



From Wolkowisk To
Wallgate and
Other Journeys:
A History of the Wigan
Jewish Community

Hilary Thomas &
Wigan Archives & Local Studies

From Wolkowisk To Wallgate
and Other Journeys:
A History of the Wigan Jewish Community

by Hilary Thomas,
in conjunction with
Wigan Archives & Local Studies

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Foreword

In writing our shared history a natural starting point is to consider the major, seismic events that brought a clear changing point within a society; we celebrate the great figures of Wigan's history, the names of inventors, land-owners, politicians, sporting heroes or social reformers. We sometimes give less attention to the slow undercurrent of everyday lives in the past, those lives that perhaps shaped our present more than any battle, debate or *eureka* moment ever could.

The term, 'Hidden Histories', is one that is increasingly used in discussions about public history. Within the professions that work to bring history alive within communities, whether they are historians, curators, librarians or archivists, uncovering untold stories is a means of engaging people's interest in subjects they may never before have considered as being part of their shared past.

In considering the notion of 'Hidden Histories' in the case of Wigan and the surrounding towns and villages, several subjects immediately come to mind. In many ways the history of women in Wigan is one that has not been fully written; the history of children – beyond the plight of Victorian children in the mines or mills – is missing from our account of our history. Thirdly, very little is written on the history of minority religious or ethnic groups living or working in the Wigan area.

These are all groups of people whose histories are hidden from immediate view. The narratives of their lives are not always front and centre in the history books. Instead, we have to look more closely in the archival record to uncover their stories.

This volume is welcome as it succeeds in bringing to life the histories of the generations of Jewish men, women and children who played their part in shaping Wigan. Hilary Thomas, with detailed archival research, has shown that there are stories here to be told about Wigan's Jewish communities, lives to be celebrated and perceptions to be challenged.

If we are to have a better understanding of what our town was like in previous centuries, it is only by unpicking the tapestry of a thousand hidden histories that we can hope to truly learn about the past.

Alex Miller

Archives Manager, Wigan Archives & Local Studies

Introduction

In common with many Jewish communities which no longer exist, no records of the synagogue or of the early Wigan Jewish community have survived. To write this story I have used records that are in the public sphere together with oral histories. These include: Wigan Medieval records including the Anderton Deeds and Papers; nineteenth and twentieth century Wigan newspapers; Electoral Records; Census returns; Rate Books; Trade Directories; Council minutes; Hospital minutes; Market ledgers; Jewish Year Books; the Jewish Chronicle Archive; the London Gazette; the MDCS burial records; the Ancestry and FindMyPast websites have all been useful tools in my research.

The help and enthusiasm of the staff at the Wigan Archives and Local Studies has been invaluable. Nothing has fazed them. I really appreciate their support over the last year.

Meeting Liane Segal has been one of the highlights of writing this book. She came to Wigan on the Kindertransport in 1939 and spent two years living with the Abrahams family. It has been a privilege to relate her story.

Talking to people who had businesses in the town, market stalls, shops or factories has been most interesting. Their stories are typical of Jewish trades-people throughout the country. The assembling of the biographies has been a

fascinating task. Making contact with descendents of the early Wigan families has been most enjoyable. Children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren from Australia, California, Israel and all parts of England have helped bring the past to life by sharing their memories and providing photographs, letters and documents. Their contribution has played an important part in the telling of this story.

Chapter One

Medieval Links and The Early Years

Question: What have the following in common?

The co-founder of Marks and Spencer, a former Rabbi of the Shanghai Jewish community, a landlord of the Unicorn Hotel on Standishgate, a pedlar from Wolkowisk, a member of the Royal Academy?

Answer: Wigan. All of them had links with the town. The lives of Michael Marks, Woolfe Hirshowitz, Israel Bernstein, Lewis Livingstone and Ivor Abrahams are part of the history of Wigan's Jewish community. It is nearly 130 years since a synagogue was founded in the town. Sadly within twenty five years, that community had ceased to exist.

Wigan is believed to have originated as a Roman settlement called Coccium situated on the road between Chester and Lancaster and some seventeen miles from Manchester. Wigan was one of the first borough towns in England and the first in Lancashire. It received its Royal Charter in 1246. Its economy at this time was based on local agriculture, brick making, tanning, pottery, brewing, woollen textiles, metal working and coal mining.

In several early medieval documents there are references to people with the surname Le Jew. In the Anderton Deeds and Papers housed at the Wigan Archives Service, Hugo Le Jew appears as a signatory to a document dated 1333. Other documents in the Anderton Papers, one dated 1405 and two dated 1419 mention William le Jew, a chaplain to Henry de Ines.



Grant by William le Jew and John de Holland, Chaplains, to Henry de Ines, of a tenement called ‘Wolley in Ines, by Wygan’, for the life of Petronella,

mother of the said Henry, dated at Ines,¹ on Monday next after All Saints, in the reign of Henry IV, 1405

Documents dated 1380 in the Lancashire Archives mention William le Jew, Henry le Jew and Robert le Jew of Wygan. In the History of The County of Lancaster Volume 4, published in 1911, mention is made of a claim to land in Wigan called Jewsfild, being released by William de Whittington to the chaplain, William le Jew in 1383. Despite the surname it is unlikely that these chaplains were of the Jewish faith. In this medieval period there were very few Jews in England, their banishment having taken place in 1290. However, prior to the banishment it is highly likely that Jews lived and traded in Wigan. William, Robert, Hugo and Henry could well have been their descendents.

There are later references to Jews in the town. In the will of William Firth innkeeper of Wigan, dated 15th July 1699,² there was mention of a property known as Jeweshall. There was an area in the centre of the town just off Millgate, known as Jews Yard, possibly a trading area in the 12th and 13th centuries. It appeared as an abode in both the 1861 Census and the

¹ 'Ines' is the area now known as Ince, on the outskirts of Wigan.

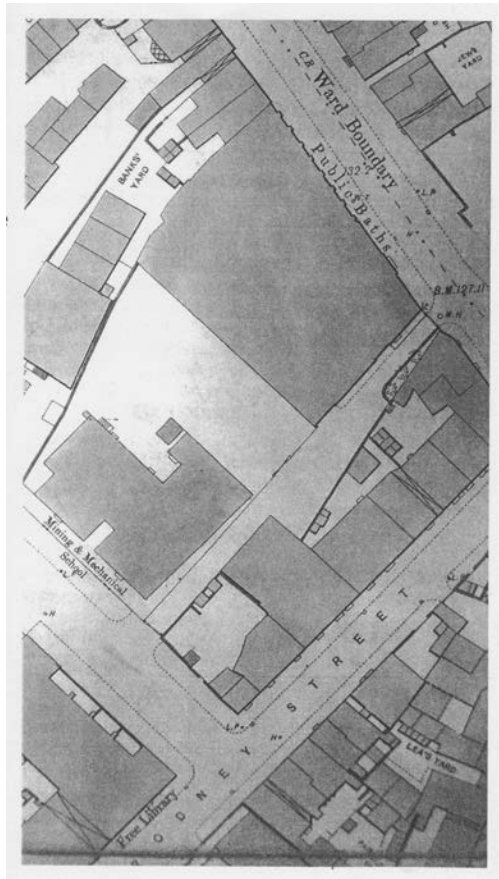
² At Lancashire Archives, Preston

electoral registers of 1874.³ It appeared on a Wigan street map published in 1890 and existed in name until the beginning of the twentieth century. ⁴ In Volume 1 of *The History of Wigan* written in 1882 by David Sinclair, a local Wigan schoolmaster, the following appeared on page 55:

“A more scattered race and yet more distinct and persecuted than the Jewish people never existed. Like Noah’s dove they could find no rest for the soles of their feet. Wherever they were allowed to live, they were merely tolerated as necessary evils, for they were bankers and usurers wherever they went. They were found in every market town in the kingdom, appropriating some special part as their own as Jewry. Wigan being one of the most important market towns in the kingdom had its own Jewry in what now remains as the old Jews Yard off Millgate.”

³ 1861census RG9/2744

⁴ O.S. map, sheet, XC111.8.16



Ordnance Survey Plan, Wigan, 1890, Jew's Yard located in the top right corner

It was not until the mid-1880s that a Jewish congregation was established in Wigan. However there are records of a few Jewish families living and working in the town prior to this

date. The Levy and the Harris families, both in business on Millgate in the 1830s were probably related.

One of the earliest Jewish births in Wigan was that of Elkan Levy born about 1833. He was the son of Michael and Sophia Levy nee Harris. Michael was a clothes dealer who appeared in the 1834 Pigot's Directory trading on Millgate. Presumably Michael had died by 1838 as Sophia appeared in the Wigan Directory of that year as the clothes dealer on Millgate. Sophia had three children of her own when she married Nathan Singer in 1839 at Manchester Great Synagogue.⁵ The Singer family appeared in the 1841, 1851 and 1861 censuses living in that city. These censuses listed Elkan as being born in Wigan.⁶

Another early Jewish birth in Wigan was that of Esther Harris in 1837. Her parents were Moses (Morris) and Rachel who left Wigan by 1840 and settled in Manchester.⁷ Moses/Morris was listed as a tailor and draper of Millgate, Wigan in the 1838 Directory. The census of 1841 and Slater's 1841 Directory recorded the family living at 6 Withy Grove, Manchester. Further details of the Levy and Harris families appear in the Biography section of this book.

⁵ Lancs BMD website

⁶ See Biography section

⁷ Bill Williams, 'The Making of Manchester Jewry', 1975, Manchester University Press

I have found only two Jews in the Wigan 1851 census. One was Abraham Hart, a widower aged 57 living at 116 Smith's Building, off Wigan Lane. In the census he was described as a teacher of the Hebrew language, born in Poland.⁸ The other resident was Samuel Cohan, aged 58, a traveller from Cracow, living at 75 Bottom Croft.

Joseph and Jane Solomon and family lived in Wigan between about 1853 and 1860. Joseph was born in Warsaw, Poland in about 1823. Jane was born in Colchester in 1828.

Joseph appeared in the 1851 Census, a hardware dealer, lodging in Preston.⁹ Joseph and Jane, nee Sims, had nine children, five of whom were born in Wigan. The Lancashire BMD website recorded the births in Wigan of Eli in 1853, Hannah Marie in 1854 and George in 1856. The 1861 census showed the family living in the Cheetham area of Manchester.¹⁰ Joseph was now a jeweller. Four children were listed: Isaac age 10, born Ashton, Lancashire, Eli age 8, Sarah age 7 and Abraham age 3, all born in Wigan. There was no further mention of Hannah Marie and George in this or later censuses, so it is likely they died in infancy. By 1865 the family were in Hanley where four more daughters were born; Leah 1865, Hannah 1868, Miriam 1869 and Esther 1873. Joseph

⁸ HO 107/2199

⁹ HO 107/2266

continued working in the jewellery trade. The 1871 census recorded only one Jewish person living in Wigan, Hyman Ettinger, a traveller, born in Poland about 1843, lodging at the home of George Beamish at 32 Hallgate.¹¹ By 1872 Hyman was in Liverpool where that year at Hope Place Synagogue, he married Betsy Levy.¹² They had four children. There was a notice in the London Gazette of 18 December 1874, under the Bankruptcy Act of 1869, announcing Proceedings for Liquidation of a business, instituted by Hyman. He was described as a jeweller and clothier of 2 Temple Row, Wrexham. By 1881 he was back in Liverpool where he was listed as a glazier in the 1881 census.¹³ By 1891 Hyman was a widower.¹⁴ He died in Liverpool in 1894 aged sixty.

Whilst Hyman Ettinger the glazier was plying his trade in Liverpool, three other Jewish glaziers were trying to make a living in Wigan, two of them living at Birkett Bank.

Barnett Richards, listed in the 1881 census lodging at 43 Birkett Bank,¹⁵ was from Kracow. He married soon afterwards and stayed in Wigan until about 1890. The 1891 census stated

¹⁰ Ancestry Census, 1861, RG9/2971

¹¹ Ancestry Census, 1871, RG10/3889

¹² LancsBMD website

¹³ Ancestry Census, 1881, RG11/3622

¹⁴ Ancestry Census, 1891, RG12/2913

¹⁵ Ancestry Census, 1881, RG11/3765

that he was now a traveller in jewellery aged 41,¹⁶ his wife Kate, Austrian, was 29. They had three children, Hyman aged 9 and Max aged 3 both born Wigan plus Leah aged 1, born in Manchester where the family were living at this time. Their fourth child Rachel was born in Manchester in 1894. By 1911 the family were in Salford at 54 Walter Street. Barnett was now a grocer, Hyman was a cabinet maker and Max, a woodworker.

Barnett died in 1919 and Kate in 1935. Both are buried at Blackley cemetery.¹⁷

Wolfe Williamson, a 36 year old Polish born glazier was also lodging at Birkett Bank in 1881 at number 35, the home of Solomon Hoffman a picture framer and his wife Agnes. Wolfe appeared in the census together with Charles Williamson aged 15 a tailor also Polish born, probably Wolfe's son.¹⁸ In common with many Eastern European immigrants they adopted an English sounding name. There are several Jewish families in Manchester with this surname and there is a record of a burial of two year old Woolf Williamson in 1910 at

¹⁶ Ancestry Census, RG12/3261

¹⁷ MDCS Burial records

¹⁸ Ancestry Census, 1881, RG11/3765

Crumpsall,¹⁹ who may be a descendent, but I have not been able to find any further records for Wolfe or Charles.

The Hoffmans however, stayed in Wigan until 1889. The census of 1881 showed their name as Ofman. Solomon and Agnes were both born in Poland. Their eldest child Hyman was born in Denton in about 1879. Sadly, he died in 1883 in Wigan. The next four children were born in Wigan: Jacob in 1881, Samuel 1884, Annie 1886 and Woolfe in 1889.²⁰ Two more children were born after the family moved to Salford: Louis in 1892 and Harry in 1896. According to the 1891 census,²¹ the family were living at 60 Gordon Street, Higher Broughton. Solomon was now a grocer. Jacob attended the Manchester Jews School between 1889 and 1893.²² By 1901 the Hoffmans were at 3 Caroline Street, Salford.²³ Solomon was still a grocer, Jacob was now working as a furrier, Sam as an assistant in a tobacconists. Sadly Woolfe died in 1910. In the 1911 census, the family were at 456 Great Cheetham Street, Salford. Solomon was now a traveller in pictures. Jacob and Sam had come up in the world, both were employers, Jacob as a furrier and Sam as a tobacconist. Annie and Harry were assisting Sam in the business and Louis was a clerk in a

¹⁹ MDCS Burial records

²⁰ LancsBMD website

²¹ Ancestry Census, 1891, RG12/3212

²² Manchester Jews School Registers, on Findmypast Website

²³ Ancestry Census, 1901, RG13/3724

shipping office. The census stated that Agnes and Solomon had been married for thirty four years; five of their eight children were alive. Solomon died in 1923 and Agnes in 1925 and are buried at Blackley.²⁴



Jacob Hoffman, born Wigan, 1881, courtesy Hoffman Family

The third Jewish glazier in the 1881 census was Hyman Berman aged 28 born in Poland He and his wife Jane aged 26 and two children were living at 95 Schofield Lane, Wigan. ²⁵

²⁴ MDCS Burial Records

²⁵ Ancestry Census, 1881, RG11/3765

Both children were born in Manchester; Bessie was 4 and Morris was 2, so at the time of the census the family had been in Wigan only a short time. It seems that the life of a glazier in Wigan was not easy. By 1901 Hyman and family had returned to Manchester where he worked in the waterproofing trade.²⁶ There were now three more mouths to feed, Minnie 8, Rebecca 5 and Shina 2, all born in Manchester.

Another person of possible Jewish origin in Wigan at this time, who married out of the faith, was Zigismunt Markusfeldt. A notice appeared in the London Gazette of 5 September 1876 stating that the partnership between Zigismunt Markusfeldt and James Webb, drapers of Wigan had been dissolved by mutual consent. A further notice on 14 June 1878 announced a second meeting of the creditors regarding the drapery business of Markusfeldt of 210 Wallgate and 2 and 8 Market Hall. Zigismunt was born in Weilen, Poland in about 1846, son of Josef and Anna. In 1876 he married Sarah Ellen Fisher at St Saviours Church, Chorlton on Medlock.²⁷ They settled in Wigan, where their daughter Annie was born in 1879. Sadly, she died that year. Zigismunt and Sarah appear in the 1881 census, living at 210 Wallgate.²⁸ Their surname is mis-spelt as Markefield. Zigismunt was

²⁶ Findmypast Census, 1901, RG12/3261

²⁷ LancsBMD website

²⁸ Ancestry Census, 1881, RG11/3768

described as a clothier. He appeared in the 1890 Slater's Directory as a clothier at 2 Market Hall, Wigan. By 1891 they had moved to Southport. He appeared in Harfields Directory of 1894 as a general dealer and clothier in the town. He and Sarah were living in Oldham by 1911.²⁹ He was described as a retired clothier, who had been naturalised in 1886. Sarah died in 1918 and Zigismunt in 1925, both in Oldham.

Alfred Kresner, who became a mainstay of the Wigan Hebrew Congregation appeared in the 1881 census, lodging with a non-Jewish family, the Russells, at 17 Powell Street.³⁰ He appeared in the census as Alfred Resner. In 1871 he was recorded as Woolf Kresner,³¹ but in common with many immigrants he adopted a more English-sounding first name. Of the few Jewish Wigan families who appeared in the 1881 census only the Kresners stayed in the town for any length of time. Further information about the family and Alfred's involvement with the synagogue, of which he was a founder member and President, appears later in this story. By the time of the next census in 1891 a synagogue had been founded and there were some seventy people of the Jewish faith residing in the town.

²⁹ 1911 Census for 124 Manchester Road, Werneth, Oldham

³⁰ Ancestry Census, 1881, RG11/3776

³¹ Ancestry Census, 1871, RG11/3766

Chapter 2

Extravaganzas and Dental Dynasties

Well before the advent of the established Jewish community, Wigan was visited by Jewish traders and hawkers. In the Wigan Gazette of 14 December 1838, the following large advertisement appeared.

NOW OPEN
FOR
ONE WEEK
ONLY.



AGREEABLE NEWS TO THE INHABITANTS OF WIGAN AND
ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM ROYAL HOTEL, WIGAN,
WITH FREE ENTRANCE TO HEAR THE CELEBRATED SELF-PLAYING INSTRUMENT,
THE EUTERPEON,
Playing several Pieces of Music.

MESSRS. LOUIS AND CO.,
From the French Houses, Brighton and Leamington,

HAVE great pleasure in informing the Gentry and Public in general, that they have just taken the above Room, which they have opened, for a very short time only, with a most **SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF PERLIAN, GENEVA, FRANKFORT, and BERLIN**

FANCY GOODS.

Messrs. L. and Co. deem it proper to state, that with the various Bazaars now travelling in this Country they have no competition whatever; and they beg the honour of one visit only, to convince the discerning Public that this is, in reality, the most **VALUABLE, SPLENDID, and BEST STOCK** of **GOODS** of the kind ever seen in Wigan.

The Stock consists of very ingeniously manufactured **JEWELLERY**, set with **Diamonds, Pearls, Cameos, Monies,** and valuable **Stones**; **Geneva** and other **Fine Gold and Enamelled Horizontal and Lever Watches**; **Musical Cabinet Boxes**, playing from one to six **Overtones** each; the finest specimens of **Porlin and China**; best **Polished Jets**; **Porlin** from **Ornaments**; **Musical Pendulum Clocks**, in **Or-Molu, Platina, Alabaster, and Bronze**; **Ivory** and other valuable **Work boxes**; the **Hungarian Opals**; and a thousand other curious **Articles** of the most interesting description.

A Musical Promenade in the Edesim.

ARTICLES FROM ONE SHILLING TO ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS.

If removing Part of their Stock from their regular Establishment, it may come under the Licence Act: they comply therewith.—**HYMEN LOUIS**, Licensed Hawker, No. 2348, A.

Advertisement from the Wigan Gazette, 1838, Wigan Local Studies

Messrs Louis and Co., from the French Houses, Brighton and Leamington were offering an amazing assortment of Fancy Goods. They had hired the Assembly Room at Wigan's Royal Hotel where the goods could be purchased. Free musical entertainment from the Euterpeon, a self playing instrument would take place in the evening.

Goods for sale included musical pendulum clocks, jewellery set with diamonds, pearls, cameos and other valuable stones, china, horizontal and lever watches, Ivory work boxes and a thousand other curious articles. Messrs Louis were at pains to point out that they had no connection whatsoever with any of the various Bazaars travelling throughout the country. The signatory to this extravagant, flowery advert was Hymen Louis, hawker, whose licence number was given as No. 2348.

His reference to other Bazaars travelling throughout the country probably referred to Henry Levaux who advertised in the Newcastle, Preston, Liverpool and Manchester newspapers. Interestingly, the Messrs. Louis advertisement bears a close resemblance to those of Mr Levaux, which appeared in the Preston Chronicle on 8 March 1834 and 18 March 1837 and in the Newcastle Courant in August 1834. His Bazaar purported to be, 'Under the Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen', and used the same elaborate language. A detailed description of the career of Mr Levaux appears in John Cowell's book, 'Furriers, Glaziers, Doctors and Others: A

History of the Preston Jewish Community'. A similar advert appeared in the Bolton Chronicle on 18 January 1834. This time the hawker was No 1623, namely Adolphus Siegfried Viener,³² who had premises at Brighton, Weymouth, Cheltenham and Windsor. His Queen's Bazaar was, 'under the patronage of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen; Depot of Palais Royal no.88, 89 Paris.'

The goods on sale from these three extravaganzas were almost identical. The Bazaars were only temporary events, lasting no more than a week or two in each town. Hymen/Hyman Louis advertised only for two weeks in the Wigan Gazette in December 1838. By 2 Feb 1839 he was advertising with the same flourish in the Preston Chronicle. I have found a Hyman Louis, a merchant in the 1851 Census,³³ residing in Birmingham. He was born in Prussia in 1807 and died in Birmingham in 1856.³⁴ This may be the same man.

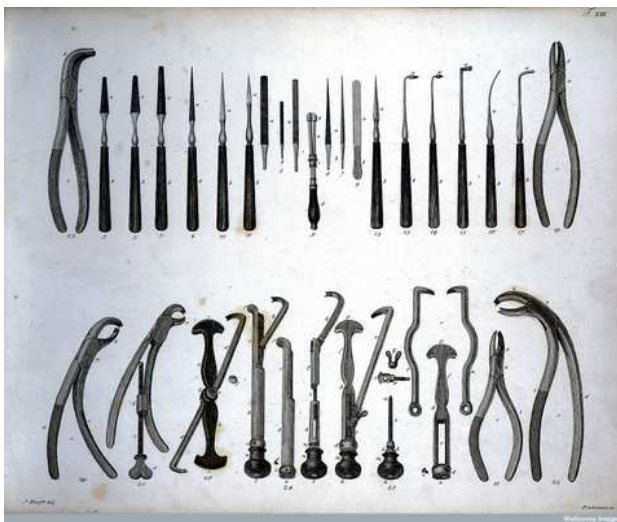
As well as hawkers and travelling traders, Wigan was visited by several members of the Jewish dental dynasties throughout the 1850's, the Moseleys, the Gabriels and the Eskells. The practice of dentistry at that time was not regulated and the training was very brief indeed. The dentists visited the town

³² Cowell and Thomas, 'An Industrious Minority: A History of the Bolton Jewish Community', November 2012, p. 15.

³³ Ancestry Census, 1851, HO107/2052

³⁴ Ancestry Deaths index

once or twice a week. Their extravagant adverts in the local newspapers were very much lacking in modesty.



Mid-Victorian dental instruments, courtesy of the Wellcome Trust Image Library

In the Wigan Times, 1853, regular notices appeared advertising that Messrs. Moseley, Surgeon Dentists established 20 years, would be attending at Wigan every Thursday at Miss Ainsworths confectioners. The Moseley family were part of several dynasties of Jewish dentists who travelled countrywide offering their services. Others included

the Jones family (original surname Groomsfeldt),³⁵ the Mallan family (original surname Milleman), the Alex, Crawcour, Eskell and Gabriel families. There was a great deal of intermarriage between all these families.

Lewin Yehuda Moseley, born 1807 in London, was the son of Benjamin Issachar Moseley and his wife Rose nee Levy. Lewin, a dentist, married Lydia Alex in 1832 at the Great Synagogue, London. Lydia's parents were Rachael nee Jones and Solomon Alex. Lydia and Lewin had eight children, three of whom became dentists: Simeon, Benjamin and Frederick.

Simeon later became a jeweller and horologist. Benjamin's sons all became dentists, namely Edward, Lewin Lewis, Harry and Bertram.³⁶ In the London Gazette, 14 February 1868, the following Notice appeared:

'The partnership between Lewin Moseley, Simeon Moseley; Benjamin Lewin Moseley and Frederick Solomon Moseley of 30 Berners St. Middlesex, 448 The Strand plus several provincial towns in England, trading as "Lewin and Simeon Moseley and Sons, Surgeons and Mechanical Dentists" would be dissolved so far as it relates to Benjamin Lewin Moseley.'

³⁵ Family website of Margaret Macculloch and David J. Hall

³⁶ Ibid.

Ephraim and Charles, the other sons of Benjamin Issachar Moseley also became dentists, as did some of their sons and all attended to the public in several Lancashire towns. Charles, who lived in Preston, appeared in the 1851 Slater's Commercial Directory for Lancashire and the 1855 Mannex's Directory for Mid-Lancashire.³⁷ The Moseley advertisements, which were certainly not lacking in modesty, never named which particular member of the family would be in attendance. In one of the adverts Charles was described as Dentist to the King of Hanover, whereas the rival company, Messrs Gabriel described themselves as Dentists to Prince D'Ottobiano, who purported to be Ambassador to the King of Naples.

The Wigan Observer of 21 March 1856 carried a large advertisement from the Gabriels of 113 Duke Street, Liverpool and 79 Fenchurch Street, London. They were advertising artificial teeth from 4 guineas a set and single teeth from 3/6d each. They also advertised products for filling and scaling teeth. Their invention, White Stopping, was available at a cost of 30 postage stamps. They advertised their own chemically prepared White Gutta Percha Enamel, the best stopping extant for decayed teeth and toothache at 1/6d a box. Their agent for this product was Mr Wall, the Postmaster at Wigan

³⁷ Cowell, 'Furriers, Glaziers, Doctors and Others. A History of the Preston Jewish Community', 2009.

Post Office.³⁸ By 1862, Messrs Gabriel were advertising their dental services in Wigan. On 14 January and 1 and 17 February and on alternate Fridays, they would be in attendance at the premises of Miss Peck on Standishgate.³⁹

REGULAR PROFESSIONAL ATTENDANCE, ALTERNATE
FRIDAYS, FROM TEN TO FIVE.
WIGAN: February, 21st, and March 7th and 21st.
AT THE MISSES PECKS, STANDISHGATE; ALSO
ATTENDANCE AT BOLTON AND WARRINGTON,
BY HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT,
MESSRS. GABRIEL'S PATENT
INDESTRUCTIBLE MINERAL TEETH and Flexible
Gums without palates, springs, or wires, and without any
operation. "One set lasts a lifetime," and are warranted for
every purpose of mastication or articulation, even when all
others fail. Purest materials and first-class workmanship at
half the usual cost.
MESSRS. GABRIEL,
THE OLD ESTABLISHED DENTISTS,
134, DUKES-STREET, LIVERPOOL; 27, HARLEY-STREET, CLAVESHAM
SQUARE, and 34, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON; 65, NEW-STREET,
BIRMINGHAM.
American Mineral Teeth, best in Europe, 4 to 7, and 10 to 15
guineas per set, warranted.
STOPPINGS FOR TEETH.
More Teeth are sacrificed by the use of injurious Stoppings,
having high sounding names, than by any other process. These
Stoppings invariably contain quicksilver or some other injurious
substance, which slowly but surely undermines the tooth it was
intended to save.
**GABRIEL'S CHEMICALLY PREPARED WHITE GUTTA
PERCHA ENAMEL.**
Is the best Stopping extant for Decayed Teeth and Toothache
and no matter how far decayed, renders the injured member
again sound and useful and prevents toothache. This prepara-
tion is entirely free from any metallic substance, and, as its
name signifies, is specially prepared for the purpose. With
directions for use, 1s. 6d. per box.
. Country Patients are informed that only one visit is required,
and Complete Sets made in one day.

*Advertisement for Messrs. Gabriels dental services,
Wigan Observer, Wigan Local Studies*

³⁸ Wigan Observer, throughout 1858

³⁹ Wigan Observer, 10 January and 21 February 1862

The 21 February advertisement stated that Messrs Gabriel of Liverpool, London and Birmingham held the patent for, 'indestructible mineral teeth and flexible gums without palates, springs and wires...the best in Europe'. The firm advertised in the Burnley Advertiser on 18 May 1862 and in the Preston Chronicle on 11 October 1862, stating that they were attending regularly in Bolton, Preston, Southport and Wigan. The mineral teeth, they claimed, were prepared in laboratories under the personal supervision of Messrs Gabriel. The patriarch of the Gabriel family was Lyon Gabriel a dentist born in Amsterdam about 1785. His wife Adelaide was some 19 years his junior. They appeared in the 1841 census living in the Sculcoates area of Yorkshire together with their nine children.⁴⁰ By 1851 they had moved to Fenchurch Street, London.⁴¹ By 1861 they were still in London in the Ludgate area of the city.⁴² Lyon was now a non-practising dental surgeon. His eldest son Maurice was a dentist, his other sons, John, Adolph and Solomon all born in Liverpool, were pupil dentists. Lyon died in London in 1866,⁴³ but the dental dynasty continued.

A notice in the Wigan Observer on 10 January 1862, announced that Eskells, surgeon-dentists would be attending

⁴⁰ 1841 Census, HO107/1232

⁴¹ 1851 Census, HO107/1530

⁴² 1861 Census, RG9/122

every Friday in Wigan at 14 King Street, at the premises of Mr J C Moss, brush maker.

Frederick Abraham Eskell, surgeon-dentist, was listed in the 1851 census,⁴⁴ living at St. Peter's Square, Manchester, with his wife Sarah and infant daughter Ann. His brother Louis, 29, a dentist, was living with them. Frederick was born about 1817 in Scotland as was his mother Sophia. His father, Philippus (Philip), also a dentist, was born in the Netherlands. The family appeared in the 1841 census,⁴⁵ living in Sheffield.

Frederick, a dentist, was named as Braham. By 1851,⁴⁶ all the children had left Sheffield but Philip and Sophia were still living there. Philip appeared in the 1839 Robson's Directory No2 as a dentist at 99 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, in the 1849 Whites Directory at 205 Bath Buildings, Sheffield, and in the 1855 Whites Directory at 39 Church Street, Sheffield. He died in 1862 in Manchester.⁴⁷

In the Wigan Observer of 14 March 1856, there appeared a grand advertisement at least 4 inches long headed by a Coat of Arms, from Frederick A Eskell:

⁴³ Free BMD Deaths index

⁴⁴ 1851 Census, HO107/2227

⁴⁵ 1841 Census, HO107/1337

⁴⁶ 1851 Census, HO107/2338

⁴⁷ Free BMD Deaths index

'Provisionally Registered-Petition recorded in the Office of the Commissioners on 13th Nov 1855.

FREDERICK A ESKELL, mechanical dentist of 2 St Peter's Sq Manchester. For the invention of an improvement in plates that are free from taste and prevent oxalation, which is occasioned by the soldering of gold plates together, as the solder is found to be of inferior metal to the gold plates. This splendid GOLD ENAMEL is the grand desideratum so long required by Dentists to make Dentistry of all artificial requirements, the most perfect in all its branches.

LOSS OF TEETH.....A NEW AND ELEGANT IMPROVEMENT connected with dental surgery has been invented by Mr F A Eskell of 2 St Peter's Sq.

It is the production of an entirely new description of artificial teeth which never change colour, nor decay; also without springs or wires and warranted for mastication and articulation. They so perfectly resemble nature that the practised eye of the dentist could not detect them from production of nature.

Mr Eskell returns his sincere thanks to the Nobility, Gentry and Inhabitants of Manchester and its vicinity for the high and extensive practice he has had the Honour to be favoured with during his many years residence in Manchester.

“FILLING DECAYED TEETH with ESKELL’S White Terra Paste which never changes colour. Single Artificial tooth 10/- Loose teeth fastened . F A Eskell’s method combines all the Modern Improvements of Paris and Berlin.’

