothy Geraldine Breeden. They built a home in Rose Valley, PA. where they raised three children: Paul



Lee Blocklyn (1949), Philip Daniel Blocklyn (1952), Jenny Susan Blocklyn (1956).

In 1977 the Medical Center's School of Radiologic Technology initiated the "Maurice J. Blocklyn Academic Award" granted to the graduate earning the highest grade point average.

In 1982 he underwent heart surgery to replace a malfunctioning valve. On retiring in 1982 he and Dorothy resumed travelling and when they were home he tutored young people in reading, arithmetic, French, and mathematics.



*Photos are in Philadelphia of Maurice Boulotchnik. Lower left: Maurice is on the right with a friend. Bottom center: 1928, Central High School, Senior photo. Bottom right: Chester Hospital Resident*