Frederick was listed in the 1848 Slater’s Directory at 34 Cooper Street, Manchester and in the 1853 Whelan’s Manchester and Salford Directory at Cooper Street and 2 St Peters Square. In the 1855 Slaters Directory he was listed at St Peter’s Square. That year his third child and first son Louis Benjamin was born. He too became a dentist practising in London, where the family were living by 1864. The census for 1861,⁴⁸ showed Frederick, Sarah and their six children living in Manchester. Their address in 1871 was Hanover Square London.⁴⁹ There were now nine children: Ann 19, Eva 18, Louis 16, Kate 14, Blanche 11, Frederika 9, all born in Manchester and Joseph 7, Ernest 6, Douglas 4, all three births registered in Middlesex. Although Frederick was living in London he still had Manchester links. He was a founder member of the South Manchester synagogue in 1872 and was its first representative on the Board of Deputies.⁵⁰ He was President of a charity run by the Manchester Jewish

⁴⁸ 1861 census RG9/2943

⁴⁹ 1871census RG10/96

⁵⁰ Bill Williams, The Making of Manchester Jewry

Benevolent Society,⁵¹ to supply bread, coal and other necessities in the winter months to the poor Jews of the city.⁵²

Frederick was the author of several books on dentistry and took out several patents. The London Gazette of 3 August 1860 announced that provisional protection has been allowed to F. A. Eskell of 8 Grosvenor Street, London, for the invention of improvements in beds or bases for artificial teeth. In 1862 he wrote a book on the system of treating and fixing artificial teeth. In 1869 he published a work on painless dentistry. Frederick died in London in 1874.⁵³ The Jewish Chronicle gave his age as 58. The FreeBMD deaths index stated he was 56. His widow Sarah carried on the business under his name, but by 1881 it had failed. A notice appeared in the London Gazette on 15 November 1881 announcing the first general meeting of the creditors.

Another Eskell dentist was Abraham, born about 1824 in Scotland. He appeared in Dix's General and Commercial Directory between 1855 and 1873 practising in Birmingham. He also appeared in the 1860 Worcester Post office Directory in Dudley. His family were living in London at the time of the 1861 census,⁵⁴ but Abraham was visiting the Benjamin family

⁵¹ Jewish Chronicle, 30 November 1860

⁵² Williams, Bill, 'The Making of Manchester Jewry'

⁵³ Jewish Chronicle, 26 June 1874

⁵⁴ 1861 Census, RG9/43

of Birmingham at the time.⁵⁵ In 1871,⁵⁶ Abraham, 47, his wife Fanny, 46, and their six children were at 8 Grosvenor Street, an earlier address of Frederick A. Eskill. Abraham changed his surname to Clifford-Eskill, then became known as Abraham Clifford. His five sons, Maurice, Isadore, Herbert, Reuben and Stanley all became dentists. Abraham died in London in 1888. He left £29,996.⁵⁷ The Jewish Chronicle of 7 September 1888 noted that he left £50 to the Board of Guardians for the Jewish Poor in London.

A third Eskill dentist was Albert, born London about 1811. In 1851 he, his wife Sarah and their three children were living in Manchester.⁵⁸ The 1853 Whellans Directory of Manchester and Salford listed him at 55 George Street. By 1861 the family had moved to Glasgow,⁵⁹ but by 1871, Albert, Sarah and some of the family were in London.⁶⁰ Three of the children Edward, Julia and Ann were living in Chorlton, Manchester. Edward was a dentist.⁶¹ Albert had worked all over the country as can be seen by the birthplaces of his children: Edward in Manchester, Julia in Halifax, Emmanuel and Annie in Manchester, Lewis and Frank in Leeds and the youngest Adele

⁵⁵ 1861 Census, RG9/2140

⁵⁶ 1871 Census, RG10/98

⁵⁷ Ancestry National Probate Calendar

⁵⁸ 1851 Census, HO107/2227

⁵⁹ 1861 Scottish Census Roll, CSSCT1861-105

⁶⁰ 1871 Census, RG10/133

in Liverpool. In 1881 Albert, a widower was living in London with Adele and her husband Saul Nathan.⁶² Albert died in London in February 1888, a few months before his kinsman Abraham Clifford-Eskell. Albert left £1886.⁶³

It is highly likely that Albert, Abraham Clifford and Frederick were closely related. They certainly managed to produce a dynasty of dentists.

⁶¹ 1871 Census, RG10/3988

⁶² 1881 Census, RG11/41

⁶³ Ancestry National Probate Calendar

Chapter 3

The Founding of the Synagogue and Some Early Families

As explained in the Introduction there are no existing Synagogue records for Wigan.

Fortunately mention was made of the congregation several times in the Jewish Chronicle and the local Wigan newspapers. The Congregation was founded in 1886 and its first minister was Myer Bercovitz who lived at 19 Great George Street.⁶⁴ The Synagogue premises like so many in the smaller towns was probably a terraced house. The earliest report regarding the congregation appeared in the Jewish Chronicle of 18 March 1887, announcing that Mr L. Cobe of Manchester had presented the Wigan Hebrew Congregation with a mantle for the Sefer Torah, the scroll containing the Five Books of Moses, a portion of which is read as part of the service every Sabbath morning. The presentation had taken place in the synagogue chambers, but no actual address was mentioned in any early press reports.

⁶⁴ Wigan Directory, 1888

Just over a year later the Jewish Chronicle and the Wigan Observer reported on the tragic death of Myer Bercovitz. The headline in the Observer of 28 March 1888 announced:

‘SHOCKING OCCURRENCE AT WALLGATE; JEWISH MINISTER KILLED’

The report described Rev Bercovitz as forty six years old, a Russian-born pastor to the Jewish community, who had been in England only four years, the last two in Wigan.

Rev Bercovitz was walking down Wallgate when a horse escaped from its cart. The cart veered off the road and hit Rev Bercovitz, killing him instantly. He left a wife and five children. The newspaper went on to describe him as being held in great respect not only by all his flock but by all who knew him. His terrible death had awakened a strong feeling of regret. The Wigan Examiner commented that the town was in shock at the death of a likeable resident and it was extremely distressing to have the leading minister of the Jewish religion in Wigan in the prime of his life, killed in such an abrupt manner in one of the town’s principal streets.

On 31 March the local newspapers reported on the inquest which was held at the Swan and Railway Hotel and was attended by several members of the Jewish community. A verdict of Accidental Death was pronounced. The Jewish Chronicle of 30 March 1888 also reported on the death. On 20

April the paper published an appeal from Rev Dr Hermann Adler and other ministers for donations to a fund set up to help the Bercovitz family. A list of donors was published in the paper on 20 and 27 April. The Treasurer of the Fund wrote to the newspaper on 25 May 1888, emphasising the importance of having insurance in case of death. Rev Bercovitz had no such insurance. The treasurer felt that some of the responsibility for this should lie with the synagogue. There was further correspondence on the subject on 1 June 1888.

Nothing further appeared in the press regarding the Wigan Hebrew Congregation until 21 September 1888 when the Jewish Chronicle reported that Rev M Pepperman had conducted the principal services and preached on the Day of Atonement. L. Harris and Abraham Livingstone had assisted in the other services. L. Harris was Lazarus Harris a jeweller whose biography appears later in this book. On 12 October 1888 the paper reported that Mr A. Kresner and Mr Abraham Livingstone had been elected president and treasurer. Alfred (Woolf) Kresner and family lived in Wigan for many years. Alfred, a tailor and draper was highly involved with the synagogue. A full biography of the family appears later in this story.

Abraham Livingstone and family lived in Wigan for only a short time. He came from Wolkowisk. He and his wife Betsy

married at Manchester Central Synagogue in 1879.⁶⁵ Of their seven children, only Sarah, their fourth child, was born in Wigan in 1888.⁶⁶ Interestingly, Abraham's younger brother Lewis started in business as a money lender in the front room of a house in Darlington Street, Wigan, at the turn of the century. His story and the story of other money lenders appears later in this book. In the early 1890s a few snippets of Wigan news appeared in the Jewish Chronicle. The Synagogue had sent a donation of £3.10/- to the Relief Fund for Russian Jewish Fugitives on 6 November 1891. A donation of £1 1s by Charles Abelson to the same fund was reported on 11 December 1891. Mr Abelson, a founder member of the synagogue appears to have been a charitable man. Further snippets in the issue of 23 November 1894 and 1 June 1895 report his donations of 25/- and 10/6d to the Manchester Talmud Torah School. Three other donations by non-Jewish members of the town were also mentioned in the Jewish Chronicle.

On 1 January 1892 it was reported that Messrs Coop of Wigan had sent a donation of 10 guineas to the Liverpool Russo-Jewish Fund. This was indeed generous. Coops, founded in 1862, had several hundred employees manufacturing men and womens' clothing and army and police uniforms. It is likely

⁶⁵ LancsBMD website

⁶⁶ Ibid.

they had Jewish employees; certainly Elias Rubinstein worked for them. His short biography appears later in this story. The other Wigan donations were reported on 12 October 1894; namely 5/- from Wilson Croft and £1.1s from Anne Sherrington, both to the Manchester Central Synagogue Appeal.

The families who made up the Jewish community at this time were the above-mentioned Abelsons, Kresners and Livingstones, plus: the Checkmans; Hosel Cohen and family; the Elichmans; the Garbutts; the Goldsteins; the Glickmans; the Harnishkis; the Hoffmans, Samuel Joseph (formerly Burde) and family; Simon Levi and family; Daniel Levy and family; Michael Marks and family (the co-founder of Marks and Spencer;) the Nimans; the Rosenbergs; the Segals; the Sytners; the Walkers and the large Tarshish clan which comprised of Abraham and family; Marks and family; Barnett and family and Jacob Samuel and family. There were seventeen Tarshish children born in Wigan between 1887 and 1906. Some of these families were in Wigan for only a short time; others like the Nimans had links with the town for over sixty years. A report of the closing of the Niman jewellery and fancy goods business appeared in the Lancashire Post on 9 April 1962.

The Commercial Directory of the Jews of the United Kingdom compiled in 1894 by Eugene Harfield listed five Wigan

businesses: Charles Abelson, furnisher and upholsterer at 37 Darlington Street; Michael Marks, wholesale and retail smallwares and hardware dealer at 57 Darlington Street; Isadore Niman, tailor and draper at 184 Manchester Road, Ince; Niman and Sytner, tailors to the trade at 32 School Lane; A Kresner, tailor and draper at 124 Standishgate. There were in fact a few more businesses at this time: The Manchester and Wigan House Furniture Co.,⁶⁷ at 22 Scholes was owned by Messrs Tarshish and Youngerman; The British Loan Co., at 12 Caroline Street was managed by Isidore Solomon and a watchmaking business at 120 Chapel Lane and 115 Market Hall,⁶⁸ was owned by George Cohen. Unsurprisingly there were at least seven different Cohen families in Wigan from the 1890s onwards. By the time of the 1901 census several more Jewish families such as the Adlers, Cowens, Fishers, Franks, Goldstones, Josephs, Myers and Schurs had settled in Wigan. Many of them played an important part in the life of the Congregation.

There were few references to the Wigan community in the press during the late 1890s until 1898 when once again tragedy struck the Jewish community. One of its founder members Charles Abelson died on 20 November at the early age of thirty five. The cause of death was suffocation by carbon

⁶⁷ Wigan Trade Directory, 1885

⁶⁸ Ibid.

oxide gas from a fire in a zinc bucket, taken by him to heat his bedroom. Both the Jewish Chronicle and Wigan Observer reported this tragic event. The Jewish Chronicle of 9 December 1898 noted the deep sense of loss felt by Wigan's Jewish community. Charles Abelson had worked zealously for the welfare of his co-religionists for the last twelve years. At a special meeting held on Sunday 4 December, a vote of condolence was moved by the synagogue President, Mr Kresner and seconded by the Secretary, Mr Myers which was passed on to the Abelson family. The Wigan Observer reported on the inquest held on 23 November at the Bath Hotel Millgate, not far from the Abelson residence. The Observer carried the headline, 'Strange Death of A Jew', and reported the verdict as accidental death.

Charles was born Michael Charles Abelson in 1863. He married Jane Levi at Manchester Great Synagogue in 1889 and they settled in Wigan soon afterwards. In 1891 census,⁶⁹ the family were living at 37 Darlington Street. Charles was described as a general dealer, born in Leeds, as was his wife and sister Annie a dressmaker who lived with them. However in later censuses their birthplace was given as Russia. Jane and Charles had two sons at this time, Samuel George born St Helens in 1889 and Henry (Harry) born Wigan in 1891. Charles was listed as a furniture dealer at 39 Darlington Street

in the 1895 Wigan Trade Directory. In the 1895 Rate Books there is an entry Blumberg and Abbelson (sic) Darlington St. The landlord was John G. Hawkins who appeared to own several properties on the street. The Blumberg was probably Isaac Blumberg who started out as a furniture dealer and ended up as a money lender in Manchester.⁷⁰ Jane and Charles had three more children, all born in Wigan: Isabella in 1893 who died in 1896, John born 1896 and Walter Myer born 1898.⁷¹

Charles Abelson appeared twice in the Wigan Bankruptcy Register, on 12 and 15 October 1893 but on both occasions the petitions were withdrawn and no action was taken. The Register listed him as a house furnisher of 37 Darlington Street, Wigan, 5 Church Wharf, Bolton and 15 Kay Street, Bolton. Charles was probably related to and in business with Albert Abelson, who according to the 1891 census lived at 5 Church Wharf.⁷² Albert also appeared in the Bolton Rate Book of 1909 at 15 Kay Street. By 1911 Jane and family were living in Cheetham, Manchester at 62 Bell Street. John went to South Africa. He joined the Army and fought in the First World War as a private in the South African Infantry. He died on 14 July 1917 and was buried at Dar Es Salaam War

⁶⁹ Ancestry Census, 1891, RG12/3056

⁷⁰ See Biography section

⁷¹ LancsBMD website

cemetery.⁷³ There is a record of Harry returning from Durban in 1925,⁷⁴ then sailing to South Africa on 8 October 1926. He was described as a commercial traveller intending to settle in the country. Jane died in Manchester in 1959 outliving her husband Charles by some sixty one years.⁷⁵

Some six months after the untimely death of Charles Abelson a special event for the Synagogue took place and was briefly reported on 12 May 1899 in the Jewish Chronicle. This was the Consecration of the Scroll. No details were given apart from the names of some of those present: President, A. Kresner, Vice president, S. Franks, Hon. Secretary, B. Saegal, Treasurer, Mr Sydney; Trustees, Messrs Myers and Franks, Committee: Niman, Levy and Jacobs. This paucity of detail is typical of the reporting at the time. Lists of names seemed to suffice. There was no mention of any minister at the event.

After the death of Rev Berkovitz eleven years earlier, it is likely that the Wigan Congregation was served by various visiting ministers including Rev Moses Eker. The Jewish Chronicle of 11 September 1896 announced this gentleman's appointment

⁷² Ancestry Census, 1891, RG12/3113

⁷³ CWGC website and British Jewry Book of Honour

⁷⁴ Ancestry Incoming Passenger Lists and FindmyPast, Outgoing Passenger Lists

⁷⁵ LancsBMD website

to the pulpit at Chester, mentioning that he had at one time served the Wigan Congregation.

12 May 1899 was the final mention of the Wigan Hebrew Congregation in the nineteenth century press, but more was to come as a new century dawned.

Chapter 4

Origins, Conflict, Rabbis... and an Important Visitor

Before proceeding with the story of the community from 1900 onwards, it might be appropriate to look at the origins of some of the families, most of whom arrived in Wigan between 1885 and 1900.

A two line item in the Jewish Chronicle of 4 May 1894 proclaimed, 'a police report stated that there are no destitute aliens in Wigan and few alien residents'.

So who were these alien residents? Did this report refer only to the Jewish immigrants? It was in fact a report from the town's Chief Constable connected to a recently published Board of Trade report on Alien Immigration which stated that the net addition of all foreigners to the UK in 1893 was approximately 6,500. Of these about 5000 were classed as destitute. The Jewish Chronicle commented that Wigan, together with other towns with no destitute aliens including Sunderland, Sheffield, South Shields, Portsmouth and Reading was an example of, 'the very highest testimony to the self-reliance, the industry and perseverance of our foreign co-religionists in this country'.

In the *Journal of the Historical Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*,⁷⁶ John T. Jackson pointed out that at the end of the nineteenth century, Wigan and its neighbour St Helens had the highest rates of overcrowding of all the large Lancashire towns. The cotton manufacturing boom had made it an unhealthy place to live. However these factors did not stop the Jewish immigrants settling in the town. To many of them from the Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires who had suffered anti-Semitism, pogroms, the introduction of twenty five years military service, constant persecution and dire poverty, England would seem like a paradise.

The Adler brothers hailed from Mosty Wielke in Austria,⁷⁷ as did their brother-in-law, Solomon Fox. The Abelson families all gave Russia or Russia/Poland as their place of birth as did the Sytners and the Fisher families. The Livingstones hailed from Wolkowisk, Barnett Richards and Alfred Kresner were from Poland, Solomon Hoffman, Barnett Segal, Solomon Schur and all the Franks and Tarshish families were Russian-born. The only Rumanians I have found were Annie, wife of Solomon Adler and Rebecca and Abraham Blumenfeld, who kept a boarding house in Leigh. Harry Checkman came from Germany, one of the few German-Jewish residents. However, Wigan had several non-Jewish German families living in the

⁷⁶ Volume 129, 1980

⁷⁷ Information from their grandson, Arnold Fox.

town. In the 1881 and 1895 local trade Directories and in the Censuses of 1891, 1901 and 1911, the following names appeared:

George Brand, pork butcher; George Dietz, pork butcher; Johan Eckman, sausage-skin dealer; Christian Eckman, Christian Flarder, Charles Kneller, Fred Knorzer, George Keyder, Louis Mynekyme, Fred Schultz, and Fred Ziegler, all butchers. Franz Pietsch was a gut dealer. Lena Falk was a servant at the home of Louis Mynekyme; Feodor Muller was an engineer and to end on a lighter note, Anna Cripps-Kuper was a teacher of singing and Maxwell Kurscer was a teacher of music and languages.

The Story from 1900 Onwards

As the twentieth century dawned, there were several short items in the Jewish Chronicle regarding the activities of the Wigan Hebrew Congregation. On 9 June 1900 it was reported that a meeting had been held at the New Jerusalem Rooms, Wigan, under the auspices of the Wigan Dorshei Zionist Society. The audience was addressed on the principles of Zionism by Mr Massel and Mr Yablonsky of Manchester. Mr S. Schur presided. Other speakers were M. Ashkinazy, S. Myers and B. Segal. The meeting pledged itself to join the English Zionist Federation. On 22 July the paper reported that at a meeting of the Wigan Dorshei Zionist Society, Mr H. Baker of Manchester had been elected as delegate to the forthcoming

4th Zionist Congress. The New Jerusalem Rooms mentioned above were not, as might be thought from the name, a Jewish centre, but part of the local Wigan New Jerusalem School on Warrington Lane, which many local Jewish children attended. The headmaster was Mr John Johnson. He obviously had a good relationship with the small Jewish community as he received an invitation to meet the Chief Rabbi when he visited the town in 1903.⁷⁸

Zionism: a background

Zionism first emerged as an organisation to gain support for and help finance the settlement of Jews in Palestine. Chovrei Zion was formed by the elite of Manchester Jewry for this purpose. However, it did not encourage the poorer, more recent immigrants to join. As a result, they formed their own society in 1891 called Bnei Zion which aimed to foster a love of Zionism by lectures and debates, but it was not a success and by 1892 had disbanded. That same year, Agudath Achim was formed by young men from Manchester and Dublin with the aim of settling in Palestine. Two of their number were sent there to buy land, but were unsuccessful and returned home. Again the Society was dissolved. In 1894, Dorshei Zion (Seekers of Zion) was formed by some of the original Agudath group. This time there was success. The Society flourished. Its

⁷⁸ Wigan Observer, 16 May 1903

members canvassed and collected money, house to house. In 1899 the Society opted to join the English Zionist Federation. Dorshei Zion became the largest group within the Manchester Zionist Association and branches were set up in several small communities which included Wigan.

The Jewish Chronicle of 7 September 1900, reported that a well attended meeting of ladies and gentlemen was held in the Zionist Rooms, 6 Crompton Street, under the auspices of the Wigan Dorshei Zion Society to hear a report from Mr H. Baker, delegate to the Zionist Congress. He urged all those present to support Zionism. A resolution was put forward by S. Myers and seconded by M. Ashkinazy as follows:

‘This meeting of Wigan Zionists heartily approves of the programme laid out at the last Congress and pledges themselves morally and financially to assist the leaders in whom they place the greatest confidence’.

S. Schur was elected Chairman of the Society; S. Myers was Treasurer; B Segal, Hon. Secretary. The Committee comprised S. Franks, M. Ashkinazy, A. Garbutt, H. Baker was elected as auditor.

At this period the Wigan Jewish community was in conflict. Due to business rivalry, there was a split in the community resulting in two congregations worshipping in different venues. Sheila Sugarman recalls her father John Franks, son

of Minnie, telling her about the quarrel which festered for several years. The Franks family lived in Wigan during those years. Unfortunately, no records exist naming either of the rival factions or their places of worship. However, by November 1900, it seemed the breach had been healed. The Jewish Chronicle on 2 November of that year reported that a meeting had been held for the purpose of uniting the two congregations into one body, the Wigan Hebrew Congregation. Solomon Schur presided and the following were elected; A Kresner, President, S. Tarshish, Vice-President, A. Franks, Treasurer and M. Ashkinazy, Hon. Secretary. Thanks were extended to Mr Schur and Mr Kresner for negotiating a peaceful settlement. The congregation's new home was 22 Bold Street. In the 1901 census it appears as Jews' Tabernacle.⁷⁹ Prior to this date the premises had been used as workrooms. The Jewish Chronicle reported on a special meeting of the Wigan Hebrew Congregation held in honour of the Rev L. Mendlesohn of Leeds,⁸⁰ who was presented with a handsomely engraved silver cigarette case as a token of thanks for the discourses he gave during the recent High Holy Day Festivals. Solomon Schur made the presentation. Afterwards Rev Mendelssohn delivered a lecture on Judaism and Zionism. A hearty vote of thanks terminated the proceedings.

⁷⁹ 1901 Census, RG13/3552;

⁸⁰ Jewish Chronicle, 25 October 1901

The 1901 Annual General Meeting of the Congregation was held in November and was reported in the Jewish Chronicle.⁸¹

Alfred Kresner was re-elected as President, Mr Franks as Vice-president, Mr Segal as Hon. Sec and Mr Ashkinazy as Treasurer. The committee comprised Messrs Niman, Franks Rosenberg, Sytner and Levy. It appears that the Synagogue had its own Minister at this period. The first mention of the Synagogue in the Jewish Year Books was 1902. It recorded that there were 28 members. The minister was Rev J. Goldstone and the synagogue address was 22 Bold Street. Sabbath service commenced at 9am. The synagogue was also listed at this address in the 1903 Wigan Trade Directory. The figure of 28 members is somewhat confusing. Did it mean 28 individuals or 28 families? This figure appears in every single Year Book between 1902 and 1929. As the synagogue ceased to exist by 1909 one can only come to the conclusion that the Year Books in the case of Wigan are not a reliable source of information. Rev Goldstone's tenure at Wigan lasted about three years. He was succeeded by a student, Rev Woolfe Hirshowitz. The careers of Wigan's last two Ministers make interesting reading. One ended up in New York via Ireland; the other in Israel via Shanghai and Pretoria. Wigan it appears was a mere stepping stone in their Rabbinical lives.

⁸¹ Jewish Chronicle, 22 November 1901

Jacob Lazarus Goldstone and family appeared in the 1901 census living at 14 Garden Street, Wigan.⁸² His occupation was given as a Jewish minister. Jacob and his wife Esther were both 22, born in Suwalki, their daughter Blanche aged 2, born Manchester, their son Morris Aaron was 5 months old, born in Wigan, which pinpoints their arrival in the town to 1900. Esther nee Kivelevsky and Jacob had two more children in Wigan; Bertha in 1902 and Barnett in 1903.⁸³ Jacob appeared as a witness to the marriage of Joseph Herman and Rachel Bender at Wigan Register Office in 1903. By 1905 the Goldstones were in Cork where three more children were born; Simon, Ellis and Annie. By the time of the 1911 census the family were living at Monterea Terrace, Cork. Jacob was naturalised that year. In 1916, they emigrated to the USA. The Passenger Lists on the Ancestry website recorded them leaving Liverpool for New York on 24 June. In the US censuses of 1920 and 1930,⁸⁴ they were living in Sullivan, New York. Jacob's occupation was Rabbi. By 1940 Jacob was a widower living with Blanche and her family in New Jersey.

Rev Woolfe Hirshowitz, born 1883, in Russia, served the Wigan Hebrew Congregation for a couple of years from 1903. He was certainly there for the visit of the Chief Rabbi in May

⁸² 1901 Census, RG13/3554

⁸³ LancsBMD website

⁸⁴ Ancestry website

of that year, being part of the welcoming committee. The Wigan Observer of 16 May reported the event in some detail. The Jewish Chronicle of 12 May 1905, reporting on the annual examination and distribution of prizes at Wigan's Hebrew classes, noted that thanks were recorded to Rev Hirshowitz for his efforts. The synagogue president Mr M. Tarshish presented the prizes to M. Fisher, Wilf Fisher, Lewis Fisher and M. Tarshish.

The next mention of Rev Hirshowitz in the Jewish Chronicle was some five years later on 15 July 1910, where he was listed as one of the students at London University who had passed the Intermediate Arts examination. That year he married Masha Zilva at Cardiff Synagogue. In 1912, he gained a BA Hons., 1st class degree in Aramaic and Hebrew. The following year he was appointed minister to the Middlesbrough Hebrew Congregation. The Jewish Chronicle reported this with full details of his career to date, apart from mentioning his time at Wigan.

Woolfe had arrived in England in 1901 having studied Rabbinic Literature in Russia. He attended Jews College in 1907 where he won many prizes including the Hester Rothschild Scholarship for proficiency in Semitic Languages in 1913. He served the Middlesbrough Congregation for seven years during which time he led the Zionist Society and also took services occasionally at Stockton and West Hartlepool.

He became known as Rev Hirsch. In 1920 he was appointed Minister to the newly formed Ohel Rachel Sephardi Congregation in Shanghai.

The Middlesbrough Congregation, the Zionist Society and the West Hartlepool community all paid tribute to him and presented him with gifts. He received his rabbinical diploma in 1920 and arrived at Shanghai in early 1921. The Jewish Chronicle reported on all these events in their issues of 24 September 1920 and 28 January 1921. His arrival was described as an epoch in the history of Judaism in China. When his contract expired in 1924 he decided not to renew it. He took up the post of minister to the Pretoria Hebrew congregation where he stayed for over twenty years. At the beginning of the Second World War he also served as chaplain to the forces at Roberts Heights. In 1943 he served as principal Jewish chaplain to the Union Defence forces with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He left the Pretoria congregation in 1946. He wrote a book in 1947 called Rabbinical Psychology. At some point after this he came to London to study. The Jewish Chronicle of 4 January 1957 reported that Rabbi Hirsch had completed a four year MA degree in psychology at University College London. He was planning to return to South Africa before emigrating to Israel to work as a child psychologist. Quite a journey from 1903 in Bold Street.

That year was in fact a momentous one for the small Wigan Jewish community: the visit of the Chief Rabbi, part of his pastoral tour of northern England. This seemed to capture the imagination of the local press. In the Wigan Observer of 6 May 1903, an erudite article appeared extolling the virtues of Dr Hermann Adler prior to his visit. It was obviously written by an admirer. It read:

‘CHIEF RABBI’S VISIT TO WIGAN. Dr. Adler who will a few days hence be in Wigan has become even a more momentous figure in the religious life of this country than was his father, who of course preceded him in the Chief Rabbinate. The leader of but a small sect, for after all, the Jews are numerically a small sect despite the influence of individuals on national finance and on imperial policy-he has become a force of equal eminence with the heads of national religious communities.

On occasions when it is necessary that the voice of the nation as a religious influence should be heard, Dr Adler occupies a position of equal eminence with that of the Primate, the Catholic cardinal or the elected heads of the Wesleyan or Baptist churches. I attribute this fact to three influences : The first is that Dr Adler, despite his Teutonic accent, is English in his sympathies to the backbone. The prayer which he breathed for the success of our armies in South Africa, was simply beautiful in its patriotism and was perforated with a fine faith

in the British destiny. The second is his fine conciliatoriness; which as we have recently seen, permits of no tampering with what he deems to be verities and essentials.

Certain of the more distinguished men in Anglo-Jewry sought to commend Judaism to the masses who hold aloof from the Synagogue by presenting a less ascetic and less exacting ritual and by garbling it in a certain British and Gentile guise. The Chief Rabbi denounced it with stern inflexibility. The third influence is his manly life and great scholarship, which marks all the utterances which exudes into speeches and prayers alike. Beyond this he has an affectionate side to his nature that is very winning. The sons and daughters of the greater men in Judaism, (of the Rothschilds and the like) subscribe themselves in their letters -yours very affectionately- a tribute to the manner in which the man has influenced the domestic side of Jewish life. Dr Adler has his critics, particularly among the Zionists, who assuredly are seldom modest in their criticisms but he is assuredly the greatest in the line of British Rabbis.'



Dr Adler, c. 1900

The forthcoming visit itself was scantily reported in the Jewish Chronicle.⁸⁵ However, the Wigan Observer of 16 May devoted ten column inches to the event describing Dr Adler as Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Church in England. He was met at Wigan station by the Wigan Synagogue Minister, Rev W. Hirshowitz and Officers of the Synagogue, President Mr A. Franks, Vice-president Mr J. S. Tarshish, Secretary Mr M. Tarshish, together with Mr Johnson headmaster of the New Jerusalem

⁸⁵ Jewish Chronicle, 1 May 1903

School. Mr Johnson and Alderman Phillips, together with other prominent members of the town were present by invitation and were among the congregation at the synagogue in Bold Street. There, Dr Adler asked a number of questions as to the position of the Jewish community in Wigan. He read the hundredth Psalm in Hebrew and English then said a prayer for the King and the Royal family, after which he delivered an address. Dr Adler said this was his first visit to Wigan and expressed his pleasure at meeting the members of the small Jewish community. The theme of his sermon was the value of time. The most precious thing on earth, he said was time, because all we did here in time, made our condition hereafter. God gave us greatly of all things; great seas; and mountains and air. He also gave us a great abundance of time. Still, how little of time remained for the serious business of life. Dr Adler deprecated the waste of time spent in card playing and gambling and enjoined on the people to take advantage of their Sabbath and utilise this time for their spiritual good. He exhorted the congregation not to be unduly overcome by the passion for gain. He then turned his attention to the desirability of the congregation of having a better building. If they were really anxious to have such a place they must prove it by their willingness to make some sacrifice for that purpose. He advised them to raise small subscriptions week by week.... then when they had collected a certain amount, it might be that later on they would perhaps

receive assistance. But they must show themselves worthy of this and commend themselves to their fellow-citizens by living harmoniously, avoiding that strife which came often from business competition, because this country, even this town was big enough for the small handful of Jews who inhabited it, to live without strife. Dr Adler urged the Jews of Wigan to show themselves worthy of their holy faith by their conduct so that they might dwell there in happiness and that the divine prediction concerning their race might be fulfilled. After the Service at the Synagogue, Dr Adler examined the Hebrew knowledge of the boys. He also thanked Mr Johnson, the headmaster of the local New Jerusalem School for the educational services he had rendered to the Jewish children. He then went to the Niman's for tea before proceeding to Blackburn.

The remarks about strife and harmony were a pointed reference to the bad feeling that had caused the rift in the congregation a few years before. Regretfully Dr Adler's words fell on deaf ears. The petty rivalries continued and eventually led to the closure of the synagogue.

An item in the Jewish Chronicle on 2 December 1904 reporting the synagogue elections and one on 12 May 1905 listing the Hebrew class prize winners were the last items about the Wigan Hebrew Congregation to appear in the press. The 1906 Year Book listed the following Synagogue Officers:

President Mr J. Abelson, Vice-President S. Tarshish, Treasurer F. Adler and Hon. Secretary, S. Fisher. By 1909, 22 Bold Street appeared in the Trade Directory as an empty premises. In 1911,⁸⁶ it appeared as workrooms. The strife that had torn the community apart was obviously never fully resolved. That quarrel, a result of business rivalry, was the main reason for the closure of the synagogue, but the fear of inter-marriage probably caused some of the more devout members of the congregation to leave the town and settle in bigger communities such as Manchester, Liverpool and Southport. In the 1911 census only a dozen or so Jewish families resided in Wigan: the two Adler families; Abe and Rebecca Blumenfield in Leigh; Joseph and Sarah Cann; David and Leah Cowen; Solomon and Katie Fox; Barnett and Jane Fisher; Morris and Yetta Fraser; Minnie Franks; Lazarus and Rachel Garbutt; Alfred and Leah Niman; Philip and Dora Ney and finally Israel Bernstein, a licensed victualler.⁸⁷ One can only assume that after the closure of the synagogue, these families either met in a family home or attended services in another town.

⁸⁶ 1911 Census for 22 Bold Street, Wigan

⁸⁷ Israel Bernstein appears in the 1912 Electoral Records, but not the 1911 Census.

Chapter 5

The 'Backbone' Families

Before we close the door of the Wigan Synagogue, let us look at some of the families who formed the backbone of the congregation. The names Adler, Franks, Kresner, Niman, Schur and Tarshish appeared regularly in its history. They all held office at some point in the lifetime of the synagogue, but between 1889 and 1898 there was hardly any mention of the Synagogue officers in the Jewish press and there are no existing Synagogue records which might have told of the involvement of others.

FRANK ADLER appeared in Wigan in the 1911 census living at 1 Platt Lane. He was described as a wholesale clothier born Austria about 1878. His wife Fanny was also Austrian born 1879. They married in Wigan in 1902. All their children were born in Wigan. Aaron was 8, Eva 5 and Hymie 3 at the time of the census.⁸⁸ In the 1903 Wigan Trade Directory Frank was listed as a tailor at 5a Crompton Street. In the 1909 Trade Directory he was listed as a fent dealer at Platt Lane and as a tailor at 6 Crompton Street. According to the Jewish Year Book, he was the synagogue treasurer in 1906. He appeared as

⁸⁸ Lancs BMD website

a tailor still at Crompton Street in the 1924 Kelly's Lancashire directory.

However, he had added another string to his bow, that of financial agent, advertising regularly in the Wigan Observer at Greenhough Street in 1918 and in 1924 at 11 Powell Street. In the 1925 Wigan Directory his loan office was at 38 Station Road where he also had his woollen business. Frank Adler, Woollen Merchant appeared in the Wigan phone books at this address until 1956. The family left Wigan for Manchester in the 1920s but their businesses continued in the town. The 1929 Kelly's Directory listed Frank as a cloth dealer, living at Bellott Street, Cheetham Hill. The 1935 Wigan Electoral Register showed the Adler's business address as 17 Station Road and their home address as Bishop's Road, Prestwich. He was obviously an astute business man. According to the 1928 Wigan Rate Books, Frank and Solomon owned five properties in the town, Numbers 207, 209, 211, 213, and 215 Scholes. Frank died in 1962. Details of his estate which appeared in the National Probate Calendar show he left £26, 548.

SOLOMON ADLER, younger brother of Frank was born in 1881. According to their great nephew Arnold Fox, whose grandmother Gittel was the elder sister of Solomon and Frank, the family's original surname was Roth and they hailed from Mosty-Wielkie near Lemberg. Solomon married Annie Jacobs

in 1905 at the Manchester Holy Law Synagogue.⁸⁹ They moved to Wigan where their three eldest children were born;⁹⁰ Eva in 1906, Benedict in 1908 and Philip in 1910. In the 1911 census their address was 184 Darlington Street. Solomon was described as a tailor. He also had a loans business with his brother at 6 Crompton Street which advertised regularly in the Wigan Observer from 1912 onwards. In the Jewish Chronicle of 17 September 1917, it was reported that S. Adler of Wigan had sent a donation of £1.8s 3d to the Manchester Polish and Palestinian Jews Fund. He was listed in the 1923 Wigan phone book as a financial agent and clothier at 6 Crompton Street. In the 1924 Kelly's Lancashire Directory and 1925 Wigan Trade Directory he appeared as a financial agent. At about this time the family moved to Salford, but the businesses continued in Wigan. The fourth Adler child Noel was born that year in Salford. Solomon also had offices in Bolton from about 1931 at Wood Street and Fold Street.⁹¹ Advertisements for Loans by S. Adler appeared regularly in the local Wigan newspapers. In the 1935 Electoral register Solomon and Annie's business address was at 6 Crompton Street and their residence at 483 Bury New Road, Salford. Solomon's grandson Michael Adler recalls that

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Cowell and Thomas, 'An Industrious Minority: A History of the Bolton Jewish Community'.

the family were strictly orthodox. Solomon died in February 1940. On 27 February 1942, the Jewish Chronicle reported that he left £13,000 including the sum of £20 to the Manchester Talmudical College. His widow Annie married Ralph Davidson in Southport in 1946.⁹²

After the death of Solomon, his sons Benedict and Philip took over the running of the business, Benedict in Wigan and Philip in Bolton. The Wigan business became B. Adler in May 1940 and advertised in the local press throughout the 1940s. Benedict and his wife Lily, nee Biberfeld, whom he married in 1936, lived firstly in Manchester where their son Michael was born in 1937, then Southport where Gillian was born ten years later. Benedict served in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.⁹³ Whilst he was away Lily ran the business. In 1950 Benedict closed the business and became a travelling photographer.⁹⁴ The Adler links with Wigan had lasted some forty five years. Benedict died in Southport in 1957 at the early age of forty eight. Brian Adler, younger son of Philip recalls that the Bolton business moved from Fold Street to 151 Derby Street, where Philip combined a second-hand furniture business with a loan company called P. Adler Finance. Philip married Mirrel Toohey of Dublin in 1939. They

⁹² FreeBMDwebsite

⁹³ Information from his son, Michael.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

lived firstly in North Manchester, moving to Southport in 1948. The Bolton business moved from Derby Street to Deansgate in 1972 and remained there until the end of the decade.⁹⁵ Brian had a carpet business in Bolton at the same time. Today he runs a flooring business at Welchmill in Leigh only a few miles from where his grandfather Solomon set up shop over one hundred years ago.



Solomon and Gittel Fox and family; the sister and brother-in-law of the Adlers. The children were born in Wigan. Courtesy Arnold Fox.

⁹⁵ Information supplied by Brian Adler.

The FRANKS Family arrived in Wigan in the late 1890s. The matriarch of the family Minnie Rivka was born in Orel, Russia, some 220 miles south west of Moscow. She appeared in Wigan in the 1901 census as a widow aged forty eight living at 28 School Lane.⁹⁶ According to her grand-daughter, Sheila Sugarman, family history has it that Minnie's husband Yechiel David died of pneumonia in Russia. Minnie and Yechiel had six children: Lazarus Arnold, Rachael, Simon, Leon, Ettie and John, all of whom were born in Orel .The Franks were strictly orthodox and the elder sons were highly involved with the Wigan Hebrew Congregation. In the 1901 census Minnie was living with her daughter Rachael aged 23, her son Simon a 21 year old furniture dealer, son Leon aged 16 a traveller in clothing and son John 9 a schoolboy. There was also a lodger, Louis Wittenberg, a Russian-born cabinet maker. Ettie Franks remained with relatives in Orel and did not reach England until 1908.⁹⁷

⁹⁶ Ancestry Census, 1901, RG13/3552

⁹⁷ Information from Sheila Sugarman, nee Franks.



Minnie Franks, 1853-1922, courtesy Franks Family

Lazarus Arnold, the eldest son known as Arnold married Jane Shaffer at Manchester New Synagogue in 1897.⁹⁸ They moved to Wigan soon afterwards, appearing in the 1899 Electoral register at 74 Caroline Street. In the 1900 Rate Book, the family were occupiers of a house at 211 Scholes owned by Mr James Watts. That year according to the Jewish Chronicle of 2 November, Arnold was elected treasurer of the Synagogue and the following year he was vice-president. In 1903 at the time of the Chief Rabbi's visit, Arnold was President. In 1901 census the family were still living at 211 Scholes.⁹⁹ Arnold was

⁹⁸ Lancs BMD website

⁹⁹ Census, 1901, RG13/3553

a house furnisher aged 24, Jane also 24, both born Russia and David, 3 born Wigan. In 1903 Wigan Directory, Arnold was still a house furnisher. He and Jane had ten children, the six eldest born in Wigan, namely, David 1898, Elizabeth born and died 1900, Ethel born 1902, Sarah 1903, Benjamin 1904 and Esther born and died 1907.¹⁰⁰ The family moved to Manchester in 1908. The 1911 census showed them living at 130 Elizabeth Street, Cheetham Hill. There were now two more children, Bella aged 2 and John 3 months.

In 1914, twins Esther and Jacob arrived. Arnold was now a travelling draper but still ran a drapery shop in Wigan at 211 Scholes and later a loans business at 50 Warrington Lane Wigan and at 35 Park Road, Westhoughton, a small town situated between Wigan and Bolton. Advertisements for this business appeared in the Wigan Observer from 1918 onwards. David Franks, grandson of Arnold recalls that Arnold was strictly orthodox, attending synagogue daily when he lived in Manchester. David's father Benjamin used to regale his son with stories of travelling around Lancashire in a pony and trap selling their drapery wares. Arnold and his younger brother Simon were naturalised in 1913.¹⁰¹ Arnold was listed as a Patron to the Jewish Encyclopedia in 1906 and, like Solomon Adler he was a contributor to the Polish and Palestinian Jews

¹⁰⁰ LancsBMD website

¹⁰¹ London Gazette, Issue 28726, 6 June 1913

Fund in 1917. He was also on the Executive of the Building Committee of the Manchester Talmudical College.¹⁰² Jane and Arnold lived to a good old age. Jane died in 1959 in Manchester. Arnold outlived her by three years. He died in Newcastle, where two of his daughters Ethel and Sarah had settled. Ethel had married Aaron Lurie in 1925 and Sarah had married Harry Wolff in 1928.¹⁰³.



Leon Hyman Franks, Certificate of Naturalisation, 1911

¹⁰² Jewish Chronicle, 3 April 1936

¹⁰³ FreeBMD website



***Wedding of Leon Franks and Bella Pencofsky-Rosen,
1921, Cardiff, courtesy Franks Family***



John Franks, 1891-1980, courtesy Sheila Sugarman

SIMON CECIL FRANKS, second son of Minnie and Yechiel was listed in the 1901 census as a furniture dealer, but later became a credit draper, also called a Scotch draper, travelling round the Lancashire towns. He appeared in the 1903 Wigan Directory as a general dealer living at 4 Low Street. The previous year he had married Minnie Abelson at the Manchester New Synagogue.¹⁰⁴ In 1904 they moved to 196 Darlington Street. They had three children, the first two born in Wigan, Sarah Dora, known as Dolly in 1904 and George David in 1907. Simon served as the Synagogue Vice-President in 1899, 1904 and 1905 and was on the committee of the Dorshei Zionist Society which was formed in 1900.¹⁰⁵ Dolly was interviewed by Bill Williams in 1977.¹⁰⁶ She recalled that although the family left Wigan in 1907 they continued to trade there. By 1911 the family were living in the Hightown area of Manchester at 20 Lambeth Street. A third child, Jacob, was born in 1913. Dolly recalls her father was strictly orthodox, attending synagogue regularly. He served as a special constable in the First World War. Simon Cecil Franks died in 1929. His wife Minnie, sister of Henry and Julius Abelson,

¹⁰⁴ LancsBMD website

¹⁰⁵ Jewish Chronicle, 7 September 1900

¹⁰⁶ Copy at the Manchester Jewish Museum Archive

outlived him by twenty eight years. Both of them are buried at Crumpsall.¹⁰⁷

Details of other members of the Franks family appear in the biography section at the end of the book.

Turning to the KRESNER FAMILY, as mentioned in Chapter One, Alfred Kresner was a founder member and served as President of the Wigan Congregation. He was born Woolf Kresner about 1852 in Poland. He and his two brothers Israel and Lewis appeared in the 1871 census living in the Aldgate area of London.¹⁰⁸ All were tailors. By 1881 Woolf was living in Wigan where he became known as Alfred. In 1883 he married Sarah Harris in London. His brother Lewis married her sister Frances. Sarah and Alfred had two children; Henry in 1884 and Florence in 1886 both born Wigan.¹⁰⁹ Alfred was in business as a tailor, a common trade in Wigan among the Jewish population. In the 1885 Wigan Trade Directory he was at 103 Standishgate. By 1890 his business address was 90 Wigan Lane. By the time of the 1891 Census,¹¹⁰ Alfred was living and working at 124 Standishgate. By 1903 the family had moved up the road to number 134. In the 1901 Census,¹¹¹

¹⁰⁷ MDCS Burial Records

¹⁰⁸ Census, 1871, RG11/3766

¹⁰⁹ Lancs BMD website

¹¹⁰ Census, 1891, RG12/3055

¹¹¹ Census, 1901, RG13/3558

and in the 1903 Wigan Trade Directory the family were at this address. Alfred's links with the synagogue were strong. The Jewish Chronicle reports of 1888, 1898 and 1900 listed him as President. It is likely he held that office in the intervening years too, but due to lack of records there is no further information. He was certainly involved in negotiating the peace settlement between the rival factions at the synagogue in 1900. In 1907, Alfred was naturalised.¹¹² The document showed he was born in Skompa, Poland, son of Myer and Miriam Kresner. He was now living in Wigan at 9 Dicconson Crescent. He died later that year. His estate amounted to £2592.¹¹³ Soon after Alfred's death his widow and daughter moved to London where according to the 1901 census Henry was already living earning a living as an assistant to a pawnbroker.¹¹⁴ The 1911 census showed Sarah and Florence living in Lambeth at 186 Brixton Road. Florence had worked as a telephone operator for the Post Office in Wigan and continued doing so in London. She married Harold Edward Harrington in 1914.¹¹⁵ Henry meanwhile had returned North. In the 1911 census he was boarding at 404 Mill Street in Bradford and working for the Provident Supply Company as a superintendent of agents. He married Margaret Ince in 1914 in

¹¹² London Gazette 20847, 2 August 1907

¹¹³ Ancestry, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills)

¹¹⁴ Census, 1901, RG13/237

¹¹⁵ FreeBMD website

Wigan.¹¹⁶ Sadly Henry died in London in 1924 aged just forty. His mother Sarah outlived him by seven years. She died in London aged sixty six.¹¹⁷

The NIMAN brothers Abraham and Isaac, both tailors, arrived in Wigan in about 1890. They were born in Leeds to Levi and Hannah, part of their family of seven children. In the 1861 census the family were at 5 Livery Street, Leeds.¹¹⁸ Both parents were aged 28, born in Poland. There were three children: Marks aged 7, Archie 4 and Joseph 1. By 1870 four more children had been born: Rachel about 1863, Abraham 1865, Isaac 1868 and Enoch 1870. Hannah died soon after the birth of Enoch and tragically Levi died in Jan 1871. They were both only thirty seven years old.

¹¹⁶ Lancs BMD website

¹¹⁷ FreeBMD website

¹¹⁸ Ancestry Census, 1861, RG9/3378



Levi and Hannah Niman, courtesy Derek Guinness

Abraham, who became known as Alfred, married Leah Greenbaum the daughter of Rebecca and Joseph, a master tailor, in 1887 at Manchester Great Synagogue.¹¹⁹ Leah and her siblings were all born in Manchester. Her elder sister Esther was married to Aaron Sytner and the two families lived next door to one another in School Lane, Wigan, where the tailoring business Niman and Sytner was situated. It appeared in the 1894 Harfield Trade Directory. The 1891 census listed

¹¹⁹ Lancs BMD website

the Nimans at 30 School Lane.¹²⁰ Alfred, a tailor, 25, Leah a tailoress, 23, Julius their son 2, born Manchester and Rebecca aged 6 months born in Wigan. There was also a Russian born tailoress, Sarah Cream, aged 23, lodging with them. In 1899, Alfred appeared in the Electoral Register at 50 School Lane and by the 1901 census,¹²¹ the family had moved again, this time to 57 Scholes Street. Alfred appears to have left the tailoring trade and become a watchmaker, an employer, working at home. There were now another three children in the family, all born in Wigan: Annie aged 8, Sarah 5 and Fanny 1.¹²² By 1903 the Wigan Directory showed he had jewellery and fancy goods businesses at King Street and at 91, 92, 94 and 115 Market Hall. The family had moved to 9 Hodges Street that year and it was there that they entertained the Chief Rabbi to tea during his pastoral visit. In the 2 December 1904 issue of the Jewish Chronicle it was announced that Alfred had been elected Treasurer of the Synagogue and his brother Isaac had become the Hon Secretary.

1904 was not a good year business-wise for Alfred. The business of Alfred Niman at 115-116 Market Hall appears in the Wigan Bankruptcy Register of 14 August 1904 under

¹²⁰ Ancestry Census, 1891, RG12/3049

¹²¹ Ancestry Census, 1901, RG13/3554

¹²² LancsBMD website

Section 4 of the 1883 Bankruptcy Act. The petitioners were Samuel Mclardy and Joseph Hall. The public examination was to be held on 22 October 1904. The London Gazette of 17 February 1905, page 1265, stated that a first and final dividend was payable on 22 February. Despite this setback Alfred continued in business appearing in 1909 Kelly's Lancashire Directory as watchmaker at 290 Wallgate and in 1910 as a jeweller at 42 King Street. The Electoral Register of 1910-1911 listed this as Alfred's business address and 179 Gidlow Lane as the home address. In 1911 census Alfred's occupation was a jeweller and fancy goods dealer, Leah and the three eldest daughters were assisting in the business and Julius was a watchmaker. He emigrated to Canada later that year. The Canadian Passenger Lists showed him arriving on 26 May from Liverpool on the SS Corsican.¹²³

However, he returned in June 1912,¹²⁴ maybe to see his father Alfred who died in July 1912 aged 46. Perhaps the tribulations of business had hastened his premature death. The Niman women continued in business. Leah appeared in 1910 Wigan Directory as a wardrobe dealer at 115-116 Market Hall. In the Wigan Market Stallholders Register there was a record in 1918 of Leah taking over the tenancy of a stall from a Mrs Watson. Her two daughters were also in business in their own right. In

¹²³ Ancestry website

¹²⁴ Ancestry website, Outward Passenger Lists

1920,¹²⁵ Leah and family were living at 27 Mesnes Street. It was here that Sarah Niman had a fancy goods and jewellery business. Annie Niman's jewellery business was at 152 Standishgate. Leah appeared in the 1924 Kelly's Lancashire Directory and the 1925 Wigan Directory as a draper and smallwares dealer at 113, 115, 116 Market Hall. Both Annie and Sarah were married by then; Annie to Solomon Bloomberg in 1921 and Sarah to Bernard Cowen in 1922, both at Southport Synagogue.¹²⁶

Bernard was a tailor whose family were part of the Wigan community. His tailoring premises were also at 27 Mesnes Street. The Cowens and Nimans eventually settled in Southport and the Bloomborgs in Blackpool, but continued trading in Wigan. Fanny, the youngest Niman daughter died in 1926, followed two years later by the hard-working matriarch Leah, whose death was registered in Ormskirk.¹²⁷ Sarah, known as Sally, continued trading in Wigan. She was very close to her brother Julius who had returned to Canada soon after Alfred's death. He was joined there by Elizabeth Withington whom he married in 1915.¹²⁸ She was from Westhoughton. As she was not Jewish, Julius faced a lot of

¹²⁵ Wigan Electoral Register

¹²⁶ Lancs BMD website

¹²⁷ FreeBMD website

¹²⁸ Ancestry Drouin Collection of Canadian Marriages

family opposition to the marriage.¹²⁹ According to Tracy Fleming, a Niman descendent, Sarah (Sally) was the only family member to keep in contact with him. He and Elizabeth returned and settled in Sale, Cheshire where they brought up their family of four children. Elizabeth died in 1968 in Cheshire and Julius died in Blackpool in 1976. The Niman links with Wigan ended after some seventy years in 1962 when Sally retired.¹³⁰



Newspaper report upon the closure of the Niman family business

¹²⁹ Information from Joan Niman, daughter-in-law

Alfred Niman's brother, Isaac, continued in the trade of tailor/clothier throughout his time in Wigan. He and his wife Jane, aged 19, appeared in the 1891 Census at 184 Manchester Road, Ince, on the outskirts of Wigan¹³¹. By 1901, they were living in Blackburn at 30 John Street.¹³² They had two children: Julian was seven, born Wigan, Archie was four, born Blackburn. Isaac's occupation was given as a dealer in new and second-hand clothing. Jane was described as Russian-born. Isaac served as Hon. Secretary of the Blackburn Synagogue and was among those who met the Chief Rabbi during his visit to Blackburn in 1903.¹³³

By 1904 the family were back in Wigan where their third child Solomon Herman was born in 1905.¹³⁴ In the Electoral Register for that year the Niman family were living at 47 Scholes. Isaac was listed as a Patron to the Jewish Encyclopedia in 1906.¹³⁵ The 1909 Wigan Trade Directory listed Isaac as a costumier and tailor at 7 Darlington Street and Jane as a dressmaker at 111 Wallgate. Nimans tailors also appeared in 1913 Cope's Directory at 35 Millgate, but by then the family had left Wigan. In the census of 1911 they were

¹³⁰ Lancashire Post, 9 April 1962

¹³¹ Ancestry Census, 1891, RG12/3061

¹³² Ancestry Census, 1901, RG13/3911

¹³³ Jewish Chronicle, 22 May 1903

¹³⁴ LancsBMD website

¹³⁵ www.jewishencyclopedia.com

living at 48 Dudley Street in the Hightown area of Manchester. In this census, Jane's birthplace was given as Stockport. Of their three sons, Julian was a pianist, Archie and Solomon were at school. In the Jewish Chronicle of 17 April 1914, Julian was reported to have been an accompanist at a concert held at the Rev Dr Saloman Lodge in Manchester.

Derek Guinness, a relative, recalls that Julian became a well-known dance band leader and Solomon also became a musician. He died in Southport in 1965. Isaac died in 1932, Julian in 1959, Jane in 1965 and Archie in 1969, all in Manchester. They are all buried in North Manchester at Rainsough.¹³⁶

The SCHUR family were only in Wigan for about five years, but Solomon certainly made his presence felt. As recorded earlier Solomon Schur was an ardent Zionist and became president of Wigan's Dorshei Zionist Society. He was also responsible for helping negotiate the peace settlement between the rival groups within the congregation in 1900. He and his wife Rebecca, nee Ruben, were both Russian.

According to the 1901 census,¹³⁷ Solomon was born about 1875 and had been naturalised; Rebecca was born about 1878. They were living at 157 Darlington Street. Solomon was the

¹³⁶ MDCS burial records

manager of a furniture shop but in the early 1900s notices appeared in the local Wigan Observer offering loans from an office at 157 Darlington Street. Solomon like so many traders combined the retail business with money lending. The Schurs had two children; Michael was born in Wigan in 1902 and Anna Rose in 1905 in Blackpool, where the family had settled earlier that year.¹³⁸

As one would expect Solomon involved himself in Jewish community life. The Jewish Chronicle of 20 October 1905 reported his election on to the committee of the Blackpool Synagogue. He was also involved as a scrutineer in the election of governors to represent the interests of the weekly subscribers to the Manchester Jewish Hospital. This was also reported in the Jewish Chronicle.¹³⁹ The 1911 census listed the family living at 29 Beech Avenue, Blackpool and gave Solomon's occupation as financier. His membership of the Blackpool Jewish Social and Literary Society was mentioned in the Jewish Chronicle, issue of 6 February 1914. However, by 1915 the Schur family were living in the USA appearing in the 1915 Census living in the Bronx. Solomon was working for an insurance company. By 1920 he was a bank clerk living in Brooklyn. The US Passenger Lists on the Ancestry website

¹³⁷ Census, 1901, RG13/3554

¹³⁸ Lancs BMD website

¹³⁹ Jewish Chronicle, 26 April 1905

showed Rebecca and Anna Rose returning to New York in 1919. They had been staying in Manchester with the Rosenberg family at 122 Bignor Street. In February 1920, Solomon was recorded sailing to England from New York. His abode was also with the Rosenbergs. A family called Rosenberg had lived in Wigan in the early 1900s and had emigrated to New York in 1907. Possibly the Bignor Street family were related. In October 1932 and May 1933,¹⁴⁰ Solomon again visited these shores, staying at Bignor Street. He was now described as a banker. It seems that like many immigrants to the USA he had made a success of his life. The 1930 US Census showed Michael as a lawyer and Anna Rose as a teacher. They had both become naturalised, Michael in 1925 and Rose in 1926. They were both living in Brooklyn where Michael died in 1982 and Rose in 1998.¹⁴¹

The various TARSHISH families were involved with Wigan from the early days of the congregation. Barnett and Annie Tarshish, nee Youngerman, had a furniture business, The Manchester and Wigan Furnishing Company at 22 Scholes, which appeared in the 1885 Wigan Directory. In the London Gazette of 21 October 1892 a notice appeared dissolving the partnership between Barnett Tarshish and Benjamin Cohen, furniture dealers and jewellers of 22 Scholes. Barnett would

¹⁴⁰ Ancestry Incoming Passenger Lists

¹⁴¹ Ancestry website, USA deaths Index

carry on the business alone. He was born about 1846. Annie was ten years younger, both were Russian-born. They married in 1874 at Manchester Great Synagogue. In the 1890 Manchester Rate Book, their address was 67 Stocks Street. In the 1891 Census the family were living at 16 Elizabeth Street, Manchester with their four children and niece Maria.¹⁴²

In 1892 a fifth child, David was born. All the children were born in Manchester. It appears that their residence in Wigan was a short one. Their son Mayer Harris was born there in 1893, but sadly died the same year.¹⁴³ By 1894 the family were in Southport where Sarah was born. Annie and Barnett went on to have two more daughters in Southport, Zipporah in 1896 and Betsy in 1897.¹⁴⁴ The 1901 census gave their address as 11 Derby Road, Southport.¹⁴⁵ Barnett was now a commercial traveller. As well as Annie and the eight children, there were three lodgers: Ralph Marks aged 29, a clerk born Salford, Anna and Saul Cowen, aged 7 and 5, both Wigan born, together with an 18 year old domestic servant Alice Robinson, also from Wigan. The family had returned to Elizabeth Street, Manchester, by the time of the 1911 census, this time at number 43. Barnett was a traveller in wines and spirits. He died in 1912 and Annie in 1916; both deaths were registered in

¹⁴² Ancestry Census, 1891, RG12/3264

¹⁴³ Lancs BMD website

¹⁴⁴ FreeBMD website

Prestwich.¹⁴⁶ Barnett's kinsman, Abraham Tarshish, appeared in the 1891 census, living at 22 Neville Street, Wigan.¹⁴⁷ He was a traveller in jewellery aged 28, with a wife Esther, nee Gorber, aged 33, both Russian-born. They had four children: Flora 5, born in Manchester; Myer 4, Rachel 2 and Marie 6 months, all born in Wigan, which pinpoints their arrival in the town to 1897. There were also four Russian-born lodgers in the household: Marks Tarshish, Abraham's brother, a 20 year old travelling draper; Simon Tarshish 23, a cousin, a traveller in jewellery, Isaac Landay 23, a traveller in furniture and Jacob Nevick aged 40, a picture framer.

By 1901, Abraham and family had left Wigan and were living at 1 Cable Street, Stepney.¹⁴⁸ By 1904, they had emigrated to the USA and appear in the 1910 Census living in Brooklyn. Abraham was now a furniture dealer but by 1920,¹⁴⁹ according to the census he had become a retail jeweller. Marks Tarshish stayed in England, living in Wigan for some fifteen years. He married Annie Shaffer in 1894 at Manchester New Synagogue.¹⁵⁰ She was the sister of Jane Franks who together with her husband Arnold was a Wigan resident for a number

¹⁴⁵ Ancestry Census, 1901, RG13/3537

¹⁴⁶ LancsBMD website

¹⁴⁷ Ancestry Census, 1891, RG12/3050

¹⁴⁸ Ancestry Census, 1901, RG13/316

¹⁴⁹ Ancestry USA Censuses

¹⁵⁰ Lancs BMD website

of years. Marks became a furniture dealer and money lender living and trading from 15 Greenhough Street. He appeared in the 1900 Rate Book, the 1901 census and 1905 Kelly's Lancashire Directory at this address. Annie was also a money lender. Her company, The Lancashire Private Advance Co., was at 24 Church Street.¹⁵¹ Marks and Annie had eight children, all born in Wigan. In the 1901 census Marks was 31, Annie 28, Esther 5, Maria 3, Miriam 2 and Rachel 6 months. Esther's twin Lily died in 1896 aged 6 months. In 1904 another set of twins were born, Jacob and Lily. Sadly Lily died at the age of 4 months. The youngest Tarshish child Sarah Minnie was born in 1906.¹⁵²

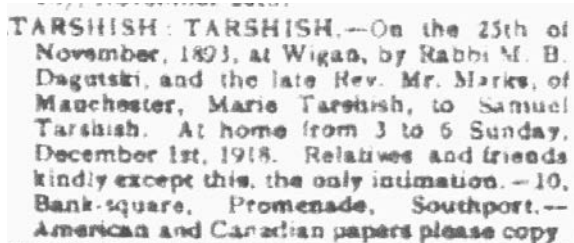
During their time in Wigan, Marks and Annie were involved in the life of the synagogue. He was Hon. Secretary in 1903 at the time of the visit of the Chief Rabbi. The Jewish Chronicle of 2 December 1904 announced his election as President of the congregation succeeding, Arnold Franks, his brother in law. This information also appeared in the 1905 Jewish Year Book. On 12 May 1905 the Jewish Chronicle reported that Marks had presented the prizes at Wigan's Hebrew classes and Mrs Tarshish had provided entertainment for the children. By 1911 the family were in Liverpool,¹⁵³ where Marks was described as

¹⁵¹ Wigan County Court Records, 1906

¹⁵² Lancs BMD website

¹⁵³ 1911 Census for 89 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool

a financier. He died in 1915 aged only 45. He left £1304.¹⁵⁴ His widow Annie, like her sister Jane Franks, lived to a good old age. She died in London in 1964 in her 91st year. The fourth Tarshish family in Wigan was that of Jacob Samuel and his wife Maria, who were cousins. Theirs is the only Tarshish marriage to have taken place in the town. The marriage was solemnized on 25 November 1893 by Rabbi M. B. Dagutski and Rev Mr Marks, as announced when they celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary.



TARSHISH: TARSHISH.—On the 25th of November, 1893, at Wigan, by Rabbi M. B. Dagutski, and the late Rev. Mr. Marks, of Manchester, Marie Tarshish, to Samuel Tarshish. At home from 3 to 6 Sunday, December 1st, 1918. Relatives and friends kindly except this, the only incumation. — 10, Bank-square, Promenade, Southport.— American and Canadian papers please copy

Silver wedding announcement, Jewish Chronicle, 1918

Their first child Myer was born in 1894, followed by Isaac in 1897, Nathan Mendel in 1900, Gertrude in 1902 and Marks in 1905. All the children were born in Wigan.¹⁵⁵ The family were members of the synagogue. Jacob Samuel, known as Samuel

¹⁵⁴ Ancestry website, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations)

¹⁵⁵ LancsBMD website

was elected Vice-President in 1900,¹⁵⁶ and 1903 and a member of the committee in 1904 and,¹⁵⁷ according to the Jewish Year Book he was Vice-President again in 1906. The 1901 census found the family living at 18 Warrington Lane.¹⁵⁸ Samuel was a general dealer, aged 32, born in Zosler, Russia; Maria, 28, was also Russian. Besides the three sons there were two Russian-born lodgers in the household: Joe Ray, a 22 year old tailor and Jack Ray, an 18 year old mantle presser. There is a record of Jack in 1911 lodging in Broughton, Salford,¹⁵⁹ at the home of Louis Flacks, a mantle maker.

Maria and Sam had left Wigan by 1911. The census showed them living at 11 Derby Road, Southport, the former home of Barnett Tarshish. Maria's occupation was that of a boarding house keeper, Sam as a commercial traveller. The boarding house was at 10 Bank Square. They moved later to 39 Melling Road. About the time his parents moved to Southport, Myer Tarshish, the eldest child emigrated to the USA.¹⁶⁰ He appeared in the 1910 census living with his uncle Abraham Tarshish and family in Brooklyn. The date of Myer's

¹⁵⁶ Jewish Chronicle, 2 November 1900

¹⁵⁷ Ibid., 2 December 1904

¹⁵⁸ Ancestry Census, 1901, RG13/3554

¹⁵⁹ 1911 Census for 12 Choir Street, Broughton

¹⁶⁰ Ancestry Philadelphia Passenger Lists

emigration was given as 1909 and that of Abraham and family as 1904.¹⁶¹ Records from the New York State Archives stated that Myer fought in the First World War as a private.¹⁶² His Draft Registration card describes him as single, brown eyes, dark hair, medium height and build. There was a record of Myer becoming an American citizen in 1918. He was now living in New Jersey working as the proprietor of a movie theatre. In 1919 he applied for a US passport in order to visit his parents in England.¹⁶³ How long he stayed in England is unknown, but a record of correspondence in 1947 from the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service cancelling Myer's naturalisation, stated that he had been residing in Great Britain. He and his wife Jennie did however visit the USA in December 1948, returning in 1949, both journeys on the Queen Mary.¹⁶⁴ Myer, who became a turf accountant died in 1953 in London. Maria and Sam's other sons Isaac and Nathan also emigrated. Isaac went firstly to the USA, sailing to Philadelphia in November 1914.

However, by 1920 both brothers were living in Halifax, Canada where Sam and Maria visited them in 1921. The Canada Oceans Arrival Record listed Nathan returning from a visit to Southport in 1923 giving a permanent address in

¹⁶¹ Ancestry USA Censuses

¹⁶² Ancestry First World War Military service records

¹⁶³ Ancestry US passport applications

Halifax for himself and brother Isaac.¹⁶⁵ Maria died in 1940 and Samuel in 1944 both in Southport. Sadly their youngest child Marks died just one year after his father, the death being registered in St Helens and their only daughter Gertrude (Cornofsky) died in Manchester in 1947.¹⁶⁶ The National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills) published the estate details of Samuel and Marks in the same issue at the end of 1945. Samuel left £3964 13s 3d; Marks's estate was worth £297 4s 2d. The Tarshish families and Wigan were linked for over twenty years. As mentioned in an earlier chapter, the four families produced twenty three children, seventeen of whom were born in the town.

¹⁶⁴ Ancestry New York Passenger Lists

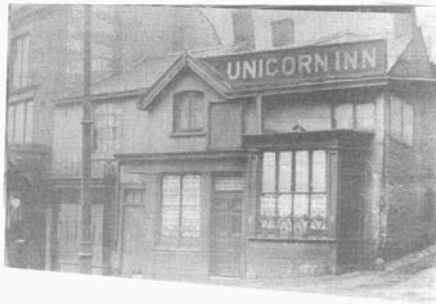
¹⁶⁵ Ancestry website

¹⁶⁶ FreeBMD Deaths Index

Chapter 6

Thirty Seven Tailors and Other Occupations

During the lifetime of the Wigan Hebrew Congregation, the population of the town grew rapidly. By 1901 it had reached 60,000. This growth was associated with the development of large scale industry especially coal, iron and cotton. It appears that none of the local Jewish families were involved in these industries. If one looks at the occupations of Wigan's Jews at this period one finds: fifteen drapers; thirteen travellers in jewellery; ten glaziers; six furniture dealers; six watchmakers; six financiers; three cabinet makers/joiners; three travelling hatters; three picture framers; one photographer; one boarding-house proprietor; one licensed victualler, several market traders and unsurprisingly, thirty seven tailors.



Unicorn Inn, at 3 Standishgate. Israel Bernstein, landlord, 1900- 1904, www.wiganworld.co.uk/

One of those market traders became a household name. Michael Marks of Marks and Spencer fame, the originator of the Penny Bazaar moved to Wigan from Leeds in 1891. In 1892 he opened a distribution warehouse in the town and until 1897 Wigan was the firm's headquarters. In the 1894 Harfield Directory, Michael Marks appeared as a smallwares wholesale and retail dealer at 57 Darlington Street. In the 1901 Kelly's Lancashire Directory the business was listed occupying stalls 82 and 83 at the Market Hall and the Penny Bazaar at 29 Makinson Arcade. The 1909 Wigan Trade Directory listed the business at 56 Market Hall where it traded as the Manchester Smallware Company and Penny Bazaar.

The Makinson Arcade business closed in about 1931 to make way for the large retail store which is still trading today. Michael and Hannah Marks and family lived in Wigan at 152 Great George Street, appearing in the 1891 census.¹⁶⁷ Of their five children, only Miriam their third child was born in the town in 1892.¹⁶⁸ By 1894 the Marks family had moved to Manchester.

¹⁶⁷ 1891 Census, RG12/3054

¹⁶⁸ LancsBMD website



Marks & Spencer, Makinson Arcade, Courtesy Marks and Spencer Company Archive

During this period none of these Jewish tradespeople used the local newspapers to advertise their services... apart from the money-lenders. Amongst numerous advertisements in the Wigan Observer for railway guides, books on mining, cures for carbuncles and ruptures, Mazawattee coffee, Pendlebury's sale and Coops ready-to-wear suits, there appeared regularly from the mid 1870s to the 1940s advertisements for loans. In the town itself there were only six resident money lenders; Solomon Schur, Marks and Annie Tarshish, Solomon and Frank Adler and Isadore Solomon who was the manager of the

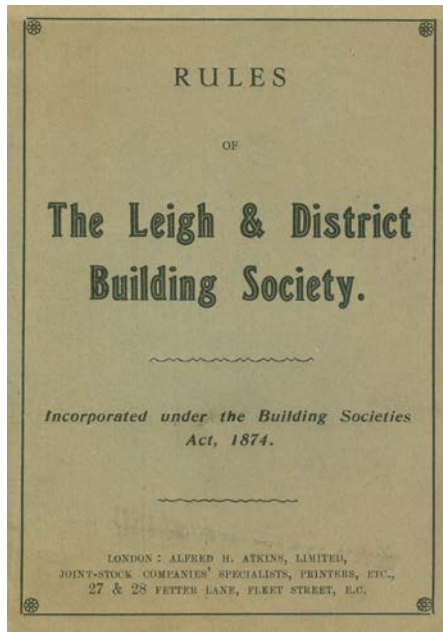
British Loan Company. However, there were at least another twelve Jewish loan companies operating in the town, whose owners lived elsewhere. Many of the loan offices were housed in a room of a private house. One of the earliest money lenders, advertising in 1875 was Woolfe Levy. One of the longest-serving and most successful money lenders in the town was Lewis Livingstone, and later his son Harry. Biographies of them and other financiers appear later in this story. The following is a list of the other loan companies who advertised from 1875 onwards. Several of them appear regularly as plaintiffs in the Wigan County Court Records:

Henry Abelson; Abe Alexander; Samuel Claff who traded as the Bradford Advance Co. at 1 Station Road and 57 Library Street; Bernard Cohen; Jacob Cohen; Samuel Glaskie whose business was called Samuels and Co.; Max Herzog; Henry Jacobson who also traded as J. Harris; Samuel Lichtheim the manager of the Wigan Albion Loan Co. on King Street;¹⁶⁹ Mark Rubin founder of the Leigh and District Lending Society; F. Stone, whose real name was Neyman Finklestone and whose business the British Loan Co. at 12 Caroline Street was managed by Isadore L. Solomon; Emanuel Szeinberg manager of the Manchester and District Loan Co. on 33 King Street; H. Wolfe of 16 Sovereign Road; The Star Advance Company at 9 Greenhough Street which was under the

ownership of Marks Tarshish and the Lancashire Private Advance Company at 24 Church Street, which was owned by Marks's wife Annie. Some loan companies advertised under a trade name such as the Express Advance Company at 8 Dicconson Street. The company advertised in the Wigan Observer during 1903. There is no record of the owner or manager. However, Aaron Sytner the tailor was living at 8 Dicconson Street at this time. It is possible that he rented out a room to a money lender or set up a sideline business himself. After 1950 very few advertisements for loans appeared in the Wigan press. Only the Refuge Lending Society advertised regularly. It was originally a loan company started in the front room of a house in Darlington Street by Lewis Livingstone a pedlar from Wolkowisk. Some seventy years later it became the London Scottish Bank. The full story is told in the biography of Lewis Livingstone at the end of this book.



Mark Rubin, founder of the Leigh & District Lending Society, courtesy Rubin Family



Leigh & District Building Society Rules

Money lending as a profession was frowned upon by many fellow Jews. In the nineteenth century in some large towns, moneylenders were barred from synagogue membership. There were some Jewish money lenders in the large towns who had a notorious reputation and caused embarrassment to the Jewish “establishment”.¹⁷⁰ However, it must be remembered that most money lenders especially in the

¹⁷⁰ Cowell and Thomas, ‘An Industrious Minority: A History of the Bolton Jewish Community’, 2012, p. 60.

smaller towns had started out in business as Scotch drapers, travelling jewellers and furniture dealers. Granting credit was a normal part of their business dealings. Harry Livingstone, son of Lewis wrote in his memoir:¹⁷¹

‘Neither I nor my father before me had any guilt complex about our methods of trading. If these standards are adhered to, our successors can be satisfied that our integrity will bear comparison with any other type of business or profession.’

In ‘The Club’, written by Stephen Brook, Sir Claus Moser commented on the subject of money lenders as follows:

‘Jews are very much drawn to money-lending, which is not a disgrace. Jews are natural traders. Negotiation comes naturally to us. The typical business-minded Jew is an entrepreneur. In finance and in property there is a speculative element which appeals to the Jewish instinct. We are more natural risk takers and loners than organisational men. There is nothing wrong with that.’

¹⁷¹ Harry Livingstone, ‘79 Years in Moneylending’, unpublished memoir, 1979.

No. 12305

(A)
NATURALIZATION ACTS, 1870

Certificate of Naturalization to an Alien.

~~Whereas~~ *Lewis Livingstone*
an Alien, now residing at *55 Stock Street*
Cheetham, Manchester

has presented to me, the Right Honourable *Charles Tomson*
Kitchie one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State,
a Memorial, praying for a Certificate of Naturalization, and alleging that he is a
Subject of *Russia*, having been born at
Wolkowisk; and is the son of *Jacob and*
Betty Livingstone, both subjects of *Russia*
of the age of *thirty-two* years - a *Traveller*.
is married and has two children under
age residing with him viz: -
Jacob Livingstone aged 8 years
Abie " " 3 "

CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION DATED 17TH DECEMBER 1901

Lewis Livingstone, extract from his naturalisation form



Lewis Livingstone, courtesy Jack Livingstone, OBE



***Lewis Livingstone's office, Darlington Street,
Wigan, sketched by Harold Riley***

Of the thirty seven Wigan tailors, two families were in the town for several years, namely the COWENS and the SYTNERS. David Cowen, formerly Cohen, married Leah Jacobs at Belgrave Street Synagogue, Leeds, in 1893. Their first child, Bernard, was born the following year. By 1901 the family were in Wigan living at 155 Darlington Street. The census of that year described David as a tailor, aged 28 born in

Austria, naturalised.¹⁷² Leah was also 28, born Leeds, as was Bernard aged 7. David Cowen, tailor of Darlington Street, appeared in the 1901 Kelly's Lancashire Directory and 1903 Wigan Directory. The 1905 Wigan Electoral Register showed the Cowens at 37 New Market Street and they appeared in the 1911 census at this address. There was now an addition to the family, 8 year old Simon Leon, known as Leon. His brother, now 17, was an assistant draper.

David Cowen was listed as a Patron to the Jewish Encyclopedia in 1906. By 1925, according to the Wigan Directory of that year, the Cowens were in the drapery business as well as tailoring. Leah Cowen, draper, was at 113 Market Hall; David Cowen, draper, was at 43 and 44 Market Hall as well as running the tailoring business now called Cowen and Son at 37 New Market Street. The son was Leon. In 1929 he and Leah travelled first class from Bombay back to England. On the Passenger List,¹⁷³ Leon was described as a merchant tailor and their home address was listed as 12 Westmoreland Road, Southport. He also travelled to South Africa in 1932. Bernard meanwhile was making a living as a tailor at 27 Mesnes Street. In 1922 he had married Sarah, daughter of Alfred Niman the jeweller.¹⁷⁴ Sarah had a fancy

¹⁷² 1901 Census, RG13/3554

¹⁷³ Ancestry Passenger Lists

¹⁷⁴ LancsBMD website

goods business at this address from 1925 onwards. It seems likely that Bernard's workplace was above the shop. In 1936 David Cowen died in Wigan. His estate amounted to £24,168.¹⁷⁵ Leah died in 1944, Bernard in 1960 and Leon in 1975, all in Southport.¹⁷⁶

The Sytners who arrived in Wigan around 1890 also ended their days in Southport. Aaron was in business as a tailor with his brother-in-law, Alfred Niman, at School Lane, Wigan, where the two families were next door neighbours. Aaron and Esther, nee Greenbaum, were married in 1884 at Manchester Great Synagogue. His name in the Lancashire BMD marriage record was written as Harris Scytner. The first three Sytner children were born in Manchester; Lena in 1885, Reuben in 1887 and Ettie in 1889. Sadly Lena died in 1886.¹⁷⁷ In the 1891 census at 32 School Lane, Aaron, was aged 29 born Poland,¹⁷⁸ Esther was 24, a tailoress born in Manchester, Ettie was 2 and baby Morris was 4 months old born in Wigan. Reuben does not appear on the census. There were also four lodgers in the household, probably working for the Niman and Sytner business; Lazarus Samuel, a tailor, 20; Isaac Bertlestein a tailor, 30; Sarah Wolff, a tailoress, 19. All three were Russian born; the fourth lodger, Aaron Laskey was a tailor from

¹⁷⁵ Ancestry, National Probate Calendar

¹⁷⁶ LancsBMD website

¹⁷⁷ FreeBMD website

Sheffield. In 1893, the fifth Sytner child Leon was born. It seems he died in childhood as he doesn't appear on the later censuses. By 1900 Aaron's partner/brother-in-law, Alfred Niman, had left the tailoring business and Aaron was now living at 8 Dicconson Street and was working alone.

In November 1901, Aaron Sytner was elected on to the Committee of the synagogue. He appeared in the 1900 Rate book and 1901 Census,¹⁷⁹ at the Dicconson Street address. His family had also increased. Besides Esther his wife, there were now six children; Reuben 13, Ettie 12, Morris 10, twins Jacob and Lipman 5 and Leah 3. There was just one lodger, Abraham Joseph from Russia, aged 23. Abraham eventually had his own tailoring business in the town and one of his sons, Leslie, had a clothing factory in Wigan in the 1950s and 1960s, coincidentally, on Dicconson Street. It was called Academy Garments.

¹⁷⁸1891 Census, RG12/3049

¹⁷⁹ Ancestry Census, 1901, RG13/3557



Leslie and Edith Joseph on their wedding day. Leslie was born in Wigan in 1915. Courtesy Rita Joseph.

By 1911, the Sytner family had moved house again, this time to 2 Brookhouse Street. The census stated that they had been married 26 years, there were 7 children living and 2 deceased. Reuben once again was not on the census. He was working in Manchester as a tailor's foreman living with his relatives the Bertelsteins at 4 Bedford Street. His brothers Morris, Jack and Lipman were all working in the family tailoring business. An extra name appeared on this census, Joey, aged 2.

Reuben Sytner was interviewed in 1976 by historian Bill Williams. Reuben recalled that although the family were not regular synagogue attenders, they observed all the Jewish festivals and kept the dietary laws. Reuben remembered attending Hebrew classes at Bold Street. He did not recall ever experiencing any anti-Semitism during his time in Wigan. In about 1915, Aaron opened a business in the Market Hall selling cloth. Reuben recalled that eventually there were at least five stalls which were manned by various family members. Sadly one of those family members Morris (Moses) died aged 27 in 1919.¹⁸⁰

Lipman Sytner joined the 25th Manchester Regiment as a reservist in February 1916.¹⁸¹ He was discharged in September that year. The family address on his record was 24 Church Street. By 1924 the Sytners had moved to Southport. In the Seed's 1924 Trade Directory, Aaron was listed as a draper in Southport at 38 Princes Street and 24 King Street. However, he continued trading in Wigan, appearing that same year in Kelly's Lancashire Directory at stalls 111 and 112 Market Hall. In the Wigan Stallholders Register in 1920 and 1928 Aaron was recorded as taking over the tenancy of market stalls. The Wigan Market Record Book listed the business at 35, 111 and 112 Market Hall. Aaron died in Southport in 1928. Notice of

¹⁸⁰ LancsBMD website

¹⁸¹ Ancestry First World War Army records

his estate appeared in the National Probate Calendar showing he left £2063. The business in Wigan continued. In the 1935 electoral register Esther and son Louis (Lipman) were listed at the Market Hall with a home address in Southport; Jacob and his wife Annie, likewise, with a home address in Prestwich. Jacob and Annie nee Himmelfield had married in 1930; Ettie married Harry Myers in 1913 and Leah married David Ginsberg in 1923.¹⁸² Esther died in Southport in 1950 and the twins both died soon after; Louis (Lipman) in late 1950 and Jacob in 1951. Apart from the eldest Reuben, who was in the tailoring trade in Manchester and whose biography appears at the end of this book, it appears that as in so many Jewish families, several members worked in the family business. An advertisement in the Wigan Observer on 21 May 1953 celebrated 50 years of trading by Sytners, selling quality ladies and mens suitings. One can only assume that either a member of the next generation continued in business or new owners kept the name which had such a long association with the town.

Only one Sytner son didn't enter the tailoring business, the youngest Joe, born in 1908. He studied medicine in Liverpool and became a general practitioner in the town.¹⁸³ I had the pleasure of meeting Joe in the mid 1960s; in fact he attended

¹⁸² FreeBMD website

¹⁸³ Personal knowledge of the author..

my wedding. His family and my husband's family were friends. Joe was a larger than life character, gregarious and a lover of fine food and wine. Little did I know that some forty eight years later I would be relating his family history.

Chapter 7

A Small Business Community with Medical Connections

Once the Synagogue had closed and the majority of congregants had left the town, there was little mention in the press of Wigan Jewry until the 1930s. Even then the Jewish Chronicle gave no more than half a dozen lines to each of four items. On 5 May 1933, it reported that the deputy Mayor of Wigan was among three and a half thousand people who had attended a meeting at the Manchester Free Trade Hall. This was a protest meeting against Hitlerism. On 3 April 1936 it was reported that Councillor Leslie Lever of Manchester had addressed a public meeting in Wigan's council chambers on, 'the Justice of Equal Pay in Industry and the Professions'. That same year on 14 August it was reported that an Ex-Servicemens Movement Against Fascism had been established in London. It was hoped that a branch would be organised in Wigan. 1936 had witnessed a proliferation of Anti-Fascist groups. The Ex-Servicemens organisation had 1000 members at its formation, 700 of whom were Jews. Within a short time it had become one of the largest anti-Fascist movements

outside of the Communist Party of Great Britain.¹⁸⁴ If a branch ever was established in Wigan, Jewish membership would have been very small indeed. In fact according to a report in a special Jewish Chronicle Supplement of 18 June 1935, Wigan was devoid of Jews. The article was describing a visit by their reporter to several North West Jewish communities including Bolton, Preston and Wigan.

‘I passed through Wigan where the Synagogue closed 27 years ago, the result of a quarrel. The development of that quarrel led to the final disruption of the congregation. They tell me there is now only one Jew living in Wigan.’

The reporter was correct in his explanation of there no longer being a Congregation, but there were in fact at least eight Jewish families living in the town at this period; tailors, fashion shop owners and doctors. The Fisher family, tailors, had been there since about 1899. The patriarch Barnett Fisher appeared in the Jewish Year Book of 1934 as the contact for the Wigan Congregation despite the fact the synagogue no longer existed. Another tailor, Morris Fraser, his wife Yetta and children had lived in Wigan since about 1903. Morris died in 1916, but Yetta was still there when the death of their 39 year old son Henry, also a tailor, was announced in 1936.

¹⁸⁴ Linehan, Thomas, ‘British Fascism’, Manchester University Press, 2000.

Their other son Abraham (Aubrey) carried on the family business, appearing in the Wigan phone books in the late 1940s. Annie Fraser had married at Manchester Great Synagogue in 1925.¹⁸⁵ She and her husband Jacob Harris settled in Wigan and remained there all their lives. The death of Jacob was announced in the Jewish Chronicle on 30 April 1954. His address was 12 Mitchell Street, Wigan.

As the Wigan Jewish community never had its own burial ground, cemeteries in Manchester and Southport were used. Jacob was buried at Crumpsall. Details of these families can be found in the biography section at the end of the book. Another Jewish resident in 1934 was Dr Philip Lewis who was in general practice in Wigan and lived with his wife Essie at Moresley House, Hindley, Wigan.¹⁸⁶ He appears to be the first of several Jewish doctors who worked in the town, some for several years. 1934 also saw the arrival in Wigan of two Jewish families; the Abrahams and the Valins, both of whom were in business in the town for many years. Both families lived in Wigan until 1945, both moved to Southport that year but continued in business in Wigan.

Joseph and Rachel VALINS were in the fashion business. Their ladies dress shop Maison Modes was at 32 King Street.

¹⁸⁵ Lancs BMD website

¹⁸⁶ Ancestry British Phone Book, 1934

Later Joseph opened a business manufacturing ladies wear, called Marcliffe situated opposite the shop. It later moved to the Poolstock area of Wigan.¹⁸⁷ Joseph Woolf Valins was born in London in 1909, the son of Rebecca and Lewis, a cabinet maker both London-born. Rachel nee Elterman was also born in 1909, in Liverpool. She and Joseph married in 1933 at the Southport synagogue.¹⁸⁸ They had three children, the two eldest born in Wigan, Anne in 1935 and Clifford in 1937. Marcia was born in 1945 in Southport. Anne and Clifford attended the local primary school, St Michaels. Clifford recalls that they were excused from attending assembly, but were never made to feel different. He doesn't remember ever experiencing anti-Semitism during his years in the town.

During the War, Joseph was in the fire service in charge of the station. Clifford recalls being given a ride in an open-topped fire engine and being allowed to clang the bell. He also remembers several Jewish refugee children being evacuated to Wigan. The family left for Southport in 1945 where Clifford attended Bickerton House School, then King George V Grammar. After leaving school he joined his father in the manufacturing business. He married Laura Coussin at Clarkston Synagogue, Glasgow. They now live in Whitefield, Manchester. Maison Modes continued to be run by Rachel

¹⁸⁷ Information from Clifford Valins.

¹⁸⁸ LancsBMD website

until about 1980. She died in Jan 1984. Joseph died two years later. Both are buried at Duke St Cemetery, Southport.

Harry and Raye ABRAHAMS lived in Holmes Avenue, Wigan. Their retail business called Abrams was in the Royal Arcade. They sold maternity wear and clothing for larger ladies. Later a second shop selling children's clothes and ladies separates opened in the Arcade. Harry had been a buyer of women's wear at Kendal Milne, Manchester before going into business for himself. He was born in 1901 in Salford, the seventh child of Julia nee Epstein and Harris Abrahams, a tailor. Raye was born in London in 1905. Her father Adolph Kalisky was a tailor and costumier who made gowns for many music hall artistes. His wife Bertha, nee Hack, was a milliner.¹⁸⁹ The family moved up to Manchester when Raye was very young and settled in Chorlton on Medlock. They later changed their surname to Kay. Harry's daughter Lynne told me that her parents met at a life drawing art class in Chorlton. Harry and Raye married in 1930 at Manchester Central Synagogue.¹⁹⁰ Both their children were born in Wigan, Ivor in 1935 and Lynne in 1942. In the Young Israel column of the Jewish Chronicle of 4 April 1941, Ivor was thanked for sending his pocket money to the Delamere Childrens Home, a small act of kindness. An even bigger act of kindness occurred earlier in

¹⁸⁹ All family information from Lynne Kersh, nee Abrahams.

¹⁹⁰ LancsBMD website

1939 when the Abrahams acted as guarantors and gave a home to a Kindertransport child, one of several thousand children rescued from Nazi persecution.

Liane Regenbogen arrived at Holmes Avenue in June 1939 and stayed with the family for two years. Her heart-rending story is told in the next chapter. In 1945, the Abrahams family moved to Southport. Ivor attended Bickerton House School, Birkdale Secondary School and finally Southport School of Art. He left Southport for London in the early 1950s. He attended St Martin's School of Art and Camberwell School of Art, then was apprenticed to the Fiorini Bronze foundry in 1957. He became a visiting lecturer in sculpture at both Birmingham and Coventry Art colleges in the early 1960s. Later he became a lecturer at both Goldsmiths College of Art and the Slade. He was elected to the Royal Academy in 1991 and was Professor of Sculpture at the Royal Academy School from 2007 until 2010.¹⁹¹ Ivor is a well known sculptor and artist both in Britain and overseas and has exhibited world wide. His works are in collections all over the world, including the Royal Collection here. His sister Lynne attended St Wyburn school Southport followed by Southport and Liverpool Art Colleges where she studied dress design. Artistry has certainly filtered through the generations of this

¹⁹¹ Information from Lynne Kersh, nee Abrahams

family. The Abrahams links with Wigan lasted until 1966 when the businesses were sold.¹⁹²

Another ladies fashion business on Standishgate was owned by Londoner, Alf(Abraham) LEAMAN. He and his wife, Helena, who were married in Stepney in 1939,¹⁹³ lived in Wigan for only a short time. Their son Ian was born in the town in 1941.¹⁹⁴ The Leamans appeared in the London Electoral Registers in 1946. Alf sold the business to Alan Becker of Southport in 1958. As the Valins, Abrahams and Leaman families left Wigan at the end of the Second World War, a few other families came to live in the town, several of them in the medical profession.

Dr Myer PHILLIPS was in practice in Hindley from the mid-1940s. He and his family lived at 'The Hawthorns'. Two of the Phillips children were born in Wigan; Celia Geraldine in 1943 and John Rodney in 1945.¹⁹⁵ Myer, his wife Leah and children moved to Bournemouth in 1947. A short biography of Dr Phillips appears at the end of this book.

Another PHILLIPS family moved into the area in 1949. **Manny and Lottie** and their six year old son Howard came

¹⁹² Information from Lynne Kersh, nee Abrahams

¹⁹³ FreeBMD Marriage Index

¹⁹⁴ Jewish Chronicle, 31 October 1941

¹⁹⁵ Jewish Chronicle, 10 September 1943 and 4 May 1945

to Platt Bridge, a mining village situated South of Wigan. Manny, born in Manchester in 1911 to Harry and Fanny Phillips became a barber when he left school. Charlotte (Lottie), nee Webb, born 1910 in Manchester, worked as a machine embroidress from 1924,¹⁹⁶ until her marriage in 1934 at Manchester Great Synagogue.¹⁹⁷ Manny joined the Navy at the beginning of the Second World War. He was later transferred to working in a factory producing shellac.¹⁹⁸ By 1949 he decided to return to barbering. The family bought a shop in Platt Bridge. Howard attended St Nathaniel's School. He does not recall meeting any other Jewish people during the six years he lived in the village. The family didn't follow any Jewish practices. Howard recalls that he was something of an outsider, not because of his religion, but because he was not Wigan-born.¹⁹⁹ He was fascinated with the local dialect and vocabulary of the inhabitants; he learned to say 'thee' and 'thy' instead of 'you' and 'your.' In 1955 the family emigrated to Australia, but found it difficult to settle. They returned to England for a year before emigrating to California, where Howard still lives today. Manny, who changed his name to Eddie died there in 1997 and Lottie in 2005.²⁰⁰

¹⁹⁶ Information from Howard Phillips

¹⁹⁷ LancsBMD website

¹⁹⁸ Information Howard Phillips

¹⁹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰⁰ Ibid.

Whilst Manny Phillips was cutting hair in Platt Bridge, Margaret and Henry MARFLOW had settled down to married life in Wigan.²⁰¹ They were both from refugee backgrounds. Margaret, nee Weiss, was born in 1921 in Bielefeld, North-Rhine, Westphalia. She arrived in England in 1939 together with her younger brother on the Kindertransport a few days after her eighteenth birthday. She had arranged their escape from Germany herself following the events of Kristallnacht. Her parents by a stroke of good fortune were already in England to see off her older brother prior to his emigration to South America. Margaret's family had been members of the Reform synagogue in her home town. She celebrated her Bat Mitzvah (the ritual of a girl aged 13 reaching adulthood) there in 1935. However she had no strong religious beliefs. In her memoirs (in the possession of her son Andrew) she wrote, 'During the years after 1933, all of us Jews became obviously more aware of our religion, of our past and what it stood for. It is shameful to have to admit that this happened because it was forced upon us. But there it is. Saturday for us became a day for more or less compulsory synagogue attendance and religious instruction... while Saturday for our gentile classmates meant Nazi indoctrination'.

This is the only reference to religion in Margaret's memoirs. Henry, born 1916, in Bielefeld was also a refugee from Nazi

²⁰¹ All Marflow family information from Andrew, their son.

Germany who arrived in England a few days before the outbreak of war. He was the sole survivor of his family. His original surname was Wolfram. His son Andrew recalls that Henry never talked about religious matters. After what he had suffered at the hands of the Nazis, the very suggestion that there may be a benign divinity would have been a slap in the face. On arrival in England, Margaret lived in London and the South-East working as a nurse and later as a midwife. Henry and Margaret married in Middlesex in 1947.²⁰² Henry was a commercial traveller whose job brought him to the North of England. Rather than settle in a town with a Jewish community they chose Wigan which had excellent rail links for Henry's working territory. The Marflows did not seek out other Jewish families or join any Jewish organisations. Margaret was driven by a strong desire to integrate into British, not Jewish society. Both sons were christened in the Church of England. Andrew recalls that his mother spoke with no discernible trace of German accent and had a truly encyclopaedic knowledge of English history and literature. Andrew was never aware of any anti-Semitism during the 1950s and 1960s when he was growing up in Wigan. However, he was acutely conscious of not wanting to advertise his family's German origins.²⁰³ Henry died in Wigan in 1998.

²⁰² FreeBMD website

²⁰³ Correspondence with Andrew Marflow

Margaret died there in 2010. She was a prolific writer and lecturer and later in life became involved with the Association of Jewish Refugees.

Another refugee from Nazi persecution who came to Wigan was Erich Hugo STRACH, born 1914 in Brno, Czechoslovakia into a close-knit Jewish family. His father owned an umbrella store.²⁰⁴ Erich studied medicine at Prague University and graduated in 1938. He then went on holiday to France intending to return after a few weeks. As the situation for Jews in Czechoslovakia was worsening, his parents dissuaded him from returning home. Erich stayed with friends in France and worked in a sanatorium in Dreux. He tried desperately to obtain exit visas for his family, but to no avail. The sanatorium was bombed so Eric made his way to Agde in the South of France and joined up for the Czech army. He arrived in England with the exiled Czech army in 1940 and later resumed his medical career eventually becoming a Senior House Surgeon at Wigan Royal Albert Edward Hospital.

There is an item concerning Dr Strach in the Hospital's Board of Management Minutes for 1946. A letter had been sent to the Home Office requesting he be allowed to stay in England and informing them that Erich had been appointed temporary

²⁰⁴ All information from Obituary of Erich Strach, by his daughter Angela, The Guardian, 17 May 2011.

orthopaedic registrar. The Minutes also stated that as from 1 October 1947, his salary would be increased to £350 per year. Erich married Rachel Margaret Forshaw at Ince Registry Office in 1945.²⁰⁵ He returned to Czechoslovakia after the War to help with the typhus epidemic at Terezin concentration camp. It was while he was in Czechoslovakia that he learnt that all his family had perished in the Holocaust. He and his wife had intended settling in Czechoslovakia, but once he discovered that none of his family had survived, they decided to return to England. Erich and Margaret lived on Orrell Road in Wigan for about ten years. All their three children were born in the town. Erich became Orthopaedic Consultant at St Helens and Whiston Hospitals, specialising in the treatment of children with spina bifida and polio. By this time the family were living in Liverpool. Erich was a keen amateur astronomer and in 1981 became the President of the Liverpool Astronomical Society. He built a solar observatory in his garden. Erich was a firm believer in the value of Holocaust education and was a strong supporter of the Beth Shalom Holocaust centre in Nottingham. In 1990 he set about having a memorial stone erected in memory of Holocaust victims at the Jewish cemetery at Slavkov near Brno. In 1992 he was the guest of honour at a ceremony at Nottingham Progressive Synagogue for the rededication of the Austerlitz Torah

²⁰⁵ LancsBMD website

scroll.²⁰⁶ Erich died aged 96 on 10 January 2011. Following the obituary in the Times, William Waterworth wrote to the paper recalling that in order to escape the stresses of work Dr Strach would often help with the gathering of the harvest at the Waterworth farm in Upholland.²⁰⁷

Three other Jewish medical men and their families arrived in the area at this period, all of whom served their local community for many years; Norman GOLDSTONE as a general practitioner in Leigh; Sam MATTISON a general practitioner in Ashton-in-Makerfield and Jacob (Jack) SCHRAGER who was the Area Consultant Pathologist for Wigan for nearly thirty years. Their biographies appear at the end of this book.

I have spoken to the children of all three families and asked them to recall their childhood memories of what it was like to be the only Jewish family in their respective communities.

Philip Goldstone recalls that his parents were highly respected by the local people. An item in the Jewish Chronicle of 22 December 1939 reported that Mrs Edith Goldstone had been invited by the local Salvation Army to open their Sale of Work. She was described as, ‘the wife of the popular local doctor, Norman Goldstone, being the sole Jewish family in the town’.

²⁰⁶ Jewish Chronicle, 12 June 1992

Edith came from a strictly Orthodox background and the family attended Manchester Central synagogue regularly. They travelled into North Manchester twice weekly to buy Kosher meat and other food. Philip and his siblings all attended Bolton School. Vivian Schragger attended the local schools, Woodfield Primary and Junior, then Wigan High School. She recalls that she attended assemblies and was never made to feel any different. She does not remember ever experiencing anti-Semitism. The Schraggers were not religious but lit candles on Friday night, the eve of the Jewish Sabbath and celebrated some of the Jewish festivals.

The Mattison family were members of Childwall synagogue in Liverpool. Judith, the eldest of the five Mattisons attended the local primary school where she was the only Jewish child. She felt very sensitive about this and recalls that she always felt different. Even when she went to Belvedere School in Liverpool which had a few Jewish girls, Judith who was a shy child found it difficult at first to make friends. Judith recalls that the family were not very religious, but kept many of the traditions of Judaism. They celebrated Friday nights and all the Festivals. The three eldest children attended Hebrew classes three times a week at Childwall synagogue where all four boys celebrated their Bar Mitzvah. Kosher meat was delivered by train every week from Leeds, but often it was not

²⁰⁷ The Times, 24 February 2011

fresh by the time it arrived so eventually they gave up keeping Kosher. The youngest Mattison child Mark didn't attend Hebrew classes. He had private tuition before his Bar Mitzvah. He feels that growing up in a non-Jewish community left him with a feeling of isolation. When he was older and able to go to Jewish social events in towns with a large Jewish population, he found the people 'cliquey'. He felt very much an outsider. As a teenager he used to help out on Saturdays at the local market which he thoroughly enjoyed. He never came across any anti-Semitism whilst living in Ashton-in-Makerfield. His parents Sam and Elsie lived in the town for over fifty years. They died within a week of one another in August 1995.

Apart from these three doctors' families, several other Jewish people worked in the medical professions in Wigan for shorter periods. An item in the Jewish Chronicle of 20 March 1925 announced the appointment of Miss Van Rompaey as Matron of the Manchester Jewish Hospital. Her previous post had been that of deputy matron at the Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. This hospital which opened in 1873 was entirely supported by voluntary subscriptions until the advent of the National Health Service in 1948. The House Surgeons Agreements Book of 1931-41,²⁰⁸ which is a record of their contracts, listed the following appointments as House Surgeons for six months at a salary of £150; David Swartz,

December 1932; Henry Nathan Katz, 1 July 1934; Leo Herz, April 1941; Israel David, 1 April 1941. David Swartz had qualified in 1932. By 1935 he was working in Winnipeg. Henry Katz had qualified in 1931 and was in USA by 1951. Leo Herz qualified in Germany in 1903. It is quite likely he came over to England as a refugee.²⁰⁹

The 1948 Board of Management Minutes²¹⁰ reported the following:

‘Erich H Strach had been appointed Registrar; H Philip Goldman was a visiting physician and had given lectures; Donations had been received for the Hospital Fund from Niman’s Fancy Goods Wigan (£1.1s) and David Redstone of Shudehill Manchester (10/6d).’

As well as Dr Strach and Dr Schragger, Wigan welcomed other foreigners in the 1930s and 1940s, none more so than the Jewish refugees and evacuees of the Second World War.

²⁰⁸ Wigan Archives Service, Hospital Records

²⁰⁹ Ancestry UK Medical Registers

²¹⁰ Wigan Archives Service, Hospital Records



Jack Schrager, middle row, far left, in Belfast where he qualified as a doctor in 1941, before settling in Wigan.

Chapter 8

Wartime and Refugees

In January 1939, twelve Jewish Austrian and German teenage boys arrived in Wigan to be trained in agricultural work. Their home for one year was to be the Catholic Land Association Hostel in Parbold. After the training at the Wigan and District Mining and Technical College they were to be sent abroad to South Africa or one of the Dominions.²¹¹ However, war intervened and it is not known whether or not this happened.

This was not Wigan's first experiences of refugees. They had accommodated Belgian refugees in the First World War.²¹² Once again the town rose to the challenge. As early as April 1939,²¹³ a meeting was held in the Mayor's Reception Room to consider whether it would be possible to maintain some refugees in Wigan. The plight of those unfortunate people appealed to the hearts of all. In May and June 1940 several items appeared in the both the local and Jewish press reporting on the refugee situation in the town. The Wigan Observer of 18 May 1940 reported that, 'victims of Hitler's aggression may shortly find sanctuary in Wigan. The local

²¹¹ Past Forward 42, published by Wigan Archives Service

²¹² Wigan Council Minutes, 1914-1918

²¹³ Wigan Observer, 8 April 1939

branch of the Women's Voluntary Services will assist the War Refugee Committee in obtaining the names of householders willing to billet the refugees'. A few days later the Wigan Examiner of 23 and 25 May 1940, reported the arrival of one hundred and fifty Jewish refugees who had escaped from Holland. According to the newspaper, the group included elderly men, professional people, well-to-do merchants, a young blind musician and seventy one children. The newcomers were given an enthusiastic welcome by the local people when they arrived at Wallgate station. A formal ceremony then took place at the Drill Hall where the refugees were welcomed by the Mayor, Councillor Fairhurst.

Accommodation for the adults was at the Methodist and Baptist chapels. The girls were accommodated at All Saints Institute of the Anglican Sisters of Mercy and the boys went to St Michaels Church Hall. Rabbi Casper of the Higher Broughton Synagogue was invited to Wigan to offer spiritual support. An item about this event appeared the following week in the Jewish Chronicle,²¹⁴ which reported that sixty Jewish orphans from Holland, part of one hundred and fifty Jewish refugees, had reached Wigan on 22 May having escaped from Holland on an old coal freighter, the SS Bodegraven. Their journey had been terrifying. The freighter eventually docked at Liverpool and after being searched and

interrogated the refugees travelled to the Lancashire coal town by train. Rabbi Casper from Manchester had visited them and made arrangements for their dietary needs. They would be provided with vegetarian food as many of them came from a strictly orthodox background. The Wigan Advertiser of 25 May 1940 mentioned this and reported that, 'a complication arose with the feeding arrangements as many of the party were only able to eat kosher meat. Menus had to be hurriedly rearranged. Members of the Jewish community in Wigan co-operated with the War Refugee Committee'. A rather sad personal advertisement appeared in the Jewish Chronicle on 7 June 1940 from refugee Michel Abrahams who had escaped from Holland. He wanted to hear from any of his relatives in England. He gave his address as c/o The Chief Constable, Wigan Lancashire.

Bill Williams in his excellent book, 'Jews and Other Foreigners',²¹⁵ gives a full account of the background of these refugees and of their nightmare journey from Holland. They were known as the Dutch Orphans but in fact they were mainly Austrian and German refugees who in 1938 and 1939 had managed to escape to Holland from Nazi persecution. The parents of these young people had sent them to Holland in the

²¹⁴ Jewish Chronicle, 31 May 1940

²¹⁵ Paperback version, published 2013, Manchester University Press

belief that they would be safe. When Germany invaded Holland on 10 May 1940, the children were among many refugees saved by Mrs Geertruida Wijsmuller-Meijer, a non-Jewish lady who together with her husband was committed to the saving of Jewish lives. Bill Williams interviewed several of the so-called Dutch Orphans. Their stories make fascinating reading.²¹⁶ By the end of June the children had been found accommodation in Manchester. Their stay in Wigan though short had been memorable. Hans Levy in an interview described the Wigan people as, 'wonderful and generous'²¹⁷. He recalled free trips to the cinema, tea parties at local homes and a farewell party where each child was given half a crown pocket money. An item in the Wigan Examiner on 6 June 1940 reported that the chairman of Wigan and District Youth Committee had organised free entry to the Princes cinema for all war refugees. This was due to the generosity of Harry and David Buxton, Jewish businessmen who ran a chain of cinemas and theatres. A fund for the Relief of War Refugees had been set up by the Mayor and a collection was made at the Princes cinema. By 22 June most of the refugees had left Wigan for Manchester where they were accommodated in private homes or hostels.²¹⁸

²¹⁶ 'Jews and Other Foreigners', pp. 361-367

²¹⁷ Ibid.

²¹⁸ Jewish Chronicle, 28 June 1940

Whilst the survivors of the freighter SS Bodegraven were living temporarily in Wigan a young girl from Austria was already part of a Jewish family in Holmes Avenue. Harry and Raye Abrahams acted as guarantors and fostered Liane Regenbogen for two years.²¹⁹ They were among hundreds of Jewish families who offered a home to the Kindertransport refugees. The Kindertransport was the name given to a rescue mission organised by the British government at the end of 1938 whereby some ten thousand mainly Jewish children from Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany and Poland left their homes for the safety of England. Private citizens or organisations had to guarantee to pay for each child's care and education and in return the government allowed the child to enter the country. The first of the Kindertransport trains left on 1 December 1938; the last on 1 September 1939. Liane Regenbogen boarded the train from Vienna in June 1939.

This is her story.²²⁰

Liane was born in Vienna in 1932, the only child of Kurt and Lotte. Her parents divorced when she was two and she was brought up by her father and her paternal grandparents. When she was five, her father married Grete. The family lived in a flat in Vienna, not far from a park. Liane started school,

²¹⁹ See Chapter 7 for details of the family

but soon afterwards like other Jewish children was prevented by Nazi laws from attending. Liane recalls seeing anti-Semitic posters, slogans and cartoons. She remembers many Jewish-owned shops being damaged. Food became very scarce. Liane was sent daily to the local soup kitchen. On her way she was regularly intimidated by the Nazi soldiers, but never mentioned this to her parents. She was a very shy, inhibited child. On several occasions she recalls the Nazis knocking on the door of their flat. Her father would immediately go up into the loft which was some fifty yards long.... a lucky escape route. On one occasion Kurt was taken away and sent to work in the Vienna woods, but later returned home. The family were desperate to leave Austria. Liane recalls that Grete would go and queue for hours every day to try to get exit visas for the family, but to no avail. Kurt wrote to various refugee agencies, hoping to find sponsors for Liane. One day in June 1939 she was told she was going to England to stay with the Abrahams family. Her parents packed her bag and took her to the station... the first step of her journey to safety. All she can recall of that journey was feeling totally alone, not speaking to anybody. Her home for the next two years was in Wigan with Raye, Harry and Ivor Abrahams. Liane attended St Michael's, the local school of which she has very happy memories.

²²⁰ All information from Liane, told to the author in March 2014.

Instead of going into prayers she was allowed to go and look after the flowers in the school garden. Everyone was very kind. She knew no English when she arrived in Wigan, but eventually picked up the language. She loved playing out with the local children in the street and in the park, an activity which had been banned for Jews in Vienna. Fortunately, a few weeks before the outbreak of the war, Kurt and Grete managed to get visas. They came to England where they worked as a butler and cook for an English family in Hertfordshire. They were able to visit Liane regularly. In 1941 they were evacuated from Hertfordshire to Wales where Liane joined them. Her brother was born that year. Kurt became naturalised and joined the army, serving in the Pioneer Corps. Tragically, none of Liane's grandparents were able to get out of Austria. All perished in the Holocaust. After the war the family settled in London. Liane married in 1951 and has three grown-up children. She is still in touch with Ivor and Lynne, whose parents had cared for her and ensured her safety.



Liane (front, left), pictured with her mother, Grete (back, left), Mrs Ray Abrahams (back, right) and her son Ivor Abrahams, c. 1940. Courtesy Liane Segal.

In June 1940 soon after the Jewish refugees had left Wigan, more than seven hundred Channel Islanders from Guernsey and Jersey came to the town, none apparently Jewish. The evacuees were billeted with local families. By the beginning of July over five hundred had been moved elsewhere but many families remained and started a new life in Wigan.

In 1944, the Wigan people once again opened their doors and hearts to victims of war. This time it was several hundred evacuees mainly from London and the South of England who

benefitted from the town's generosity. Many of them were Jewish. An item in the Jewish Chronicle on 1 September 1944 was headlined, 'Wigan welcomes Jewish Children'. It was reported that the Mayor and other civic dignitaries attended a children's party provided by Mrs Cowen,²²¹ for the Jewish evacuees. J. J. Kleinman, their teacher from London, conducted a short service after the party. Religious instruction had been organised for the children by Rev I. W. Slotki. Thanks were extended to Mrs Cowen for her interest in the welfare of the children. It was stated that the local people regarded the children as members of their own families. A reporter from the News Chronicle wrote, 'Everyone in Wigan from the girls with heavy clogs to Mayoress with heavy chain gave the kiddies a welcome that will make Wigan a place to be respected always'.²²²

²²¹ Sally Cowen, nee Niman, ran a jewellery business in the town

²²² Past Forward Magazine Issue 43, Wigan Archives Service

London, March 4 1939

Dear Abrahams,

I thank you so much for your charming letter which made us very happy. My little daughter is speaking now all the day, only from England and for new little cousin.

It would be a great luck for us if Anne could come to your house, I speak to day to the people who told me about the possibility to do so, that you yourself would give a permit to Government for the care of children from Germany. I am sorry to hear from your home, London W. 1. I am sure that Anne asks for a permit for the child.

My wife and I have not got in position as married couple in England we are only waiting for the issue of the permit. It would be a great luck if by your invitation our child would be in England too.

Anne is really a very good child, she is very obedient and obedient know any contradiction. She is very clever and well educated. She is also a healthy little girl. Anne is happy that now when spring is coming she will have the possibility to play in the garden or in a park. She would not do for nearly what you. You really will know that we are not allowed to enter any park.

Anne is very fond of little children and as she is very good hearted they all like her very much. I am sure that in a few days you will all like her very much.

Letter from Kurt Regenbogen to Mrs Abrahams, 8 th March 1939

London, March 8 1939

Dear Mrs & Mr Abrahams!

We have received your kind letter and we are very happy with it. It is impossible to express you with words the luck of Anne. Since the receipt of your first letter, she is with all her thoughts in England. She speaks only from you and her, she looks at the photo and she thinks nothing other than you. She learns very diligently English because she will go very soon to England. I am convinced you will never regret your guesses and you will like our child in a few lines. It must not say you, so - possible it is, to miss our child but we are happy to know his child will you. With your kind letter you have given us back our courage and the sense of the humanity. Anne's equipment is ready and she can part immediately after the receipt of the permit. I think it will be better for the child if I could be there with a parent in order to have no contact with the English.

We are happy that Anne will have occasion to speak German, because for the beginning it is rather difficult for her to hear only English. Anne would like to make a toy for her little new cousin and she will bring him something from Emma. Please tell us what he would like to have. I am sure you will find our guesses.

I remain with the best regards
 Yours sincerely
 Grete Regenbogen

Letter from Grete Regenbogen to Mr and Mrs Abrahams, 20th March 1939



Liane Regenbogen (right), with Jean Woodhall (front), Dorothy Clarke (left) and Tony Swallowell, October 1939

Postscript 1

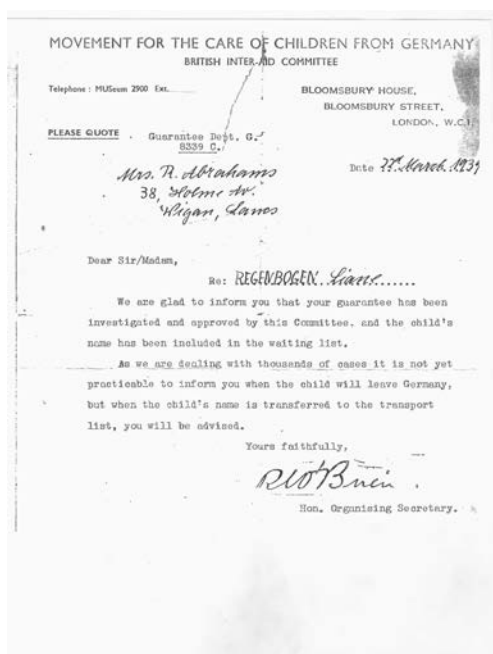
Liane gave me a copy of this photo taken in October 1939. She is with three local children who became her friends, but she could only remember the name of the boy, Tony. I sent the picture to the Wigan Observer to see if any of their readers recognised themselves.²²³ Amazingly, Jean, nee Woodhall, contacted me two days later to say that she was one of the girls in the picture and the other one was her friend Dorothy Clarke with whom she is still in touch. Sadly, the boy Tony Swallowwell died a few years ago. Elsie Hull telephoned to say that she recognised everyone in the photo which was taken outside her childhood home on Greenheys Avenue. I also had an email from Joyce Storey who was at St Michael's school with Liane. Liane has recently made telephone contact with all these schoolfriends of some seventy-five years ago. They had a wonderful time reminiscing. Liane was so thrilled to talk to them and felt flattered that they remembered her. She plans to meet up with them later in the year.

Postscript 2

In January 2014 I was invited to participate in the annual Holocaust Memorial Service organised by Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, in partnership with Wigan Council. The event

²²³ Wigan Observer, 1 April and 29 April 2014

which has taken place every year since 2001 was attended by the Mayor of Wigan, Trustees of WLCT, several schoolchildren and teachers, museum and archive staff and citizens of Wigan. The theme of this year's commemorative event was Journeys. I read out the two letters of gratitude which Liane's parents had written to Harry and Raye Abrahams in March 1939. Liane's journey to Wigan and freedom began in June that year.



Letter to Mrs Abrahams from the British Inter-Aid Committee, March 1939

Chapter 9

Wigan Businesses with Manchester and Southport Connections

Business rivalry had destroyed the Wigan Hebrew Congregation, but the Jewish residents continued making a living in the town. Alfred Kresner, David and Bernard Cowen, the Fraser and Fisher families continued tailoring, the Nimans carried on selling jewellery and fancy goods, the Sytners carried on trading in the Market Hall; the Adler brothers continued lending money. Details of all these families appear in earlier chapters. Eventually most of them moved to Southport, Liverpool or Manchester, but continued trading in the town.

Jewish business people from outside the town set up in Wigan as manufacturers, market traders and shopkeepers particularly after the Second World War. Apart from the money lenders who are listed in Chapter 6, there were a few other Jewish-owned businesses in the town prior to this period. These included the LEVY Brothers of London and Hartlepool who started manufacturing and selling shoes and

clothing at 13 and 5 Market Street in 1903;²²⁴ Jacob INERFIELD of Chorlton Manchester who had a furniture shop at 31 Market Street in 1909²²⁵; Jack RUBIN of Manchester who opened his first furniture shop, Boardmans on Railway Street, Leigh, in 1924 and the Ribble Cabinet Company in Wigan in the 1930s. Eventually the Rubin empire expanded to some sixty stores.²²⁶ Joseph S. RAPAPORT of Manchester opened a waterproof garment factory in Ince in 1936 and a second factory in Wigan.²²⁷ On Standishgate, at number 12, was Herman's costumiers owned by Joseph Levy and family of Salford.²²⁸ They appeared in the 1935 Electoral Registers and in the 1938 Aubrey's Trade Directory. From 1940, a Londoner, Alf LEAMAN was the proprietor of a ladies fashion shop also on Standishgate at number 16. He sold the business to Alan Becker of Southport in 1958. In 1946 Sidney MORRIS set up a menswear manufacturing business, firstly in Hindley, then in Wigan. Sidney lived in Manchester. The business lasted until 1984.²²⁹

²²⁴ See Biography section

²²⁵ Ibid.

²²⁶ Ibid.

²²⁷ Ibid.

²²⁸ Ibid.

²²⁹ Ibid.

BOARDMANS
 THE KEY TO HAPPY
 PROSPEROUS PROSPERITY
16 RAILWAY ROAD, LEIGH
(The Home of all the best of a kind)

FREE GIFTS
 with all
 orders over
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WE CAN SAVE YOU
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FREE GIFTS
 with all
 orders over
£5

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The possibility of loss in other ordinary investments has been carefully considered, and the most generous arrangements are made in case of difficulties in paying instalments. This guarantee is given you in writing.

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The Bed Room Furniture (shown) only £10 0/0 each
The Living Room Furniture (shown) only £10 0/0 each
The Bed Room Furniture (shown) only £10 0/0 each
The Bed Room Furniture (shown) only £10 0/0 each
The Bed Room Furniture (shown) only £10 0/0 each

Advertisement for Boardmans, furniture, 1932



Major Jack Rubin, founder of Boardmans and the Ribble Cabinet Co., courtesy Rubin Family.

In 1947, Solomon Bernholtz, who became Stanley HOLT, came to Platt Bridge and set up a company manufacturing ladies underwear and nightwear. The firm employed about two hundred and fifty local people. The company was one of the suppliers to Marks and Spencer. Stanley's son, Steven, recalls visiting the factory as a child; all the employees called him Master Steven. The business closed in 1968.²³⁰

Bernard FORSTER opened a clothing factory in a disused cinema in Wigan after the Second World War. He also had a clothing factory in Exchange Street, Manchester, which supplied several stores including Marks and Spencer.²³¹ Louis FISHER, who was born in Wigan moved to Prestwich in 1948 but continued trading in Wigan. He and his wife Rita were in business on King Street where they had a tailoring shop. After Louis's death in 1959, Rita moved the business to Upper Dicconson Street where she added a dry cleaning and alterations business,²³² a wedding suit hire business and a ladies fashion boutique called Heavens Above.²³³

Basil TOUBKIN, who lived in Southport had an electrical goods business called Grimes on King Street which was sold in

²³⁰ Conversation with Steven Holt

²³¹ See Biography section

²³² Wigan Trade Directory, 1969

²³³ Information from Susan Fisher, daughter

1953.²³⁴ Another Southport resident Clarence WELDON had a photographic business and studio, Foley and Scott, on Marsden Street.²³⁵ G. Leslie MARKS advertised regularly in the Jewish Chronicle. He lived in St Annes but his business, custom-built furniture, was in Wigan on Darlington Street.²³⁶ Harry WALTZER, a furrier, was in business in the late 1940s at Penningtons on Mesnes Street. In 1952 and 1953, advertisements in the Wigan Observer announced that H. E. Waltzer would be available to see customers every Monday afternoon from 3pm at the Minorca Grill Room on Wallgate where tea would be served to all clients.²³⁷

Harry and family lived in Prestwich. He had a workroom in Oldham Street, Manchester, where he remodelled and repaired furs. He was a Londoner by birth.²³⁸ Some forty eight years ago Norman BEILINSOHN and Philip Halliwell opened the Norman and Philip hairdressing business. The first salon was inside Lowes department store; eventually there were eight salons in and around Wigan. When Lowes was pulled down about twenty nine years ago, Norman and Philip

²³⁴ See Biography section

²³⁵ Ibid.

²³⁶ Jewish Chronicle, 18 September 1953 and 20 August 1954

²³⁷ Wigan Observer, 3 January 1953

²³⁸ Information from Lorraine Jaffe, daughter

relocated to a premises on Wallgate, which is still there today. Norman retired from business in 2000.²³⁹

Kaye's Army Surplus stores were on Darlington Street. They were owned by brothers Henry and Max NEWMAN who lived in Manchester. Their neice, Julie Higham recalls that Henry started with one shop at Greenhough Street, before moving to 30 Darlington Street. He gradually bought up more properties on Darlington Street as they became empty. Julie's mother Annie Dean, nee Newman, ran The Fent Shop on Scholes from the 1940s until the late 1960s. Stella SHAW, Outsize Fashions, started on Greenhough Street, in the 1950s, moved to Darlington Street in the 1960s, then traded on Millgate. The shop specialised in fashion for larger ladies and corsetry. Tom Walsh recalls that the shop manageress was Ivy Shepard, but the owners were a Jewish family who did not live in the town. Later it became a haberdashery shop called Liz Elastic.

Danny BRAHAM founded the Joan Barrie ladies fashion chain in 1938. The first shop was in Bolton. The Wigan shops were on Standishgate and Wallgate.²⁴⁰ The Braham family lived firstly in Bolton, moving to Southport in 1950.²⁴¹ STONEFIELDS jewellers were in Makinson Arcade from the late 1950s. They had a shop in Southport too, where the family

²³⁹ Information from Norman Beilinson

²⁴⁰ Wigan Observer advertisement, 3 January 1953

²⁴¹ Information from his daughter, Valerie Beaver

lived.²⁴² Another Southport resident, Harry MOSS had a rainwear shop, Moss Menswear, at 20 Standishgate.²⁴³ Alan BECKER, also from Southport, took over Alf Leaman's fashion business at 16 Standishgate in 1958. The business called Peter Hamilton ceased trading in 1980. He then went into a travel business called Baxters which had branches in Penwortham, Fulwood, Formby and Southport. Alan, now retired, lives in Cheshire.²⁴⁴ Sam HERWALD opened Regal Textiles in the Royal Arcade in 1959. They sold curtains and household textiles. Basil Herwald is still in contact with some of the staff who worked for his father. The Herwalds lived in Manchester.²⁴⁵ The business was sold in 1984. Basil recalls that his aunt and uncle, Irene and Gershon Gordon of Southport also traded in the Royal Arcade. Their shoe business opened in about 1968. A sweet shop in the Royal Arcade run by Mrs Mendelsohn, a friend of the family, opened in 1975, closing in 1984. It had previously been a bric-a-brac shop owned by Sam Herwald.²⁴⁶

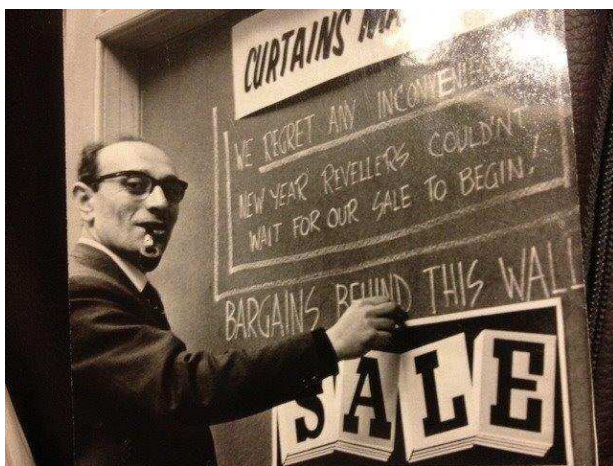
²⁴² Information from Jane Bakerman, nee Stonefield

²⁴³ Wigan Observer, 24 January 1953

²⁴⁴ Information from Alan Becker

²⁴⁵ See Biography section

²⁴⁶ Information from Basil Herwald



Sam Herwald, at his business in the Royal Arcade, c. 1965, courtesy Herwald Family.

During the 1960s and 1970s, several Manchester based companies opened branch factories in Wigan and Leigh, often locating in disused mill premises, providing employment for hundreds of local people.

I. Diamond and Co. Ltd., owned by Irving DIAMOND, manufactured ladies wear. The business started in the 1950s in Tib Street, Manchester, moving later to Corporation Street. There was also a factory at Spectator Mill in Ancoats. In the late 1960s, Irving opened a branch of his business at Eckersley Mill, Wigan, which employed mostly local people including

several generations of the same family.²⁴⁷ Irving's daughters also worked for the company; Janet worked in the office and Susan in the showroom. The company supplied several mail order firms including Littlewoods. Janet recalls that there were a few Jewish employees, all of whom lived in Manchester; Mike Jacobs, David Sacks the head presser, Louis Bertfield, Arthur Rose and Jonathan Simons. Despite a full order book, the company was forced into receivership in the late 1990s.²⁴⁸

Another company which started in Manchester and came to Wigan at a similar time was Ellgren owned by George GREEN. His family started in business in Strangeways, Manchester. They took over an old-established cap-making business after the First World War called J. Lang and Co.. Later they began manufacturing children's clothing. The business grew quickly and more space was needed. In the mid-1960's George rented the office block of the disused Wood Street Mill in Wigan and turned it into a factory as a support for his Manchester enterprise. Eventually the cap-making ceased to make way for the expanding clothing production. Both Wigan and Manchester were supplying clothing, track suits and sports wear to mail order companies and the stores such as Mothercare and Debenhams. They also produced goods

²⁴⁷ Wigan Trade Directory, 1969

²⁴⁸ Information from Janet Kaye, nee Diamond

offshore. They sent all the raw materials to factories in Morocco and Poland which manufactured the goods and sent them back to England for distribution. George also manufactured jeans in conjunction with a company in Liverpool. The sportswear side of the business expanded rapidly. By the 1980s, Ellgren was the official supplier of kit and sponsor to Wigan Rugby League Club. Ellgren also supplied kit to other top Rugby clubs including St Helens, Castleford, Leeds and Wakefield. Ellgren were the first company to use a heat printing process to put the designs on rugby clothing. Wigan Athletic Football club approached Ellgren to design their football shirt. They did the same for Blackburn Rovers. Ellgren manufactured goods for many top sports companies including Umbro, Puma and Adidas. At the same time the company was still producing children's wear for the mail order firms and High street stores. Ellgren's links with Wigan lasted some thirty five years. Unfortunately, cheap goods from China destroyed many British businesses. Ellgren closed in 1999.²⁴⁹ A rainwear manufacturer who started in Manchester was London-born Wilfred G PHILLIPS. He came up to Manchester after the Second World War to work for the Greengate and Irwell Rubber Company, waterproof manufacturers. Eventually he opened his own business in Lower Broughton, followed by satellite factories in Wigan.

²⁴⁹ All information from George Green

Wilfred and his wife moved to Southport in the 1960s. He died in the Southport Rest Home in 2013 aged 100.²⁵⁰

Lenny GOLDWATER of Manchester owned a company manufacturing overalls in Wigan in the 1970s. When his son Robert got married in London in 1977, Mr Goldwater, described in the Jewish Chronicle as a Wigan industrialist, hired a coach and brought all fifty eight of his non-Jewish employees to the event so that they could experience a Jewish wedding ceremony.²⁵¹ The 1969 Wigan Trade directory lists several Jewish owned companies including Kattenbergs of Wigan and Ince, waterproof manufacturers, Cohen and Wilks manufacturers of menswear in Hindley, Peter Blond and Co., clothing manufacturers, A. Halpern, waterproofer of Harrogate Street, D. M. Rose, tailors of Hodson Street, Cotton Goods Ltd. of Goose Green and Wallgate, manufacturers of overalls, owned by Ellis and Joe Landes and Julian Rosenberg, Academy Garments of Dicconson Street, owned by Leslie Joseph.²⁵²

Elliot RADAM from Southport had a dental practice in Pemberton from the mid 1950s. Later he opened another surgery in Ashton in Makerfield. He retired in 1984 and the practice is now being run by his nephew Barry Kinshuck.

²⁵⁰ Obituary, Jewish Telegraph, 13 December 2013

²⁵¹ Jewish Chronicle, 26 August 1977

Elliot, born in Liverpool in 1930, died in 2004.²⁵³ Edgar GLUCKSMAN from North Manchester, a relative of the Herwalds, had an opticians business in Wigan from 1975, firstly in the Royal Arcade and then on Wallgate. The business was originally called Raymonds. Edgar sold the business in about 2002.²⁵⁴

Ward and Goldstone was founded in Gorton, Manchester in 1882 by James Henry WARD and Meyer Hart GOLDSTONE. Under the direction of Meyer's son, Sampson, the company opened factories in Leigh, Atherton, Hindley Green, Eccles and Monton along with several units in Salford where the company was principally based employing at its peak 7,500 people. The activities of Ward and Goldstone ranged from cable making, manufacturing electrical accessories, plastic compound and extruded products and automotive wiring, where the firm's largest customer was the Ford Motor Company. An amusing story is told about the start of the company's relationship with Ford. Ford cars were shipped from the USA in parts over to Trafford Park where they were assembled. On one occasion the shipment did not include ignition cables. Ward and Goldstone were approached by a representative from Ford and asked if they could supply the

²⁵² See Joseph, Biography section

²⁵³ Information from his widow, Patricia

²⁵⁴ Information from Edgar Glucksman

cables. No problem, said Meyer Hart Goldstone. Ford were delighted. When the representative left, Meyer went to see his partner James Ward and asked him what an ignition cable was! Suffice to say the company's relationship with Ford lasted some fifty years.²⁵⁵ The main factory in Leigh was Butts Mill which was in a state of disrepair when Ward and Goldstone took it over. They restored it and at one time the company was one of the largest employers in the town.²⁵⁶ Sadly today the building is derelict.²⁵⁷

Market trading was a common occupation of many Jewish families. There were numerous Jewish stallholders in Wigan's Market Hall. Mention has already been made of those traders who lived in the town; George Cohen, Leah Cowen, Michael Marks, the Ney family, Alfred and Leah Niman and the Sytners. In later years several other Jewish retailers had stalls in the market. Hyman and Barbara DAVIS had a retail business in Southport selling latex foam, curtains, bedding and stretch covers. The business was founded by Hyman's father Berel who also traded at Warrington and Wigan markets. Hyman joined the business in the 1960s and eventually took it over. The Wigan market business was called the Latex Foam Company. Both Hyman and Barbara worked

²⁵⁵ Information from Michael Goldstone, son of Sampson

²⁵⁶ Hansard , 4 June 1981

in Wigan, employing a couple of local ladies. The original Market Hall built in 1877,²⁵⁸ closed in 1988. Hyman and Barbara continued trading in the new Hall until Hyman's ill-health forced them to retire. The business was taken over by Barbara's sister and brother-in-law Sonia and Martin TRAVIS from Manchester. Hyman recalls other Jewish traders from that period; Mr FRANKS who had a cheese stall called the Cheese Cabin, Leon LICHENSTEIN, who sold bedding and Mr NESBIT who sold cosmetics. Three times a year the Wigan Pot Fair was held near the Market Place. This was a huge event which attracted traders from all over the country. It ran from Thursday to Tuesday (except Sunday). The Davis family had a stall there, as did Barbara's cousin Hymie Cohen who sold bedding. Other Jewish traders mainly from Manchester included Alan Goldstone; Phil Grant; Geoff Cainer; David Semp; Sandra Starr, who sold handbags; Jeff and Ez Marcus, shirts; Sydney Forrester, bedding; Ian Travis and Johnny Mond, shirts; Bernice and Leslie Isaacs, skirts and Danny Benjamin, china and glassware. Dick Raynes who was Chairman of the Market Traders Federation sold bedding under the business name Harry Cross. The Wigan Pot Fair finished in the early 1990s. Hyman and Barbara left Southport

²⁵⁷ All Wand G information from Michael Goldstone, son of Sampson

²⁵⁸ Information from Wigan Directory, 1881

in 1999 and now live in Prestwich.²⁵⁹ Today, there are few if any, Jewish market traders, shopkeepers or manufacturers in Wigan.

²⁵⁹ All market information from Hyman and Barbara Davis

Epilogue

In my numerous conversations with those traders who had lived outside Wigan, it is interesting to note that none of them were aware of the town's Jewish heritage. From a Jewish perspective, Wigan's heyday was the 1890s and early 1900s.

Once the synagogue closed, families drifted away. There was never a Jewish cemetery, the synagogue records have disappeared, Jewish-owned businesses no longer exist. Sadly there remains nothing in the town today to serve as a reminder of that small hard-working community who it seems, were unable to live in harmony.

An Interesting Postscript

In the census for 2011 some 71 people in Wigan professed to be of the Jewish religion.

Dr Jonathan Boyd, Executive Director of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research kindly did a breakdown of the census data for me.

The figures are as follows:

Abram 4, Ashton 4, Aspull 5, Astley Mosley 8, Atherleigh 1, Atherton 2, Bryn 3, Douglas 1, Golborne 4, Hindley 2, Hindley Green 2, Ince 4, Leigh East 1, Leigh South 2, Leigh West 4, Lowton 3, Orell 1, Pemberton 6, Shevington 1, Standish 1, Tyldesley 2, Wigan Central 4, Wigan West 1, Winstanley 3, Worsley Mesnes 2.

Dr Boyd pointed out that because the number is so low it is not possible to get the data broken down in any more detail. He explained that Wigan comprised twenty five wards. The only conclusion resulting from the data is that there is no one area showing a particular concentration of Jews.

I spoke to Ben Colman of Atherton. He was surprised at the figure of 71. He has lived in the area for several years and has never met any other people of the Jewish faith.

Biographies

ABELSON, Charles and family, See Chapter 3

ABELSON; Henry appears in the 1924 Kelly's Lancashire Directory as the owner of a loan office at 6 Harrogate Street, Wigan and 55 Cross Street, Manchester. He advertised in the Wigan Observer from 1912 to 1937. Henry was the son of **Rachel** and brother of Julius and Minnie, who later married Simon Franks. In the 1898 Wigan Poor Rate Records, Rachel occupied a house at 9 Rodney Street. By 1901 the family had moved to Salford. The census recorded them living at 24 Mary Street. Rachel a widow was 60, Julius 25, Minnie 23 and Henry 21, all born in Russia. Both Henry and his brother were jewellery travellers. In January 1911, Henry married Sophie Levenson at Manchester Central Synagogue. Their son Sydney was born the following year. The family were now living at 3 Bignor Street, Cheetham Hill. Henry's occupation was given as financier. By 1929 the family were living in Broughton Park. Henry died in Manchester in 1943. His estate totalled £14,800.

(Ancestry 1901 Census RG13/3725; Lancs BMD Marriage Index; Ancestry 1911 Census for 3 Bignor St ;FreeBMD Births and Deaths indexes; Ancestry National Probate Calendar: Index of Wills)

ABELSON; Julius born Russia about 1876 the son of Rachel brother of Henry and Minnie. He married **Ella** Nathanson in

Liverpool in 1904. He was a traveller in jewellery. According to the Year Book he was President of Wigan Hebrew Congregation in 1906/7, probably its last president. He and Ella had three boys all born in Wigan; **George** 1905, **Myer/Majok** 1907 and **Moss (Maurice)** 1909. By 1911 the family were living in Cheetham Manchester at 35 Bellott Street. Ella died in 1913 and Julius remarried Amelia Phillips in Manchester in 1915. They had a son Sydney in 1918 and twin daughters Irene and Nettie in 1919. Julius had a wholesale jewellery business in Sugar Lane, Manchester. He appeared in the Phone Books living at 147 Bellott Street from 1921 to 1929 then lived at 4 Vine Street, Kersal until 1947. His granddaughter Elaine Goldstone recalls that the Kersal house was very large and there was a living-in maid called Carrie. Julius and Amelia moved to Southport in about 1947 living at 3 Westmoreland Road. Julius died in 1959 and Amelia in 1975 aged 91. All the Abelson sons were in the wholesale jewellery business. Myer married Stella Myers at Swansea synagogue in 1933. They settled in Manchester. George married Doris Daniels in 1936 at the Hr Broughton Synagogue and Maurice married Jeanette Freeman in 1937 at Liverpool Greenbank Synagogue. They settled in Southport and joined Arnside Road Synagogue. Their daughter Angella Carne recalls that Maurice was highly involved in fund-raising for the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

(Ancestry 1911 Census for 35 Bellott Street, Manchester; LancsBMD website; Kelly's Lancashire Directory 1929; Ancestry British Phone Books)

ABRAHAMS, Harry and Raye See Chapter 1

ADLER Frank and Solomon See Chapter 5

ALEXANDER; Abraham The loan company A. Alexander appeared in Kelly's 1924 Lancashire Directory at 17 King Street, Wigan. He also advertised in the Wigan Observer in the 1920s as a private money lender in Cheetham Hill Manchester. Abraham was born in Middlesbrough in about 1882, eldest child of George and Rachel, both Russian immigrants. By 1901 the family were living in Manchester. Abe married Rachel Gordon in 1910 at Manchester New Synagogue. In 1911 they were living at 51 Halliwell Lane, Cheetham Hill. Abe, like his father was a traveller in jewellery. He and Rachel moved to Esmond Road and Abe became manager for a money lender. Eventually he opened his own loan business with offices in Manchester, Bolton and Wigan. Abe served as President and as council member of Crumpsall Synagogue and was a member of the Manchester Shechita Board. He and Rachel had four sons. They moved to St Anne's in the 1940s. He died there in 1951 and is buried at Rainsough. Several obituaries appeared in the Jewish Chronicle.

(Lancs BMD Marriage Index; Ancestry 1901 census RG13/3264; 1911 census for 51 Halliwell Lane; JC 22/6/1951; Conversation with Alan Alexander his nephew).

ASHKINAZY; the name M. Ashkinazy appeared in the Jewish Chronicle several times in connection with the Wigan Hebrew Congregation. He was one of the speakers at the Zionist meetings in June and September 1900. He was elected on to the Synagogue Committee as Hon Secretary in November that year and as Treasurer in 1901. I have found a Morris Ashkinazy a Russian born watchmaker in the 1901 census lodging in Liverpool, but have no proof that this is the same person. The name does not appear in any records for Wigan.

(JC 9 June and 2 September 1900; JC 8 November 1901; Ancestry census 1901 RG13/3495.)

BERCOVITZ, Myer

See Chapter 3

BERCOWICK, Morris In the 1898 Wigan Poor Rate Records, Morris was listed as occupier of a house at 10 Spring Street. He and his family were still at that address in the 1901 census. Morris was 34 a tailor born in Russia, his wife Sarah also Russian was 33. They had five children; Jacob, 13; Annie, 11, Ethel 8, all born Leeds; Louis, 5 and Esther, 3, both born Wigan. There were also two lodgers; Sam Lewis a tailor's

presser and Hyman Segelman, 41, a glazier. I have been unable to find the Bercowick family in any later records.

(Ancestry 1901 census RG13/3554; Wigan Poor Rate Records 1898)

BERNSTEIN, Hyman and Leah Goldberg married in Wigan in 1894. Hyman was a tailor, born about 1874 in Russia. Their son **Nathan** was born in Wigan in 1895. By 1900, the family had moved to Leeds where their other children Annie, Hetty and Jacob were born. The 1901 census listed the family living at 18 Imperial Street, Leeds. Nathan joined the army in 1916. He served as a Private in the West Yorkshire Regiment as part of the Expeditionary Force in France from January to May 1917. He then transferred to the Royal Engineers and was demobbed in 1919.

(LancsBMD marriage index; Ancestry 1901 census RG13/4221; Ancestry World War One Army Records)

BERNSTEIN, Israel is the only Jewish licensed victualler I have found in Wigan. He appeared in the 1901 census as the landlord of The Unicorn, a public house at 3 Standishgate. He was 27 years old. His wife Emma, nee Ambrose, whom he married in Wigan in 1900 was 32. There were also two domestic staff living at the hotel. In the 1905-1906 Electoral Register, Israel was the occupier of the Railway Hotel, a public house on Dorning Street. He is not recorded in the 1911 census

but in the Electoral Registers for 1911-1912 and 1913, he was the occupier of a house at 3 Kimberley Street, as well as owning number 6. Israel was the eldest of the eleven children of Celia and Barnett Bernstein a Russian born tailor. The family appeared in 1881 living at 94 Dean Street, Soho, London. Barnett 30, Celia 27, born London, Israel 8, born Leeds, Samuel 6, Rebecca 3, both born Glasgow and Fanny, 4 months, born London. By 1891 the family were living in Cheetham Hill at 16 Hodgson Street. There were an additional four children all London born; Harris 7, Henry 5, David 4 and Rosina 2. By the time Israel was in Wigan, his parents had moved once again to Leeds then to York. Another three children appeared on the census in 1901, Philip 10, Louis 7 and Morris 4 all born in Leeds. By 1911 Celia was a widow living in Salford at 36 Melbourne Street. Five of her offspring were living with her; Harris, Philip, David, Rosina and Louis, plus Harris Singer, a nephew. All were working in the tailoring or waterproofing industry. Israel and Emma do not appear in any other Wigan records. There are deaths recorded in 1918 of an Emma Bernstein in Chorlton aged 49 and of an Israel Bernstein in Manchester in 1966 aged 94. These could be the Wigan pair, as their death ages fit in with their birth dates.

(FreeBMD Marriage Index; Ancestry Census 1881 RG11/130; 1891 RG12/3262; 1901 RG13/4446 and 1911 Census for 36 Melbourne Street; FreeBMD Death Index)

BEY, Aaron lodging at the home of Mrs Lund 20 Spring Street, in 1901. He was a draper, born Russia. There were several Russian lodgers in the house including four Jaffe brothers.

(Ancestry 1901 censusRG13/3554)

BERCOTT, Saul appeared in the 1903 Wigan trade directory as an auctioneer and jeweller at Public Buildings at 5 King Street. He was born in Manchester in about 1874, son of Bertha and Solomon Bercott. The family appeared in 1891 census at 5 Maleham Street, Hr Broughton, where Saul was described as commercial traveller. He was listed in the 1895 Kelly's Lancashire Directory as a traveller living at this address and in 1905 Kelly's Directory as an auctioneer at Central Beach, Blackpool, and a fancy goods dealer at Bolton Market Hall. In about 1908 he moved to Glasgow where he became a successful antiques dealer and jeweller. He was a prominent member of the Glasgow Great Synagogue and was involved in the city's Jewish communal institutions. He died in April 1957. The obituary in the Jewish Chronicle stated, 'Saul was always ready to listen to people and give advice. The entire community is poorer as a result of his passing, but nowhere will his loss be more deeply felt than in the affairs of the Great Synagogue Glasgow, where for many years he was a positive tower of strength'.

(Ancestry 1891 census RG12/3214; Ancestry British Phone Books; Jewish Chronicle 7 June 1957)

BIALY, Moshe The death in Israel of Moshe was announced in the Jewish Chronicle on 8th July 1955. It was stated that he was Polish and had been a lecturer in physics and mathematics at Wigan Technical College. He left Poland in 1937 and settled originally in Leeds.

BLOOM, Lewis (formerly Rosenbloom) and family lived at 2 Garden St Wigan at the end of the nineteenth century. He and his Russian born wife Rachel nee Jackson were married in 1899 at Manchester Holy Law Synagogue. Their daughter **Rosa** was born in Wigan later that year. In the 1901 census Lewis aged 34 was a picture framer and glazier, born in Russia, Rachel aged 21, Rosa aged 1 and two lodgers; 18 year old Benjamin Jackson from Russia, probably his brother in law and 26 year old Morris Marcus, described as an agent from Rumania. In 1902 their second child **Flora** was born in Wigan. In the 1903 Wigan Trade Directory Lewis appeared as a glazier. There are no further references to the family in the records. The engagement of Rosa Bloom of Manchester to Eli Goodman of Belfast appeared in the Jewish Chronicle in 1923. She was described as the daughter of Mrs and the late Mr. L Bloom formerly of Wigan.

(Ancestry 1901 census RG 13/3554; LancsBMD Births and Marriage Indexes; Jewish Chronicle 27th July 1923)

BLUMBERG; Isaac Blumberg and Abbelson were listed at a premises on Darlington Street in the 1895 Wigan Rate Book. This was probably a partnership between Charles Abelson the furniture dealer and Isaac Blumberg. It is unlikely that Isaac ever lived in the town. He was born in Poland in about 1857. He appeared in the 1891 census as a furniture dealer, living in Cheetham Hill with his wife Florry and four children; the three eldest were from his first marriage; Sarah, 8, and Moses, 5, born in Hanley, Mary 3, born in St Helens where his first wife had died in January 1888. He married Florry Marache in 1889 at Manchester Great Synagogue. She was born in Syria about 1868. Their son Marco was born in 1891 in Manchester. By 1901 the family were living in Southport, where three more children were born; Semita, 7, Hilda, 5 and Alec, 3. Florry's father Moses and her sister were also part of the household. Isaac was described as a calico printer. By 1911 the family were living in Broughton Park Salford. Isaac was now managing director of a finance company. He died in Manchester in 1940.

(Ancestry 1891 censusRG12/3264; LancsBMD marriage index; Ancestry 1901 census RG13/3537; 1911 census for Argyll Lodge, Broughton Park; Ancestry Death Index)

BLUMENFIELD; Abraham and family had lived in Leigh from the early 1900s. He was a boarding house proprietor at 29 Lord Street. The town lies about seven miles south of Wigan. Abraham and his wife Rebecca were born in Rumania.

The 1911 Census recorded them and their family together with several boarders, all music hall artistes, actors and dancers. They were probably appearing at the Theatre Royal situated on Lord Street. The Blumenfield family in 1911 numbered six; Abraham, aged 45, Rebecca 35, Clara 14, born Manchester, Dora 6, Cecily 4 and David 8 months, all born in Leigh. David died later that year and was buried at Blackley. In 1912, Eveline was born followed by Bernard in 1914, both in Leigh. How long the family stayed in the town is not known. Rebecca died aged 42 in 1917, the death was registered in Prestwich and she was buried at Blackley. Both Cecily and Dora married in Prestwich, Cecily to Reuben Elstein in 1924 and Dora Bloomfield/Blumenfield to Louis Marks in 1926. Sometimes the family appear in records as Bloomfield. Abraham Bloomfield died in 1927 in Manchester aged 62 and is buried at Rainsough. This might be the same man.

(1911 Census for 29 Lord St Leigh; LancsBMD births, marriage and death Indexes; MDCS burial records)

BURMAN; Jacob appeared in the 1891 census boarding at the home of Benjamin Blackwell an English drapery salesman. Jacob was 18, born in Riga. He and the other lodgers were all drapery salesmen

(Ancestry Census 1891 RG12/3052)

BURMAN; Ruben a Russian born draper boarding with the Rosenberg family in 1901. He emigrated to the USA in 1911.

(Ancestry CensusRG13/3554; Ancestry Outward Passenger Lists)

CANN; Joseph was a travelling glazier, born in Russia. He certainly travelled around during the first seven years of his marriage. His first child Isaac was born in South Wales; Leslie was born in Manchester; Ephraim was born in Blackpool. The family appear on the 1911 Census living at 81 Linney Street, Wigan. Joseph was 36, Sarah 32, born Manchester, Isaac was 5, Leslie 3 and Ephraim 9 months. The census stated there had been four children, one of whom was deceased. Joseph and Sarah, nee Zachkrinski, married in 1904 at Manchester Central Synagogue. Two more children were born in Wigan; **Minnie** in 1913 and **Annie** in 1915. Joseph died in Wigan one year after Annie's birth and was buried at Blackley. Annie's daughter Susan Lentin recalls Annie telling her that their childhood was poverty stricken. The family eventually moved to Manchester. Annie married Benjamin Cream in 1934 at Manchester Great Synagogue. Ephraim, known as Frank, married Lottie Cole in 1939 at Manchester New Synagogue. Sarah died in 1940, Isaac in 1970, Frank in 1985. Annie lived until 2012. She is buried at Philips Park cemetery.

(1911 census for 81 Linney Street, Wigan; Lancs BMD Births, Marriages and Deaths Indexes; MDCS Burial website)

CHECKMAN; Harry a travelling jeweller and his family lived at 97 Great George Street. According to the 1891 Census, Harry was 30, Leah his wife 24, both born in Germany. Their two children were born in Wigan; **David** was 3 and **Lazarus**, 1. Leah's sister Ethel Hervert, a tailoress was living with the family. There are no further records of this family.

(Ancestry Census for 1891 RG12/3054)

COHEN; As mentioned earlier, there were several Cohen families in Wigan between 1895 and 1911, none of whom lived in the town for long.

COHEN; Bernard (Barnet) and family were living at 7 Hallgate, Wigan in 1901. Bernard was described as a collector and canvasser aged 28, born Russia. His wife Fanny was 23. She was born in Sheffield where the couple had married in 1896. Their daughter Blanche, 4, was born in Mexborough and their son Samuel, 3, was born in Sheffield. By 1911 the family were in Hull where three more children were born. Louis was 10, Hyman, 8 and Miriam, 4. Bernard was now an assistant in a drapers. Fanny's unmarried sister, Bertha Rootstein, a dressmaker, was part of the household.

(Ancestry 1901 census RG13/3559; 1911 census for 3 Little Paradise Place, Hull; Yorkshire BMD Marriage Index)

COHEN; Bernard a money lender never lived in the town but advertised in the Wigan Observer in 1877. His office was 121 Canning Street, Liverpool. He appears in the Burnley Gazette in 1880 as the defendant in a court action against John Bradley to recover £35, being the value of certain goods sold by Mr Cohen.

(Burnley Gazette 2 October 1880)

COHEN; George watchmaker appeared in the 1895 Wigan Trade Directory at 115 Market Hall and 102 Chapel Lane. In the Rate Book for that year he was living in the Poolstock area of Wigan. George married Leah Silver in 1892 at Manchester New Synagogue. **Leah**, who was born in Poland, was the eldest of the six children of Samuel and Fanny. Prior to her marriage Leah had worked as a cap maker. She and her family were living at 55 Robert Street, Cheetham Hill in 1891. Leah gave birth to a son Barnett in Wigan in 1897. Sadly, he died the following year and as Wigan had no Jewish cemetery, he was buried at Crumpsall.

(Ancestry Census 1891 RG12/3262; MDCS Burial Website)

COHEN; Henry appeared in the 1898 Wigan Poor Rate Record and 1900 Rate Book occupying a house at 17 Garden Street. The landlord was Charles Albert. This is the only reference to Henry Cohen in Wigan.

COHEN; Hosel was a traveller in jewellery, born in Russia. By 1891 Hosel, aged 28, and his wife Dora, 29, had four children. The eldest Hyman was born in Russia in about 1885. Their second child **Hannah** was born in Wigan in 1887. Within a year of her birth the family had moved to Manchester where Harry was born, followed by Simon in 1890. In the 1891 census the Cohens were living at 42 Howard Street, Cheetham Hill, together with Dora's brother and sisters David, Mina and Eva Glat.

(Ancestry 1891 census RG12/3262; LancsBMD Birth Index)

COHEN; Israel appears in the 1898 Poor Rate Record as the occupier of 6 Gaskell Street.

COHEN; Isaac a German-born cabinet maker was living in Wigan at 74 Caroline Street in 1901. He was 37 as was his wife Jane, born Manchester. There were four daughters in the household; Betsy, 9, born Widnes, Miriam, 8, born Warrington, Annie, 7, born Manchester and Edith, 3, born Warrington.

(Ancestry 1901 CensusRG13/3555)

COHEN; Jacob a money lender had loan offices at 5 Harrogate Street, Wigan and 51 Stocks Street, Cheetham Hill Manchester. He and his family appeared in the 1901 census living at this latter address. Jacob advertised several times in

the Wigan Observer in 1888 as a private lender. According to the census, Jacob was 51, born Russia, naturalised. His occupation was given as a speculator in stocks and shares. His wife Fanny was 53, Russian. They had seven children, the two eldest, Israel, 24 and Solomon, 21, were born in South Africa. They both worked in the tobacco industry. The other five were born in Manchester. Joseph, 18, was a cabinet maker, Rebecca 16, a dressmaker, Yetta 14, Maurice 10 and Neville 7, were all at school.

(Ancestry 1901 census RG13/3749)

COHEN; John appears in the 1891 Census living at 2 Crispin Court, Wigan. He is described as a glazier, aged 60, born in Germany. His wife Jane aged 61 was Irish. There were also four Wigan-born lodgers in the household.

(Ancestry 1891 Census RG12/3056)

EKER; Moses served as a Minister at Wigan Synagogue probably in the late 1880s following the tragic death of Myer Bercovitz. Rev Eker was born in Poland about 1865. In the 1901 Census he and his family were living at 12 Whitfield Street, Cheetham, Manchester. He was described as a teacher. By 1911 he was a Hebrew bookseller living on Cheetham Hill Road. Moses and Sarah had eleven children, the two eldest were born in Russia. The rest were born in London, Hull, Blackburn, Chester and Manchester. Moses served as Minister

to Chester Synagogue in 1896. By 1899 the family were back in Manchester where their four youngest children were born. Moses died in Salford in 1924.

(Ancestry census 1901 RG13/3770; 1911 census for 62a Cheetham Hill Road; Jewish Chronicle 11 September 1896; Findmypast England and Wales Deaths Index)

ELICHMAN; Joseph, aged 31, and **Rachel**, 25, appear in the census of 1891 living at 53 Darlington Street, Wigan. Joseph was a hawker of watches. He and his wife were both Russian-born. I have been unable to find any further references to them.

(Ancestry 1891 census RG12/ 3056)

ETTINGER; Hyman

See Chapter 1

FINKLESTONE; NEYMAN was a money-lender whose office was at 12 Caroline Street, Wigan. The company was originally called the British Loan Company. Neyman used the business name F. Stone. He never lived in Wigan. Isadore Solomon managed the office. The loan company advertised regularly in the Wigan Observer from 1888 until the late 1920s. Neyman married Paulina/Pearl Teumim in 1877 at Manchester Great Synagogue. By 1881 they were living in Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent. Neyman was described in the census as a furniture dealer, aged 27, born Russia/Poland. Pearl was

23, also Russian. They had two daughters, Sara 2 and Betsie 1, born Hanley. Their lodger was Isaac Blumberg, aged 21. By 1884 the Finklestones were living in Manchester appearing in the Rate Books of 1884 and 1885 at 58 Heywood Street. By 1889 they were at 73 Stocks Street, Cheetham Hill and in 1892 at 21 Heywood Street. The 1891 census described Neyman as a merchant. There were now four children, Joseph born 1885 and Harry 1887, both in Manchester. The 1892 Kelly's Staffordshire Directory lists Neyman Finklestone, Loan office at 23 Church Street, Hanley. The 1896 Manchester Rate books lists the loan office at Brazenose Street. By 1901 the family had moved to 379 Bury New Road, Salford and they were still at this address in 1911. Both daughters were married by this time; Sara to Joseph Lustgarten in 1903 and Betsie to Mendle Shaffer in 1905. Joseph worked in his father's business; Harry became a solicitor. Neyman died in 1934, leaving £6372. Pearl died the following year. Both deaths were registered in Salford.

(LancsBMD website; censuses 1881 RG11/2725;1891 RG12/3264; 1901 RG13/3726; 1911 census return for 379 Bury New Road; Manchester Rate Books; Ancestry National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills); FreeBMD Marriage Index)

FISHER, Barnett and family arrived in Wigan in about 1899 and had links with the town for over eighty years. They appear in the 1901 census living at 26 Foy St. Barnett was a

tailor 34, born in Russia. His wife **Jane** nee Brodie was 35, also Russian- born. There were four children **Myer** 7, **Eva** 6 both born Russia, **Wilfred** 5 born Loughborough and **Louis** 3 born Manchester, plus two lodgers both Russian drapery travellers, Isaac Kahn 21 and Idell Lewis 35. Barnett appeared in the 1903 Wigan Directory working at 26 Foy St but by 1909 he had moved his workshop to 15 Queen St. The family were members of the synagogue. In 1905 the Jewish Chronicle reported on the prize- giving event at Wigan Hebrew classes where Myer, Wilfred and Louis all received awards. By 1911 the Fishers were living at 16 Garden St. Five more children had been born since the last census, all in Wigan; **Kate** 10, **Samuel** 9, **Leah** 6, **Rachel** 4 and **Sarah** 2. Both Eva and Wilfred were working with Barnett in the tailoring business. **Myer**, also a tailor was living with his cousins the Cohen family in Cheetham, Manchester. The Fishers had the Poviansky family lodging with them in 1911. In the 1920 Electoral Register, Myer, Wilfred and Louis were listed at 57 Scholes. Barnett appeared at this address in 1925 Wigan Trade Directory. The last entry for the Wigan Congregation in the Jewish Year Book in 1934 gives this as the contact address. Jane Fisher died in 1942, Wilfred in 1951 and Barnett in 1952 all in Wigan. All are buried at Failsworth. Myer died in Leigh in 1962. The Fisher tailoring business was continued by Louis. In the archive of the Manchester Jewish Museum there is a bill -heading from the 1950's; LOUIS

FISHER TAILOR 8 KING ST WIGAN. His home address was in Prestwich. Louis married Rita Soldinger in 1948 and they worked in the business together. Their daughter Susan recalls that after the death of her father in 1959, Rita struggled at first to keep the business going. She worked very hard and eventually succeeded. The premises moved to Upper Dicconson St. At one point they sold ladies wear too and had a wedding suit hire business as well as an alteration business. Rita died in 2010. She and Louis are buried at Failsworth.

(Ancestry Census 1901 RG13/3558; Jewish Chronicle 12th May 1905; 1911 census for 15 Carnarvon St Manchester; Information re Louis and Rita from Susan Fisher)

FISHER; Solomon a traveller in drapery married Sarah Lipschitz at Kourlander Synagogue Manchester in 1904. Their first child **Rose** was born in Wigan the following year. Prior to his marriage Solomon lived in Manchester with the Frumin family at 8 Sabrina Street. He was born in Russia about 1876. According to the 1906 entry in the Jewish Year Book, Solomon was Hon. Secretary of the Wigan Synagogue. The Fisher family stayed in Wigan only a short time after this date, as their other children were born in Bolton; Abraham in 1908 and Rachel in 1910. In the census for 1911 the family were living at 120 Back Lane, Bolton but had moved to Blackpool by 1912 where their fourth child Maurice was born that year.

Solomon died in 1951 and Sarah ten years later, both in Blackpool.

(Ancestry 1901 censusRG13/3767; Lancs BMD BirthsIndex; An Industrious Minority: a History of the Bolton Jewish Community by John Cowell and Hilary Thomas, pub. 2012; FreeBMD Deaths Index)

FORSTER; Bernard (Boruch Ferszter) was born in 1898 in Sosnovite, Poland, one of seven children. His father was a Rabbi, who also earned money as a hat maker. Bernard attended the local Yeshiva but also learned the hat making trade. He left Poland for England aged sixteen and lived firstly in London then found employment in Luton. He married Rosa Deutsch in Prestwich, Manchester in 1920 and they settled in the town. They had two children. Bernard started making hats for Dunns then branched out into clothing manufacture including Air Force uniforms. He had a factory in Manchester with 150 employees. One of the companies he supplied was Marks and Spencer. His Wigan factory, a converted cinema on Wallgate, opened in the 1950s. It appears in the Wigan Street Index for 1953 as B. Forster and Co. Ltd., Wholesale Export Clothing Manufacturers. Bernard was highly involved with Manchester Jewish communal life. He served as President of the Higher Crumpsall Synagogue and was vice-president of the Manchester Central Board for Hebrew Education and Talmud Torah Schools. He had a reputation for being

extremely charitable and gave willingly of his time to raise funds for the JNF and other efforts for Israel. He moved to Southport in 1952 where he again became involved in Jewish communal life particularly the Convalescent and Aged Home. He died in Southport in 1983. Obituaries appeared in the Jewish Chronicle. Bernard was buried at Rainsough cemetery as was his wife Rosa who died in 1975.

(Transcript of interview at Manchester Jewish Museum Archive; Jewish Chronicle 1st July 1938; 4 February 1944; 7 July 1950; 28 October 1983; 11 November 1983; MDCS Burial website)

FOX; Solomon was a commercial traveller who appeared in the 1907 Electoral Register and 1909-1910 Wigan Trade Directories living at 40 School Lane. In 1911 he was a patient at a South Manchester hospital appearing in the census as a traveller in drapery born in Austria. The rest of Solomon's family were still at 40 School Lane in 1911. His wife **Katie** (Gittel) was 36 born Austria. They had been married eleven years and had four children all born in Wigan; **Saul**, 9, **Hyman**, 8, **Louis**, 6 and **Eva**, 1. Katie was the elder sister of Solomon and Frank Adler. According to Hyman's son Arnold, Katie's real name was Gittel Miriam. Both she and Solomon hailed from Mosty-Wielkie near Lemberg and the original Fox surname was Fuchs. The family moved to Manchester in about 1912. Arnold recalls his father telling him that Solomon

had been nearly blinded in an attack and life was difficult for the family. Hyman won a scholarship to Manchester Grammar school but due to financial restraints he was unable to go. Solomon died in September 1934 and was buried at Blackley. Eva's granddaughter Hilary Parvaz recalls that Saul, Louis and Hyman were in business together in Manchester trading as Fox Brothers. Their warehouse on Thomas Street sold baby clothes, haberdashery and wool. Eva married Alec Benjamin in 1933 and had three daughters Renee, Gloria and Sandra. Hyman married Rosalind Mason in 1943 and had three sons. He lived to the grand old age of 103.

(Ancestry 1911 censuses for 40 School lane Wigan and South Manchester Hospital, Oxford Road; Jewish Chronicle 6 October 1934; Jewish Chronicle 11 June 1943; Information from Arnold Fox and Hilary Parvaz)

FRANKS; Arnold, Minnie, Simon See chapter 5

FRANKS; Benjamin Harry, son of Arnold and Jane was born in Wigan in 1904. The family moved to Manchester in 1908. He married Doris Simons at the Manchester New Synagogue in 1930. They had two children both born in Manchester

(LancsBMD website; Information from David Franks, son)

FRANKS; John, youngest child of Minnie and Yechiel was born in Russia about 1891. He appeared in the 1901 census as being at school and in 1911 census as assisting his brother Leon in the family business. John married Rachel (Rosie) Herbst in 1921 at Manchester South Broughton Synagogue. They had two children. That same year John's sister, **Ettie**, married Rachel's brother Morris Herbst at Manchester New Synagogue. John had a credit drapery business, firstly in Lower Broughton and later in Stretford. He died in 1980 in Manchester, aged 89.

(LancsBMD website; Information from Sheila Sugarman, daughter)

FRANKS; Leon, son of Minnie and Yechiel was born in Russia in about 1885. He appeared in the 1901 census as a clothing traveller living with his mother Minnie and family at 28 School Lane, Wigan. By 1911 the family had moved to 213 Darlington Street. In the census Leon was described as a general dealer. He was naturalised that year. In 1916 he enlisted in the British army serving firstly with the 25th Battalion Manchester Regiment and later serving in France with the Royal Lancaster Regiment as Private Leon Hyman Franks, No 26050. He was invalided out in 1918 having spent a year in a military hospital. His army medical form described him as clothier and draper, brown hair, pale complexion, grey eyes, 5ft 8 and a half inches in height, weight 121 pounds. His

home address was 10 Marshall Place, Cheetham, Manchester. In 1921 Leon married Bella Pencofsky-Rosen at Cardiff United Synagogue. They settled in Manchester where Leon continued in the credit drapery business in partnership with his elder brother, Lazarus Arnold. Leon and Bella had three children, Leonora, David and Arnold. He died in 1971 in Birmingham.

(Ancestry World War 1 Army Records; Information from Arnold, Annabelle and Tim Franks, son and grandchildren of Leon)

FRANKS; Rachael daughter of Minnie and Yechiel, born Russia about 1878. She married David Alexander Dalton known as Alec in 1902. He was also Russian-born. They moved to Blackpool and by 1911 were living at 27 Central Road where Alec had a newsagents business. Their first child Hilda was born in Manchester in about 1904; Nellie was born Morecambe a year or so later. Their next three children were born in Blackpool; Hettie about 1908; Harry 1912 and Joshua 1917. According to Rachael's neice Sheila Sugarman, Rachael ran a guest house in the town for a number of years. Alec died in 1927; the death was registered in Kirkham. Rachael died in Blackpool in 1950.

(LancsBMD website; Ancestry 1911 census for 27 Central Rd Blackpool; Information from Sheila Sugarman)

FRASER; Morris a master tailor first appears in Wigan in the 1903 and 1909 Trade Directories. His workroom was 'above 105 Wallgate'. He also appeared in the 1911 Electoral Register at this business address. He was born in Manchester in about 1874. In 1896 he married Yetta Phillips at Manchester Central Synagogue. In 1911 the family were living at 32 Mitchell Street, Wigan. **Morris** was 37, **Yetta** 36, **Henry** 14, **Annie** 9 and **Abe** 6. There was also a lodger, Antony Kowski, a tailors presser aged 28 born Poland. According to the 1911 Census all the Fraser children were born in Blackburn. Morris died in 1916 in Wigan. The tailoring business was continued by **Henry** who appears at 105 Wallgate in the 1924 Kelly's Lancashire Directory and 1925 Wigan Directory. In 1924 the engagement of Annie Fraser to Jacob Harris was announced. They settled in Wigan after their marriage. Henry died in 1936 and Yetta in 1946. Both deaths were registered in Wigan. A notice for the tombstone unveiling at Urmston cemetery for Henry appears in the Jewish Chronicle. **Yetta** was the daughter of Abraham and Jane Phillips. She was the eighth of their eleven children. Abraham was a tailor born Preuben. In 1881 the family were living at 2 Mayes Street, Manchester. The children were aged between twenty and one. By 1891 Jane was a widow aged 50 living with six of her children including Yetta, at 52 Robert Street, Manchester. **Abe** Fraser who became known as Aubrey carried on the tailoring business at 105 Wallgate. He lived in

Wigan until about 1950 then moved to Didsbury He died in Manchester in 1977 and is buried at Crumpsall.

(LancsBMD website; Ancestry 1911 census for 32 Mitchell St Wigan; Jewish Chronicle, 24 September 1924; Jewish Chronicle 23 April 1937; Ancestry censuses for 1881 and 1891, RG11/3992; RG12/3262; British Phone Books; Ancestry deaths index; MDCS burial index)

FRIEND; Etty The name Miss Etty Friend of Wigan appeared in the Southport Visiter on 18 May 1895. The paper published a list of visitors to the town each week. Etty was staying at the Sorrento Boarding House. Etty was born in Leeds in 1862. She was the seventh child of Herman and Amelia nee Lazarus who were both born in Gombein, Poland. Herman was a tailor. He appeared in 1861 living in Leeds with his wife, three children and five Jewish lodgers. By 1871 he was a master tailor, employing seven men and by 1881 he had become a wholesale clothier. The 1891 census described him as a clothing manufacturer. When he and Amelia celebrated their Diamond wedding in 1904 the Jewish Chronicle mentioned that they were prominent members of the Leeds Great Synagogue. Herman had served as Treasurer, Vice-President, President and was founder of the Chevra Kadisha. He and Amelia died early in 1905. Etty had followed her father into the clothing manufacturing business becoming an employer in her own right. In 1900 the London Gazette issued

a notice regarding the dissolution of the partnership between Joseph Emerson and Etty Friend by mutual consent. They were described as wholesale clothiers and exporters of Dantzic Street and North Street, Manchester. Etty continued in business at North Street. It is not known how long Etty lived in Wigan. In 1901 she was staying in Southport again with the Lambert family, the original owners of the Sorrento Boarding House. By 1906 she was in Maida Vale, London. She placed an 'In Memoriam' notice for her parents in the Jewish Chronicle that year. The 1911 census listed Etty staying at Smethwick's Hydro in Matlock. She was described as a costume manufacturer. She continued in business in Holborn London. The London Gazette of 18 July 1921 announced the dissolution of the partnership by mutual consent between Etty Friend, John McDonald and Sydney Lewis, importers and exporters. Etty died in 1943 in Hendon. The Jewish Chronicle of 28 January 1944 announced that donations in her memory were received for an Old People's Comforts Fund.

(Ancestry censuses 1861 RG9/3379; 1871 RG10 /4552; 1881 RG11/4517; 1891 RG12/3698; 1901 RG/13/3538; Jewish Chronicle 5 August 1904 and 2 February 1906; London Gazette 7 August 1900)

GARBUTT; Aaron appeared in Wigan in the 1891 census lodging at the home of his sister and brother-in-law Jane and David Levy. He was 21, Russian and worked as a glazier and

plumber. By 1901 he was married and living at 81 Linney Street. His wife **Annie**, aged 32, was also Russian. There were three lodgers in the household all travelling hatters born in Russia; Benjamin Clain 19; Mannie Garbutt 21 and Harris Goldstein 24. Aaron was elected in 1900 to the committee of the Wigan Dorshei Zion Society. He was listed in the 1909 local Trade Directory and the 1910 Rate Book at 81 Linney Street.

(Ancestry Census for 1891 RG12/3054; 1901 RG13/3553; Jewish Chronicle, 7 September 1900)

GARBUTT; Lazarus was also a glazier, probably related to Aaron. In 1910 Rate Book and 1911 census he and his family were living at 8 Brookhouse Street. Both Lazarus and his wife **Rachel** were Russian-born both aged 32. All five children were born in Wigan; **Rosie** 12, **Florrie** 10; **Betsie** 7, **Jessie** 4 and **Archie** 9 months. There was also a lodger Mark Gootliffe, 28, a traveller in music copy. It is not known how long the family stayed in the town but Lazarus appeared in the 1929 Kelly's Manchester Directory at Derby Street, Strangeways. The surname in the various records appeared as Garbutt, Garbert and Gabbot.

(Ancestry 1911 census for 8 Brookhouse St; Wigan Rate Book 1910)

GLICKMAN; Harris and family lived in Wigan from about 1888 to the mid-1890s. By 1901 they were living in Salford. The census of that year described Harris as a Russian-born traveller in jewellery aged 38; Leah his wife, 33, also Russian-born, from Telz. There were six children, the four eldest were born in Wigan; **David** 13, **Lazarus** 11, **Annie** 9 and **Jane** 7. The two youngest were born in Manchester; Bessie 1 and Rebecca 2 months. By 1911 the family were at 18 Dudley Street, Hightown, Manchester. David was a teacher, Annie a dressmaker. Harris and Lazarus do not appear on the census. It is possible they were travelling. There was now a seventh child, Zelda aged three. In 1915 at Salford Registry Office, **David** married Rosie Barlow. That year he joined the army and served in France. He was awarded a victory medal. His name appears on the Manchester Education Committee's Roll of Honour which lists some 63,000 people who fought in The First World War and had worked for Manchester companies and organisations.

(Ancestry Census for 1901 RG13/3724; 1911 census for 18 Dudley Street, Manchester; Ancestry WW1 Army Records; LancsBMD website)

GOLDMAN; H. Philip Dr. In the 1948 Board of Management Minutes of the Wigan Royal Infirmary it was stated that Dr Goldman was visiting physician and had given lectures. Hyman Philip Goldman was born in Glasgow in

January 1905. He qualified M B ChB from Glasgow University in 1927. After working in Glasgow and London he settled in Bolton in the late 1930s and stayed there the rest of his life. He gained his MRCP in 1944 and was appointed Honorary Physician to Bolton Royal Infirmary in 1946. In 1948 with the advent of the NHS he became Consultant Physician to Bolton Royal infirmary and Bolton General Hospital. According to his obituary in the British Medical Journal he was very interested in comparative religion and history and was a fluent German and Hebrew speaker. He died in Bolton on 25 May 1988, leaving a daughter. His wife Ruth nee Taylor, pre-deceased him.

(Ancestry UK Medical Registers; British Medical Journal, 1988. Vol 297; Ancestry Death Index; An Industrious Minority: a History of the Bolton Jewish Community by John Cowell and Hilary Thomas, published 2012)

GOLDSTEIN; Jacob and family appeared in the 1891 census living at 2 Low Street, Wigan. Jacob was a tailor aged 24 born Russia as was his wife **Annie** aged 25. Their two eldest children, **Esther** 4 and **Yetta** 2, were born in Leeds. **Rebecca** aged 9 months was born in Wigan which pinpoints their arrival in the town to 1890. Their next five children were born in Manchester or Salford which means their residence in Wigan was less than two years. In 1901 they were living at 41 Beech Street, Manchester. They appear as Goldstone in the

census but by 1911 they were again Goldstein, living at 69 Brunswick Street. There were now nine children. Esther, Yetta, Rebecca and Edith were all cap makers; Morris was a machinist, Benjamin a waterproofer, Abraham, Isaac and Joseph were all at school. **Rebecca**, the only Wigan-born child married Morris Clayman in 1920 in Manchester. They had three daughters.

(Ancestry census 1891 RG12/3049; 1901 RG13/3768; LancsBMD website; Information from Steve Goldstone, great grandson of Jacob)

GOLDSTONE; Rev Jacob

See chapter 4

GOLDSTONE; Edith, wife of Dr Norman Goldstone of Leigh. She was born in Glasgow in 1909 daughter of Isaac and Sarah Carnovsky. The family were highly Orthodox. Isaac was a founder member and treasurer of the Glasgow Langside Hebrew Congregation and an Executive member of the South Portland Street Synagogue. His obituary in the Jewish Chronicle on 2 August 1940 described him as a man full of zeal for traditional Judaism and a generous subscriber to charity. Prior to her marriage Edith was involved in Jewish education in Glasgow and was cultural chairman of Glasgow Ziona. Despite living in the totally non-Jewish community of Leigh, Edith kept a strictly Kosher home. The family were members of Manchester Central Synagogue for many years. They also belonged to Sale Synagogue when they left Leigh. Edith died

in May 1979. Her obituary in the Jewish Chronicle mentions her many good deeds and her wide interest in Jewish education.

(Information from Philip Goldstone, son; Jewish Chronicle 25 October 1935; 10 July 1936; 11 March 1938 and 8 June 1979)

GOLDSTONE; Dr Norman As mentioned in Chapter 7, the Goldstones were the sole Jewish family in Leigh for over forty years. Norman was born in 1911 the son of Rubin and Sarah. In 1911 census the family were living at 25 Granton Street, Hightown, Manchester. Rubin was a grocer, born in Russia, Sarah was also Russian, both were aged 35. All four children were born in Manchester. At the time of the census Nettie was 10, Abe 7, Samuel 3 and Norman 7 weeks old. Norman studied medicine at Manchester Victoria University, qualifying MB ChB in 1934. He then joined a medical practice in Leigh at Brunswick House 14 Brown Street. In 1938 his engagement to Edith Carnovsky of Glasgow was announced in the Jewish Chronicle. At the beginning of the War, Norman went into the army serving in the RAMC stationed in India. He returned to Leigh in about 1945 and bought the Brown Street practice. The family lived there for several years before moving to Beech Walk, Leigh. Norman and Edith had three children; **Iris** in 1942, **Anthony** in 1944, both born Glasgow and **Philip** 1946, born Manchester. Philip recalls that his parents involved themselves in the local community. Many of the

town's rugby team were patients and the family often attended matches. Philip and his siblings all attended Bolton School. Iris then went to college in London, Anthony studied at Oxford and became an eminent haematologist and Philip studied history at LSE. He now lives in Leeds. After Norman retired he and Edith moved to Sale, Cheshire. Norman died in 1995.

(Ancestry UK Medical Registers; Jewish Chronicle 8 July 1938; Information from Philip Goldstone)

GOODMAN; Nathan appears in 1901 and 1911 Wigan censuses. Nathan may have been Jewish. He was born in Germany about 1864. In 1901 he was a labourer living at 10 Turner Street with his wife Ida and daughter Rose aged nine. By 1911 they were at 28 Low Street. Alfred Sadler, Ida's father was living with them. Nathan was a representative for a tea company. He was listed at this address in the Electoral Rolls for 1910, 1911 and 1912. By 1920 the family were living at 69 Brookhouse Street.

(Ancestry census 1901 RG13/3552; 1911 census for 28 Low Street; Wigan Electoral register 1920)

HADLAND; Frank appeared in 1901 Census living at 6 Garden Street. He was a tailor aged 22, born in Austria. The rest of the household all Austrian, comprised his brother Solomon also a tailor aged 20; brother-in-law Solomon Fost,

28, a tailor, and Gita Fost his wife, aged 26. There were several other Jewish families in Garden Street at this time; the Blooms, Segals, Rosenbergs and Rev Goldstone and family. I have been unable to find any further information about the Hadlands or Fosts.

(Ancestry 1901 census RG13/3554)

HAFFNER; Philip and Pearl, brother and sister appeared in the 1935 Wigan Electoral register in business at 90 Queen Street. Their home address was given as 11 Wellington Street East, Salford. They were the two eldest children of Leah nee Feingold and Nathan Harry Haffner who had married at the Manchester Holy Law synagogue in 1910. Pearl was born 1911 and Philip 1913. In the census for 1911 Harry aged 25 was described as a job and fent dealer, born Russia, Leah was 23, born Austria.

(LancsBMD website; Ancestry 1911 census for 31 Marlborough Road, Hightown)

HARNISHKI; Bernard and family appeared in the 1890 census living at 4 Lows Houses. They lived near to the Niman and Goldstein families. Bernard, like so many Jewish immigrants who stayed only a short time in the town, was a travelling draper. He was 24, born Russia. His wife Sarah was 23 born Germany. Their two daughters, Leah, 4 and Fanny, 2, were both born in Manchester.

(Ancestry 1891 census RG12/3049)

HARRIS; Esther was born in Wigan in 1837. As mentioned in chapter one, this information appeared in the censuses for 1841 and 1851 by which time Esther and her family were living in Manchester. Her father **Moses**/Morris a tailor and draper and her mother **Rachel** were born in Posen. Morris appears as a tailor and clothes dealer on Millgate in the 1838 Wigan Directory. Morris was highly involved in the politics of synagogue membership in Manchester in the 1840s. Esther had three older brothers; Elkin, Lewis and Abraham. Esther married Isaac Cowen (Cohen) in 1860 at Manchester Great Synagogue. They had two daughters both born in Manchester; Gertrude in about 1862 and Amelia 1864. The 1871 census recorded the family living at 19 Greengate Salford. Isaac was a jeweller. I have found a record of Elkin Harris formerly of England in the USA census of 1850 working as a clerk in St Louis. His date of birth was given as 1830. This might be Esther's brother.

(1841 and 1851 censuses HO.107/573/13 and HO.107/2199/578; Chapter 6 of The Making of Manchester Jewry by Bill Williams; LancsBMD website; Ancestry 1871 census RG10/4017; Ancestry USA census records).

HARRIS; Jacob/Jack was the husband of Annie, nee Fraser, of Wigan. They married at Manchester Great Synagogue in 1925 and settled in Wigan at 12 Mitchell Street.

They lived in the town for the remainder of their lives. Jacob was born in 1899 in Hackney, London, son of Rose and Joseph a mechanical engineer. The Harris family appeared in the 1911 census living at 76 Greenwood Street, Dalston. Jacob was the eldest of four sons; Mark born 1907 and twins Harry and Hyman born 1911. Jack died in 1954. In the announcement of his death, tributes appear from his wife and brothers with no mention of any children. **Annie** died in 1960. An announcement of her tombstone unveiling at Crumpsall cemetery appears in the Jewish Chronicle on 27 October 1961.

(LancsBMD website; Jewish Chronicle 30 April 1954).

HARRIS; Lazarus born about 1845, appeared in the 1887/88 Wigan Directory as a jeweller and furniture dealer at 95 Wallgate. The family lived in Wigan for a very short time. According to the Manchester Jewish School Admission Index of 1888, two of the Harris children Jane and Rebecca started the school that year having previously attended school in Wigan. Lazarus had links with the Wigan Hebrew Congregation. A report in the Jewish Chronicle of 21 September 1888 mentions that together with Abraham Livingstone, he had assisted with services during the High Holy Days. He appeared in the 1875 and 1879 Manchester Rate Books renting a house at 35 North Street and in the 1881 census living at 149 Stocks Street, Manchester, with his wife

Elizabeth and five children. Lazarus and Elizabeth were born in Poland. All the children were born in Manchester. In 1883 they were living at 247 York Street and in 1888 according to the Jews School Index, the family were at 6 Herbert Street. By 1891 they had moved to 125 Elizabeth Street, Cheetham Hill. There were now ten children all Manchester-born. Lazarus was described as a travelling jeweller born in Germany. He appeared in the 1895 Kelly's Manchester Directory at the Elizabeth Street address. By 1901 Lazarus was a widower. He and eight of his children were living in Manchester at 6 Markland Street. He died in April 1911.

(Censuses 1881 RG11/4023; 1891 RG12/3212; 1901 RG13/3768; Manchester Jewish School Admission Index; Manchester Rate Books; Ancestry Deaths Index)

HAYES; Samuel In the Jewish Chronicle of 12 April 1912 there appeared an 'In Memoriam' notice for Mark Mordechai Hayes who had died in Salford in 1905. The tribute was from his daughters Mrs. Weingold and Mrs. Simons of Manchester and his son Samuel, of Wigan. Although memorial notices from the family had appeared every year since Mark's death, this was the only one with a Wigan connection. Samuel and his family appeared in the census of 1881 living in London where both parents and all seven children were born. Mark, 44, was a tinplate worker, Rachel 37, Lizzy 9, Samuel 7, Alfred 6 Rose 4, Julia 3, Maria 2 and Meyer 1. By 1891 the family

were in Manchester at 143 Rydal Mount. Two more children had been born, both in Liverpool. Daisy was 8 and Arthur 5. Martha aged 15 also appeared in this census and the ages of the four eldest children are given as 23, 21, 19 and 17 which doesn't correspond with the 1881 figures. Samuel was working as a packer. He doesn't appear with the family in the 1901 census. They were now living in Salford at 36 Devonshire Street, where Mark was described as a furniture warehouseman. He died in 1905. By 1911 Rachel had moved to 51 George Street, Manchester where she lived with Alfred, Maria, Daisy, Arthur and Meyer. She died in 1914 and is buried at Crumpsall. All ten of Rachel's children are listed in the Jewish Chronicle tribute notices including Samuel, without stating his address. Martha Hayes who married John Simons in 1903, died in 1949. The Jewish Chronicle of 8 September 1950 includes a memorial notice from her daughter Dolly, son-in-law Ralph and grandchild Raylene who lived at 206 Wigan Road, Hindley.

(1881 census RG11/479; 1891 census RG12/3262; 1901 census RG13/3727; MDCS burial records; Lancs BMD website; Jewish Chronicle 24 April 1914 and 16 September 1949)

HERMAN; Joseph and Rachel There is a record of a marriage in February 1903 at Wigan Register Office between Joseph Herman, a tailor, and Rachel Bender, a tailoress, one of the witnesses being Rev Jacob Goldstone. Rachel's address

at the time of her marriage was 4 Garden Street, only a few doors away from the Goldstones. In the 1901 census, Rachel born in Zhytomyr Ukraine about 1881, was boarding in Liverpool at the home of the Heilbat family. Joseph was also born Zhytomyr, about 1878. The couple spent only a short time in Wigan, as their six sons were all born in Cheetham Manchester; Benny in 1904, Morris 1906, Max 1908; Samuel 1910, Barnet 1912 and Edward 1914. In 1911 the family were living at 86 Waterloo Road, Cheetham. Joseph was listed at this address as a ladies tailor up to the time of his death in 1942. Rachel died in 1949. Both are buried at Rainsough in North Manchester.

(Marriage certificate on Ancestry Family Tree for Joseph Herman; 1901 census RG13/3416; Lancs BMD website; Ancestry Public Family Tree for Rachel Bender; 1911 census for 86 Waterloo Road; Ancestry British Phone Books; MDCS burial records)

HERWALD; Samuel Aubrey born Manchester 25 April 1924, the youngest of three children. His parents were Fanny, nee Cohen, and Maurice Herwald. Sam attended Derby Street Jews School. He wanted to be an optician, but insufficient family funds made this impossible. Instead he went into his father's credit drapery business. Sam served as a surgical orderly in the Royal Navy during the Second World War in South Africa. He was demobbed in 1946, following which he

and his elder brother Sydney went into business as drapers, firstly standing the markets, then opening a shop in Blackburn, followed by one in Wigan in the Royal Arcade. This was called Regal Textiles and specialised in making curtains. On holiday in Torquay in 1949 Sam met Enid Brodie, a Londoner. They married in 1951, settling in Manchester where their three children were born. Sam also opened a bric-a-brac shop in Royal Arcade. It eventually became a sweet shop run by a family friend, Mrs Mendelsohn. Sam's sister and brother in law Irene and Gershon Gordon had a shoe business in the Royal Arcade for a number of years. Sam sold the business in 1984 but continued to keep in touch with many of his employees and their families. Sam died on 26 November 1994 and is buried at Crumpsall.

(All information from Basil Herwald ,son)

HERZOG; Max born about 1867 Russia/Poland was the manager of a loan company and a clothier in Wigan, but he never lived in the town. He married Lena daughter of Zipporah and Louis Cohen in 1892 at Manchester Great Synagogue. Their two daughters were born in Bolton; Gertrude in 1894 and Florence in 1895. In the Wigan Observer that year, advertisements appeared for the Northern Advance Company (Loans) at 1 Rowbottom Square. The manager was named H. Max. Perhaps H. Max was felt to be more anglicised. However, in 1901 Kelly's Lancashire Directory and

1903 Wigan Trade Directory the loan company at Rowbottom Square was under the management of Max Herzog. He also had a clothing/drapery business in Rowbottom Street which appears in the 1905 Kelly's Lancashire Directory. Max and his family lived in Devonshire Street, Higher Broughton in 1901. By 1929 according to the Kelly's Lancashire Directory he was a traveller living in Singleton Road, Salford.

(LancsBMD website;FreeBMDBirths Index; 1901 Census RG13/3727)

HIRSHOWITZ; Woolfe Rev

See chapter 4

HOFFMAN; Ann The birth of Ann is recorded in Wigan in 1884; her mother's maiden name was Silverman. Rachel Sarah Silverman married Jacob Hoffman in 1872 at Manchester Great Synagogue. He was a glazier born in Poland. Jacob appeared in the 1871 census lodging in Sheffield at the home of the Schwicer family. After their marriage he and Rachel lived in Manchester where four of their children were born. By 1881 they had moved to Sheffield where Jacob continued as a glazier. He was now 31, Rachel was 30, Lazarus 7, Esther 5, Dora 3 and Hyman 1. It appears that Ann was the only one of the children born in Wigan. It also seems that she did not survive, as she does not appear in any later records. In 1891 the family were living in Salford where Michael, aged 9, had been born. By 1901 two more children appeared on the

census; Julia born about 1892 and Celia about 1894. By 1911 Sarah was a widow living with her two youngest children at the home of her daughter and son-in-law Dora and Eli Mark in Hightown, Manchester.

(LancsBMD website; 1871 census RG10/4682; 1881 censusRG11/4641; 1891censusRG12/3212; 1901 census RG13/3768; 1911 census for 33 Birch Street, Hightown)

HOFFMAN; Solomon, Agnes and family See Chapter 1

HOLTZ; Ephraim There is a death recorded in 1941 in Wigan of Ephraim Holtz, aged 59 of 75 Hog Lane. I have found only one person of that name in the records, a cap cutter born Russia about 1881. He and his wife Janie and four children were living in Mile End, London in 1911 and in Stepney in the 1920s and 1930s. It is possible they left London to escape the bombing.

(LancsBMD website; London Electoral Registers)

INERFIELD; Jacob appeared in the 1909 Kelly's Lancashire Directory as a furniture dealer in Wigan at 31 Market Street. He never lived in the town and it is not known how long he traded there. He was born in Poland about 1877 the son of Israel and Freda. In 1901, Jacob, a cabinet maker, his wife Dora, nee Kaufman, and baby daughter Florrie were living in Chorlton Manchester. By 1911 there were four children, the

family were living at 21-23 Downing Street, Chorlton, a house and furniture warehouse. Jacob opened a retail furniture business in Bolton with his brother-in-law Samuel Isaacson. It was listed in the 1918 Kelly's Lancashire Directory and became known as the Manchester Furnishing Warehouse. It was run by the Isaacson family for over fifty years.

In 1922 Jacob moved his Chorlton warehouse to Moss Side. Dora Inerfield died in 1929 by which time Jacob had left the furniture business and had become a cinema proprietor. When Dora died she left her estate to Jacob. In the probate record he was described as a theatre and cinema proprietor. Listed in the Kelly's 1933 Directory is the Prestwich Picturedrome, Bury New Road, proprietors: Inerfield and Imanson. This cinema, opened in 1911 was the first in Prestwich. Jacob married again in 1930 and settled in Didsbury. He and Hetty, his second wife, had two sons. There is a record of Jacob and Hetty travelling to New York in 1939. He was described as a cinema proprietor. Jacob died in 1954 in Manchester.

(1901 CensusRG13/3694; An Industrious Minority: A History of Bolton Jewish Community by John Cowell and Hilary Thomas; Ancestry National Probate Calendar; LancsBMD website; Ancestry Passenger Lists)

ISRAEL; Herta The Wigan Observer of 7 July 1978 reported the death of Miss Herta Julia Pauline Israel who had taught

German at Wigan High School for Girls from 1944 to 1959. The report mentioned that she was a refugee from Germany, a dedicated teacher who for many years organised exchange visits between her pupils and pupils from a school at Einbeck, Hanover. Miss Israel retired to Didsbury where she lived at the Morris Feinmann Home, a Jewish care home. She was 84 when she died early in 1977. Two other school teachers, probably Jewish, taught at Wigan Boys Grammar School from 1941-1944. Miss **Goldberg** and Miss **Barishnikov** were mentioned in the school magazine in December 1941 when they arrived and in July 1944 when they left.

(Wigan Observer; FindmyPast Deaths Index)

JACOBSON; Abraham was a joiner born in Russia about 1877. In 1902 he married Leah Cohen at the Kourlander Synagogue in Manchester. She was born in Whitechapel in about 1880. They settled in Wigan where their two daughters were born; **Rose** in 1903 and **Sarah** in 1905. By 1908 they had left the town. Their son Samuel was born in Salford that year. In the 1911 census the family were at 43 Stanley Street, Cheetham. Abraham appeared in the 1929 Kelly's Lancashire Directory as Abraham Jacobson and Son, Chair makers of 55 Port Street, Manchester. He died in 1948 and was buried at Crumpsall.

(LancsBMD website; MDCS burial records)

JACOBSON; Henry was a registered money lender with a loan office at 50 Warrington Lane, Wigan. He advertised in the Wigan Observer throughout 1903 and 1904. Henry was born in Russia/Poland about 1875 and was naturalised in 1902. He married Edith Glaskie in 1896 at Manchester Central Synagogue. The Jacobsons never lived in Wigan. In the 1901 census they were living with Edith's parents Abraham and Basha Glaskie at 106 Cheetham Hill Road. Both Henry and his father-in-law were described as travellers in jewellery. Like so many travellers whose business was based on credit, Henry then went into money-lending. By 1911 Henry and Edith were in their own home at 178 Cheetham Hill Road. There were three children, Ethel 13, Sidney Hirsh 9 and Theodore 4, all born in Manchester; a fourth child had died in infancy.

(London Gazette 1 April 1902, Issue 27421; LancsBMD website; 1901 censusRG13/3767; 1911 census for 178 Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester)

JAFFE family Four members of the Jaffe family appeared in the 1901 census lodging at the home of Elizabeth Lund, 20, Spring Street, Wigan; **Isaac**, 25, a draper, **George**, 23, a jeweller, **Samuel**, 21, a jeweller and **Henry**, 16, a draper. All were Russian-born. It is likely they were hawkers. Samuel Jaffe appears in the 1910 Rate Book at 133 Darlington Street East. There are no further records of the Jaffes in Wigan.

However there are several Jaffe families in later censuses living in Manchester, London and Leeds.

(Census 1901 RG13/3554; 1910 Wigan Rate Book)

JOSEPH; Abraham first appeared in Wigan in 1901 lodging at the home of Aaron Sytner at 8 Dicconson Street. Abraham was a tailor born about 1877 in Russia. Later in 1901 he married Sarah Aarons at the Holy Law Beth Aron Synagogue in Manchester. They lived in Wigan for more than twenty years. All their eight children were born in the town. The 1909 Wigan Trade Directory listed Abraham at 22 Greenhalgh Street. The 1911 census showed the family living at 14 Clifton Street. **Abraham** was 34, **Sarah**, born London was 32, **Samuel** 9, **Eli Aaron** 7, **Gertrude** 2 and **Isaac** 2 months. There had been another child Solomon who was born in 1907 but he died that year. By 1918 there were three more children; **Maurice** born 1913, **Lazarus (Leslie)** 1915 and **Rose** 1918. The family moved to Manchester in the mid-1920s but Abraham continued his tailoring business in Wigan. He was listed in the Wigan Rate Books for 1928 as the occupier of a lock-up shop at 4 Crompton Street. Rita Joseph, Samuel's daughter-in-law, recalls that **Leslie** was a clothing manufacturer in Manchester on Cannon Street and Wigan on Dicconson Street. The business was called Academy Garments. Samuel and Maurice both worked for Leslie in the business. Sam married Leah Levenstein in 1930 in

Middlesbrough and settled in Prestwich. His father Abraham died later that year and his mother Sarah in 1939. Both deaths were registered in Salford. Leslie (Lazarus) married Edith Cohen in Leeds in 1937. They later moved to London, then retired to Nice. Maurice married Wendy Science in 1951. He died in 2001; the death was registered in Stockport.

(Ancestry 1901 census RG13/3557; LancsBMD website; YorkshireBMD website; Information from Rita Joseph; Wigan Trade Directory for 1969)

JOSEPH; Samuel formerly Samuel Aaron Burde, son of Joseph and Lea Frieda Burde. Samuel and family lived in Wigan for six years from about 1888. He married **Sarah**, daughter of David Davis, a flax dealer, in Dublin in 1878. Their four eldest children were born there. The next three were born in Wigan; **Rosa** in 1888, **Bella** (Rebecca) in 1891 and **Annie** in 1894. The family appeared in the census for 1891 living at 1 Greenbank Street. Sam, aged 40, was a photographer, born in Russia, Sarah, born in Poland was 31, David 11, Rachel Ettie 10, Fanny 6, Esther 4, Rosa 2 and Bella 10 months. Samuel's brother Nathan, aged 33, a hawker, was also living there. Marks Binnes, aged 19, a hawker from Poland was visiting the family. By 1895 the family were in Liverpool where three more children were born; Lily in 1895, Isaac 1896 and Eva 1898. In the 1901 census the family were in the West Derby area of Liverpool. Sam was a picture frame

maker. By 1911 they were at 78 Melville Place with six of the ten children still at home. Both Sam and Sarah died in Liverpool in 1935. Sam left £382. Interestingly one of the daughters, **Esther** married Marks Binnes in 1910. His wife Sarah had died the previous year. Marks and Esther lived in Cheetham Hill. He was the manager of a glass works. They had two sons, Maurice and Manuel, both born in Manchester. Later Esther ran a drapery shop in Pendleton.

(FreeBMD Marriage Index; Ancestry Family Tree for Burde/Joseph Family; 1891 census RG12/3056; 1901 census RG13/3490; Ancestry National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills); 1911 census for 95 Bellott Street, Cheetham Manchester; LancsBMD website; Information from Esther's great niece Janet Farquhar)

KAHN; Maurice was the proprietor of the Princes Cinema on Wallgate, Wigan but never lived in the town. He was born in Russia about 1889, son of Esther and Solomon, a grocer. The first mention of the family was in the census for 1911. They were living in Hull at 15 North Street. Maurice married Lena Jacobson in 1917 at Manchester Great Synagogue. There is a record of Maurice travelling to New York in 1925. His home address was 72 Heywood Street, Cheetham Hill and his occupation was cinema proprietor. He appeared in the 1925 Wigan Directory as Maurice Carr, cinema manager. Four years later, in the London Gazette of 5 March 1929, it was

announced that Abram Maurice Kahn, cinema proprietor was to be known as Maurice Carr. Both Maurice's brothers, David and Theodore worked as salesmen in the film industry and both changed their surname to Carr. This information appears in the 1930 Probate record of their father Solomon, where they were named as executors. Maurice died in Manchester in 1951. The cinema eventually became a night-club

(LancsBMD website; Ancestry National Probate Calendar; Wiganworld website)

KRESNER; Alfred and family See chapter 5.

LANZETTER; Jacob and family arrived from Brody, Austria to Wigan in 1900/1901 and lived at Woodhouse Lane. By 1902 they were in Bolton where Jacob set up a watchmaking and jewellery business which served the town for nearly seventy years. He and his wife Fanny had five children all born in Austria: Leon, Sarah, Saul, Annie and Clara.

(Ancestry census 1901 RG13/3554; 1902 Bolton Directory; An Industrious Minority: A History of the Bolton Jewish Community by John Cowell and Hilary Thomas)

LEVY Brothers were shoe manufacturers and clothiers who first appeared in Wigan in the 1903 Directory at 13 Market Street. They appeared at this address in the 1924 Kelly's

Lancashire Directory and the 1926 Wigan Rate Book. In 1935 Electoral Register they were at 5 Market Street. The three Levy brothers never lived in the town. **George**, the eldest son and the second child, born about 1859, **Abraham** 1862 and **Maurice** 1867 were born in Hartlepool, the sons of immigrants Maria and Jacob, a boot and shoe maker. He was listed in the Harfield Commercial Directory of 1894 in business in Hartlepool where he died in 1896. Soon afterwards the family moved to London. In 1901 census they were living at 73 Eton Avenue Hampstead with their mother and sister Bertha. There were also three living -in domestic staff. None of the brothers ever married. They also had shoe and clothing businesses in Bolton on Bradshawgate and on Lee Lane in Horwich. In 1920 George appeared in the Wigan electoral Register with a home address in West Hartlepool. All of them appeared in the Bolton Electoral Registers between 1922 and 1932 with a home address in Hampstead. Their mother died in 1914. The sons continued to live in Hampstead until their deaths; George in 1940, Abraham in 1943 and Maurice in 1955. An obituary for George appeared in the Jewish Chronicle which stated that throughout their lives the Levy brothers had given generously to Hartlepool's Jewish and non-Jewish charities. They had endowed the Hartlepool Hebrew Congregation's cemetery where both Jacob and Maria were buried. George who was a Trustee and life member of the

Hartlepool synagogue council, left £163,950. Abraham left £245,760 and Maurice's estate was valued at £301,162.

(Census 1871 RG10/4914; 1901 RG13/124; Ancestry Deaths Index; Jewish Chronicle 16th August 1940.p7; Ancestry National Probate Calendar-Index of Wills)

LEVI/LEVY; Daniel and Jane and family lived in Wigan for at least fifteen years. Daniel was a glazier. His wife Jane was the sister of the glazier Aaron Garbutt who lived with the family in 1891. In the census for that year they were living at 11a George Street. Daniel and Jane were both 29, born in Russia; their daughter **Janetta** was 9 months old, born in Wigan. There was a second lodger, Barnett Sheibel, a travelling draper. In the 1900 Rate Book and 1901 census Daniel's name appeared as David. He and the family were now occupying a house at 1 Brookhouse Street. There were five children; **Fanny** aged 11, **Helena** 10, **Hyman** 6, **Sam and Rose** 1. Another child Rachel was born and died in 1894 and Rose died in 1902. Daniel was elected on to the Synagogue Committee in 1901. By 1911 the family were living in Salford at 6 Caroline St. The youngest child Jessie aged 7 appeared on the census. She too was born in Wigan. The census stated that there had been nine children, six of whom survived. David and Jane both aged 49 had been married for twenty two years. Hyman Levi died at Flanders in 1918. He fought with the Lancashire Fusiliers.

(Census for 1891, RG12/3054; Census for 1901 RG13/3554; Jewish Chronicle Nov 22nd 1901; LancsBMD website; Ancestry WW1 Army Records)

LEVY/LEVI; Elkin was born in Wigan in about 1833. He was the youngest child of Sophie nee Harris and Michael Levy, a tailor and clothes dealer of Millgate, Wigan. After the death of Michael, Sophie married Nathan Singer in 1839 at Manchester Great Synagogue. She had three children of her own at the time. In 1841 the family were living at 19 Shudehill Manchester where Nathan aged 40 was a fent dealer and draper, Sophie was 35, her daughter Leah Levi 13, her sons Lewis Levi and Elkin Levi, 11 and 8. By 1851 the family were living in Timber Street, Manchester where Sophie's occupation was a marine store dealer. She and Nathan had two children of their own; Anna Singer aged 9 and Reuben Singer 7. Of her five children, only Elkin was born in Wigan. In 1860 Nathan was sent to prison for three months for assault. He served his sentence at Manchester Borough Gaol in West Gorton. By 1861 Sophie 54, Nathan, now called John, 60 and Anna appeared in the census living at 45 Turner Street, Manchester, where Sophie and Nathan were still in business as marine store owners. Nathan was also listed in Slater's Trade Directories of 1855, 1869 and 1873 as a fent dealer of 12 and 45 Turner Street, Manchester.

(Lancs BMD website; 1834 Wigan Directory; 1841 Pigot and Slater's Directory; 1841 census HO107/573; 1851 census HO107/2229; 1861 census RG9/2953; Manchester Prison Registers 1847-1881)

LEVI/Levy; George was listed in the 1901 census living in Liverpool with his grandparents Leah and Jacob Hyams, his sister Lillian, aged 11, born Liverpool and his uncles Solomon Hyams, 26, and Abraham Hyams, 23. According to the census George, aged 8, was born in Wigan. There is birth recorded of George Henry Levy in Wigan in 1892, mother's maiden name Hyams. There was no mention of the parents on this census. However in the 1891 census **Nathan and Rachel Levy** and their daughter Lily aged one were living at 8 Frank Street, Wigan. Their marriage took place in Wigan in 1888. Rachel's maiden name was Hyams. It seems likely that they were the parents of George. Nathan, aged 27, was a tailor, born in Poland; Rachel, aged 20, was born in London. By 1911 George had become an apprentice tailor, still living in Liverpool with Leah Hyams his widowed grandmother and his two uncles. What became of his parent is not known.

(Census for 1901 RG13/2913; Lancs BMD website; census for 1891 RG12/3056; Lancs BMD marriage index; 1911 census for 58 Greenside, Everton)

LEVY; Joseph and Frances, nee Goddard, appear in the 1935 Wigan Electoral Register in business at 12a Standishgate. Their home address was 24 Broom Lane, Salford. In the 1911 census Joseph and Frances both born in Poland, were living at 220 Cheetham Hill Road, together with their 10 month old son, Herman. Joseph was a waterproof garment manufacturer and Frances was a costumier and dressmaker. They married at Manchester Great Synagogue in 1903. They had three more children; Eric in 1912, Vera in 1916 and Joan in 1920, all born in Manchester. The 1938 Aubrey's Directory lists Herman's Costumier at 12 Standishgate, most likely Herman Levy carrying on the family business.

(Lancs BMD website; FreeBMD Births index)

LEVY; Meyer In April 1901 a death was recorded in Leigh of Meyer Levy, aged 47. The deceased was a boarder at the home of physician and surgeon, John Maskell of 28 Osborne Terrace. There were several boarders at the house plus two servants including a "lunatic attendant" which suggests the premises might have been a private mental institution. Ten years earlier in the 1891 census, Meyer was a cotton merchant living at 105 George Street, Salford with his wife Frances aged 29 and three children, Victor 3, Doris 1, and Godfrey 2 months. Twin boys Julian and Cecil were born in 1895 in Salford. Meyer, who was buried at Crumpsall, left £4764. His

widow and children plus two servants were living at 68 Rigby Street, Salford at the time of his death.

(LancsBMD website; 1891 census RG12/3214; 1901 Census RG13/3593; Ancestry National Probate Calendar, Index of Wills; MDCS burial website)

LEVI/LEVY; Simon and Belle, nee Reis, married in Wigan in 1887. Their three eldest children were born in the town; **Barnet** (Bernard) in 1890, **Henry** in 1891 and **David** in 1893. The Wigan Trade Directory of 1888 records Simon as a draper in the Market Hall, residing at 5 Clarence Street. In the 1891 census the family were living at 25 Foy Street. Simon aged 26 was described as a jeweller, Belle was 25, both born Poland. Sarah Levy, Simon's sister aged 22, was also living there. The family had left Wigan by 1896 and moved to Manchester where daughter Rebecca was born that year. Simon was now a traveller in drapery. In the 1911 census he was once more a travelling jeweller living at 3 Bell Street, Hightown. The census stated that he and Belle had been married for 23 years. Of their six children four were living; Barnett 21, a traveller in pictures, Henry 20 a waterproof cutter, David 18 a waterproof maker and Eva 15. This census gave Simon's birthplace as Russia and Belle's as Germany. Barnett Levy died in France in 1917. He was buried at a military cemetery in Zonnebeke.

(Census 1891 RG12/3056; LancsBMD website; Census1901 RG13/3749; Ancestry WW1 Army records)

LEVY; Woolf was a money lender who lived in Liverpool. His Liverpool business at 21 Stafford Street advertised in the Wigan Observer throughout 1875. It was in 1877 that advertisements appear for loans from his Wigan office at 1 Bretherton Row. **Hours of business, Every Monday and Friday from 10am till 4pm. Other branches at Preston, Kendal and Lancaster; Head Office Liverpool.**

Woolf appears to be the earliest Jewish money lender advertising in Wigan. He was born about 1853, son of Jane nee Lazarus and David Levy, an outfitter and clothier. In the 1861 census the family were living in Merthyr Tydfil. According to the census, all the family were born in Middlesex; David aged 52, Jane 47, Samuel 19, Rosella 18, Elizabeth 14, Woolf 9, Aaron 7, Isaac 5 and Hyam (Henry) 2. There is no trace of the family in 1871 census but by 1881 they were living in Liverpool at 60 Rodney Street. David had retired, Woolf was a money lender and his brother Aaron and Henry worked as clerks in his loan office. The name of Woolf Levy appeared on several occasions in Lancashire newspapers reporting on court cases involving loans and other financial matters. In the Lancaster Gazette, 23 December 1876, Aaron Levy the manager of the company was accused of

“extraordinary extortion”, in a case brought against one of his clients, a farmer. On 28 August 1878 the firm was accused of using strong arm tactics against a client who owed them money. As much as one might disapprove of the Levy’s behaviour, one must bear in mind that some of the debtors probably had no intention of ever repaying the loan. Woolf continued in business in Lancashire throughout the 1880’s appearing in Kelly’s 1881 Lancashire Directory. There was also an entry in 1881 Wigan Directory for a Walter Lewis, Loan Agent at Bretherton Row. Maybe Woolf had anglicised his name for business reasons. He also appeared in the 1886 Rate Book occupying an office at 7 Rodney Street, Wigan where company advertised itself as the Wigan Advance Co. Woolfe married Miriam Collins in 1888 in Bristol She was the daughter of Amelia and Abraham ,a money lender. The Collins family were living in Liverpool in 1871 at 33 Stafford Street, not far from Woolf’s office. Abraham Collins was born in Sunderland to parents from Preuben. It seemed that Abraham moved around the country. Miriam was born in Cardiff in 1864. In the 1870s the family were in Liverpool and by 1881 they were in Paddington. Besides Miriam and her parents, there was a German governess, four domestic staff and several lodgers including two army officers. Miriam and Woolf left the North of England for Hampstead around 1890. In 1891 census **Woolf** was described as a financial broker. He and Miriam had two children, Elizabeth aged 2 born Liverpool and David,

7 months, born London. There were also three domestic servants. In 1911 the family were in Edmonton, London. Woolf aged 57 was a finance company manager with four children; Elizabeth²², Jack David an electrical worker 20, Doris 19 a book-keeper and Abraham Ernest 15, a clerk.

(1861 census for Wales RG9/4053; 1881census RG11/3624; FreeBMD marriage Index; 1871 census RG10/3788; 1891 census RG12/113).

LEWIS; Henry, a Polish born travelling draper aged 27, appeared in the 1901 census boarding at 20 Corporation Street, the home of the Taberner family. No further information.

(1901census RG13/3555)

LEWIS/LOUIS; Samuel married Sarah Levi in Wigan in 1891. She may have been the sister of Simon Levi the jeweller who lived in Wigan in the 1890s. Samuel and Sarah had four children, all born in the town; **Aaron** in 1893, **Leah** 1895, **Hyman** 1898 and **Hilda** 1900. The family appeared in the 1901 census living in Liverpool. Samuel, a draper 30, born Russia, Sarah 28 also Russian born. Hilda, aged 10 months, was named as Gertie in the census. The family emigrated to Pennsylvania, USA. There is a record of Samuel and Aaron sailing from Liverpool to Philadelphia in 1904. They were going to stay with a cousin Jack Kauffman in Pennsylvania.

Aaron's US Draft Registration Card of 1917 showed him living in Easton, Pennsylvania, married with one child. He was employed by a silk company. In the US Federal census of 1920 Aaron was described as a manager of a grocery store. In 1930 and 1940 censuses he and Eleanor and their two sons were living in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. His Second World War Draft Card in 1942 described him as naturalised, self employed, born 1893, Wigan England. I have found Samuel, Sarah and Hyman in the 1930 and 1940 Censuses also living in Pennsylvania. The census stated that Sarah and Hyman came to the USA in 1905. In the 1940 census Hyman was head of the household, working on the railway. Gertrude now married with a daughter was lodging with him and their parents. I have been unable to find Leah in the USA records. The family appeared as Lewis in all the English birth records and USA records. They appear as Louis only in the 1901 census.

(Findmypast MarriageIndex; LancsBMD website; 1901 census RG13/3416; Ancestry Outgoing Passenger Lists; USA Federal Censuses 1920,1930, 1940).

LICHTHEIM/LICHTHEIN; Samuel was born in Warsaw in about 1835. He appeared in the Slater's Directory of 1869 as a Linen Draper of 40 York Street, Manchester. Notice of his bankruptcy appeared in the Liverpool Mercury and the Pall Mall Gazette on 8 January 1870. In the 1871 census he was

living at 63 Elizabeth Street, Cheetham Hill with his wife Ellen 29 born in Poland and their seven children; Jacob 11, Dinah 9, Benjamin⁷, Leah 4, Amelia 3, Joseph 2 and Harry 1. All the children were born in Manchester. Samuel's mother Rose aged 60 and his niece Zhillah 16, were also part of the household. Ellen died in 1878. Samuel married Rose Wilks at the Belgrave Street, Synagogue, Leeds, the following year. Rose was born in Sunderland. By 1881 the family were living at 20 Exchange Street, Manchester. Apart from Jacob, all Samuel's children appeared in the census including Augusta who was seven and had been born in Ripley and Rose's son Abraham aged 14. The census stated that Samuel was "out of business". However he eventually he gained employment as he was mentioned as the manager of the Albion Loan Company of Wigan in the report of a court case in 1883. An agent employed by the loan company Peter Ward, was accused of embezzling £9 8s 6d from Samuel Lichtheim the company proprietor. Samuel and his eldest son Jacob, who worked for his father, gave evidence to the court in Wigan. Peter Ward was also charged with the forgery of a promissory note worth £15 belonging to Manny Szeinberg of the Manchester and District Loan Company. Samuel appeared in the 1885 Wigan Directory as manager of the Albion Loan Company of 17 King Street. The Manchester Jews School Admission Indexes listed both Augusta and Pearl Lichtheim as pupils in 1883 and 1889 respectively. However by 1891 Samuel and Rose were living in

the Islington area of London. Samuel was described as a shop keeper. Augusta 17 was living with them as was Pearl aged 9, who was born in 1882 in Prestwich. Samuel died in the Middlesex Hospital in 1894. He left £271. In 1901 Rose was living in Bloomsbury with Pearl, described as an actress. Rose's son Abraham Wilk and his wife were also in the household. Abraham a share broker was 34. By 1911 Rose, was living as a tenant at a house in Kilburn. Jacob Lichtheim was also in London in 1911 earning a living as a share broker. He was 50. His wife Madeleine whom he married in 1908 was 24. They had two infant daughters Eileen and Celia. Sadly Jacob did not live to see them grow up. He died in 1913.

(1869 Manchester Rate books;1871 census RG10/4062; FreeBMD deaths index; Yorkshire BMD marriage Index; 1881 census RG11/4022; Liverpool Courier 26th Sept 1883; 1891 Census RG12/176; Ancestry National Probate Calendar; 1901 census RG13/237 ;1911 census return for 11a Oxford Rd. Kilburn ; 1911 census return for Rushcroft Rd Brixton; Findmypast deaths index)

LIVINGSTONE; Abraham and Betsy married in 1879 at Manchester Central Synagogue. They had seven children, one of whom, **Sarah**, was born in Wigan in 1889. All her siblings were born in Manchester. Abraham Abel Livingstone was born about 1857 in Wolkowisk. In the 1881 census the family were

living in Manchester at 6 Davison Street. In 1891 they had moved to Stocks Street, Cheetham Hill. Abraham 34, was a jeweller, Betsy was 32, Hymie 9 Lewis 6 and Sarah 3. This pinpoints their residence in Wigan to the years 1886-1889. Abraham was elected as treasurer of the Synagogue in 1888. Living in the household at this time was Abraham's younger brother, also called Lewis, aged 20, a travelling jeweller. He later became a successful money lender in Wigan. His biography appears below. By 1901 Betsy and Abraham were living at 62 Elizabeth Street. They now had four more children; Ettie, Celia, Amelia and Harold. The 1911 census described Abraham as the manager for a money-lender (possibly his kinsman Lewis in Wigan), Hyman 29 was a furrier, Lewis 26 was working for a money lender (possibly his namesake Lewis), Sarah 23 was at home, Ettie was a furrier's machinist, Celia a milliner and Amelia and Harold were both at school. Abraham died in 1913 in Manchester. **Sarah** married Joseph Apenshlak in 1921 and named her son born 1922, Abraham.

(LancsBMD website;1881 CensusRG1/3991; Jewish Chronicle 12th Oct 1888; 1891 census RG12/3241; 1911census for 62 Elizabeth St, Cheetham, Manchester ; FreeBMD deaths Index; LancsBMD website)

LIVINGSTONE; Lewis was born in 1869 in Wolkowisk, Southern Lithuania. At the age of fourteen he came to

England and was set up in business as a pedlar by Louis Vitofski of Manchester, who hailed from the same town. Lewis travelled around Wigan and other Lancashire towns selling watches and jewellery. In 1891 he was living at 84 Stocks Street, Cheetham Hill, at the home of his elder brother Abraham. That year he married Louis Vitofski's daughter Fanny Dorah at the Manchester Great Synagogue. He went into the furniture business in Oldham but it was not a success so Lewis became a money lender. He started in a rented room at 70 Darlington Street, Wigan, the home of Thomas and Mary Robinson. Mrs Robinson was in charge of the office. The Wigan Observer carried advertisements for Lewis Livingstone Loans and Lewis and Co from the early years of the twentieth century until the 1960s. Lewis and Dorah never lived in Wigan. By 1901 they were living at 55 Stocks Street, Cheetham Hill. Lewis was naturalised that year. On the naturalisation certificate he was described as the son of Jacob and Esther Livingstone of Wolkowisk. Interestingly his profession was given as a traveller, not a money lender. The stigma attached to that profession was still in evidence! By 1911 the family were at 63 Elizabeth Street, Cheetham Hill. Lewis was 41 a financier, Dorah 39, Jacob 18, Celia 13, Harold 8 and Esther 5. Interestingly 63 Elizabeth Street was the home of Samuel Lichtheim in 1871. Unlike Samuel, Lewis made a success of his Wigan loan business.

The Livingstones moved to Southport in 1912 where the youngest child Eunice was born that year. The business expanded rapidly. There were offices in Hindley, Ashton-under-Lyne, Rochdale and Manchester. From 1903 the head office was at 107 Market Street, Manchester. All the children eventually worked in the business. Jacob (Jack) ran the Ashton office. Sadly he was killed in December 1917 and was buried at Bethune Military cemetery. He was a Private in the Manchester Regiment. The Wigan business continued at 70 Darlington Street until 1924 when it moved into larger premises on Wallgate. Mrs Robinson retired, but one of her daughters went to work for the company. Lewis continued travelling into Manchester by train from Southport until his retirement in 1936. His son Harry took over the reins. Lewis died in 1954. His estate amounted to £16,488. He had the reputation of being a very charitable man, honest in his business dealings. Harry Livingstone continued running the company which became the Refuge Lending Society in 1936. It eventually had over eighty branches. His son Jack took over as Chairman in 1972 and that year it became the London Scottish Bank which employed over two and a half thousand people. The Livingstone reputation for good deeds continues to this day. A Charitable Trust set up in 1968 utilises investment to make donations to charitable organisations.

(1891 census RG12/3241; 1911 census for 62 Elizabeth St; Memoir of Harry Livingstone “79 Years in Money lending”

1983, unpublished; Ancestry National Probate Calendar; Copy of Naturalisation certificate seen by author; Information from Jack Livingstone OBE)

MARFLOW; Margaret and Henry, See chapter 7

MARKUSFELD; Zigismunt, See chapter 1

MARKS; Michael. The co-founder of Marks and Spencer lived in Wigan for a few years in the early 1890s. He was born in Slonim, part of the Russian Empire now Belarus in about 1860. He came to England in 1882 and settled in Leeds. He married Fanny (Hannah) Cohen in 1886 at the Leeds Belgrave Street Synagogue. Their first two children were born in Leeds; Simon in July 1888 and Rebecca in 1890. By 1891 the family were living at 152 Great George Street, Wigan where Michael was described as a smallwares dealer. Jacob Cohen his brother-in-law a tailor, was also part of the household. **Miriam** the third child was born in Wigan in 1892. By 1894 the family had moved to Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester, where their next two children were born; Mathilde in 1895 and Elaine in 1902. In the census for 1911 the Marks family were living at 396 Bury New Road. Michael died suddenly on 31 December 1907 and is buried at Crumpsall cemetery.

(See Chapter 6 for further information; 1891 census RG12/3054; 1901 census RG13/3769; LancsBMD website; Yorkshire BMD website; FreeBMD deaths Index; MDCS burial

website; St Michael, A History of Marks and Spencer by Goronwy Rees, published 1969)

MATTISON; Dr. Samuel was born in Leeds in about 1912 son of Abraham and Rebecca nee Franklin. He had three siblings; Hyman, Ruby and Bertha. Hyman (Harry) also became a doctor. Their original surname was Matasevitch, but they were always known as Mattison. Abraham was a tailor's machinist born about 1878 in Russia. His naturalisation notice appears in the London Gazette on 7 April 1936. Samuel qualified MB ChB at Leeds University in 1936. Two years later he married **Elsie** Kremer in Leeds. They had five children. **Judith** the eldest was born in Liverpool, **Adrian** and **Bernard** in St Helens, **David** and **Mark** in Wigan. Samuel was in general practice in both Haydock and Ashton-in-Makerfield. Judith his daughter recalls that Dr Harty, the senior partner, ran the main surgery whilst Sam worked at a branch surgery attached to the house where the family lived until 1945. They then moved to 84 Liverpool Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield where he and Elsie lived throughout their lives. They died within a week of one another in August 1995. Both are buried at Springwood Cemetery in Liverpool. Judith became a teacher, Adrian a doctor, Bernard a pharmacist, David an accountant and Mark a lawyer.

(See Chapter 7 for other information; 1911 census for 51 Roseville Rd Leeds; Ancestry Marriage Index; Ancestry UK

Medical Registers; Ancestry British Phone Books; Jewish Chronicle 18th Aug 1995; Family information from Judith Glaser nee Mattison and Mark Mattison)

MILLER; Frank a widower and family appeared in the 1901 census living in Wigan at 1 Fairhurst Yard. He was aged 43, a tailor born in Austria. There were five children ; Joseph 15 and Mary 12 both born Poland, Victoria 4 and William 3, both born Manchester and Ellen 8 months born Wigan. The records showed that Ellen's mother's maiden name was Podensky. It is likely that Frank's wife died in childbirth or soon after Ellen was born. There were also four Polish born boarders and one Polish servant living in the household.

(1901 censusRG13/3552; Lancs BMD website)

MORRIS; Sidney never lived in Wigan but had a factory in the town from 1946, manufacturing menswear. Sidney was born in Manchester in 1911 son of Harry and Bailah. In 1940 he married Ethel Sugarman in Manchester. Sidney was employed as a cutter in the clothing industry in Manchester. During the war he and Ethel moved to Buxton where their first son Malcolm was born in 1943. The family moved back to North Manchester in 1945. After the war Sidney decided to open his own factory and chose Wigan. His manageress Lily Lunn a sample machinist was from the town and had worked with Sidney in Buxton. The business opened in 1946 in Hindley, manufacturing mens trousers and casual coats. By

1961 it had expanded and new premises were needed. That year the business moved to Dorning Street, Wigan. It was called S. Morris and Sons (Hindley) Ltd. In 1963 Sidney suffered a heart attack. Malcolm joined the business as did second son Bev who had studied Management Sciences at University and had worked at the factory as a student. Sidney had another heart attack in 1965 followed by a stroke in 1967 but lived long enough to realise his dream of building his own factory. The new premises on Great George Street opened in 1970. Sadly Sidney died the following year. The youngest son Tony joined the firm in 1976. Bev recalls that by that time they employed 163 staff, mainly local people. There were a few Jewish employees, none of whom lived in the town. Abe Halpern ran the coat section in the 1960s. He was succeeded by Phil Green; Lionel Sheinberg worked part-time as the cloth buyer from the mid 60's until his death in 1983; Vic Conway was the factory manager from 1977-79. In 1983 there was a dispute with the unions and all the employees went on strike. The company subcontracted to ten other factories around the country, so were able to continue production. Sixty one employees were sacked. They took the firm to court for wrongful dismissal but lost the case. In 1984 the company was voluntarily wound up; a notice to that effect appears in the London Gazette on 10 October 1984.

(FreeBMD marriage Index; All other information from Bev Morris)

MYERS; Sarah was born in Wigan in 1887 eldest child of **Morris and Jane** nee Eddlestone who were married in 1884 at Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation. Jane was the daughter of Sarah and Joseph a furniture broker who in 1881 were living at 8 Moon Street, Liverpool. By 1901 Joseph was a hawker in drapery living at 8 Bunyan Street, Liverpool. The Myers stay in Wigan was short. Their other seven children were all born in Liverpool apart from Betsy who was born in Manchester in 1896. By 1891 the family were living in West Derby. Morris was a draper's shopman. By 1901 he was an assistant in a furniture shop, aged 37. There is a death listed of a Morris Myers in West Derby in 1904 aged 39. This is probably the same man. Both he and Jane were born in Russia.

(1881 censusRG11/3619; Lancs BMD website; 1891 census RG12/2990; 1901 censuses RG13/3495 and 3492; FreeBMD deaths Index)

MYERS; Solomon and Annie, nee Abelson, were married in Wigan in 1898. She was the sister of Charles Abelson one of the founders of the Synagogue. The Myers's first child, **Myer** Simon was born in Wigan in 1900. During the short time the family were in the town, Solomon was involved in the Synagogue. He was Hon. Secretary in 1898, a Committee member in 1899 and treasurer of the Zionist Society in 1900. Solomon was the son of Jane and Michael Myers a Polish born

cap maker. He was the third of their seven children. In the census of 1891 the family were living at 10 Clarence Street, Liverpool. Solomon was working as a cap maker. By 1901 Solomon and Annie had moved to Marlborough Road, Salford. In the census he was described as a traveller in jewellery. He appeared in the 1903 Wigan Directory in this profession but with his address as 20 Brookhouse Street, Wigan. Maybe the family had moved back to Wigan for a brief time. However by 1911 they were at 49 Brunswick Street, Manchester. Their other children Bernard 9, Albert 6 and Jenny 2 were all born in the town. Solomon's occupation was the secretary of a Synagogue. He died in June 1923 aged 49. **Myer Simon** Myers married Clara Cantor in Liverpool in 1931 and settled in Manchester where he had a wine and spirits business. They had two children; Harold in 1932 and Sandra in 1937 both born Manchester. The family moved later to Southport. Myer Simon died in 1951 and is buried at Duke St cemetery. His death was announced in the Jewish Chronicle of 27 July 1951: 'deeply mourned by his wife Clara, mother, son, daughter, brother, Bernard and sister Jennie Huglin'.

(Lancs BMD website; 1901 census RG13/3725; Jewish Chronicle 9th Dec 1898, 12th May 1899, 7th Sept 1900; 1891 census RG12/2914; FreeBMD deaths index; Lancs BMD website)

NEWMAN; Bernard was the proprietor of the Royal Cinema at 154 Wallgate Wigan. He was listed in the 1924 Kelly's Lancashire Directory and the 1925 Wigan Directory. In 1923 the partnership "Booth and Newman" existing between Albert Booth and Bernard Newman, Kinematograph Theatre Owners, Royal Cinema, Wallgate Wigan, was dissolved by mutual consent. Bernard never lived in the town. In 1898 he married Sarah Summers at Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation. In the 1911 census he was listed as a photographer born Russia about 1877 living at 48 Gainsborough Road, Liverpool, with his wife Sarah and five children. He was one of several Jewish men involved in the cinema industry in Wigan, none of whom lived in the town.

(London Gazette Sept 18th 1923; Lancs BMD website; See entries for Kahn ,Noar, Rifkin)

NEY; Philip and Leah Dora, lived at 27 Hornby Street Wigan. In the census for 1911 Philip was a watchmaker aged 33 born Russia, Dora also Russian was 37, her son **Paul Ney-Cowen** was 17, born in Manchester. He was an apprentice watchmaker. According to the census Dora and Philip had been married for four years. Before her marriage to Philip, Leah Dora Cowen appeared in the 1903 Wigan Directory as a jeweller in the Market Hall. She traded under that name after her marriage, appearing in 1909 Trade directory and in 1910 Rate book at 27 Hornby Street. The Wigan Stallholders

Register records Mrs Ney in 1920 as a permanent tenant since 1904, apart from Friday mornings when her stall was used by the local farmers for the sale of butter and eggs. In 1930 the tenancy was taken over by R Sisson. P and D Ney and Son appeared in Kelly's 1924 Lancashire Directory and 1925 Wigan Directory as jewellers at 27 Makinson Arcade and 114 Market Hall. There is a record of Leah Dora Ney travelling to Palestine in 1933 and travelling from Palestine to India in 1934. She died in Liverpool in 1940. The National Probate Calendar showed that she left £2682. Her home address was 14 South Albert Road, Liverpool. There is a marriage recorded in 1944 of Philip Ney to Annie Ploshansky at Higher Crumpsall Synagogue, Manchester. There is a death of a Philip Ney aged 80, recorded in 1961. This might be the same man who lived in Wigan.

(1911 census for 27 Hornby St Wigan; FindmyPast UK Outgoing Passenger Lists;Ancestry National Probate Calendar Index of Wills;Lancs BMD website).

NIMAN Families, See Chapter 5

NOAR; David, was the proprietor of two cinemas during the 1940s; The Royal on Wallgate (once owned by Bernard Newman) and the Castle in Hindley. David never lived in Wigan. He was living in Southport during the war years. The Wigan Observer of 8 December 1945 announced that the Royal cinema was to be converted into an electro-plating

factory. David's son Geoffrey recalls that this was a business disaster for his father. David was born in Salford in 1901, son of Sarah and Eli, a tailor. In 1911 the family lived on Bignor Street, Cheetham Hill. David was the eldest of four children; Bella was 8, Adelaide 6 and Norah 2. In 1932 David married Charlotte Stohler at the Higher Crumpsall Synagogue. They had two sons Geoffrey and Michael. Geoffrey remembers that David worked as a salesman for a film company before becoming a cinema owner.

(Lancs BMD website; Information from Geoffrey Noar)

POVIANSKY; Abraham appeared in the 1911 census lodging with Barnett Fisher and family at 16 Garden Street. Abraham was listed as Abraham Morris Poviansky, a widower aged 48, born Russia/Poland. He had two sons; Benjamin Morris Poviansky aged 11 and Marks Morris Poviansky aged 1, both born in Dundee. Abraham was a travelling glazier. In 1919, a death was recorded in Wigan of Morris A Poviansky aged 69. In 1899, an Abraham M Poviansky aged 42 sailed to New York. The Ship's Manifest stated that he was a draper who had lived for several years in Dundee. He was going to Chicago to join his brother Ike. This variation of ages within the various records makes it difficult to say whether or not this is one and the same person.

(1911 census for 16 Garden St Wigan; Lancs BMD website; Ancestry Outgoing Passenger Lists; Ellis Island records)

PHILLIPS; Manny and Lottie, See chapter 7

PHILLIPS; Myer Abraham Dr. born 4 August 1904, Durham, son of Philip B Phillips. Myer attended Durham School followed by University of Durham Medical School, where he qualified MB and BS in 1926. In 1934 he married **Leah** Harris at Cathedral Road Synagogue, Cardiff. They settled in Farnworth near Bolton where Myer was in general practice. By 1939 he had moved to Middleton, Manchester. He was in practice in Hindley, Wigan from the early 1940s. Two of the three Phillips children were born in the town; **Celia Geraldine** in 1943 and **John Rodney** in 1945. In 1947 the family moved to Bournemouth where Myer remained in general practice. He died in the town on 13 April 1991 and is buried at Kinson cemetery. His obituary in the British Medical Journal describes him as, “a knowledgeable and courteous man, an ideal general practitioner. Myer developed an interest in ophthalmology and for many years was a clinical assistant at the Royal Westbourne Hospital. He was a keen amateur photographer and an active Freemason.”

(FreeBMD website; Ancestry UK Medical Registers; Ancestry Wigan Phone Books; JewishGen Worldwide Burial Registry; Jewish Chronicle 19th April 1991)

RAPAPORT; Joseph never lived in Wigan but had business links with the town for many years. He was a manufacturer of waterproof clothing with factories in Ince, Wigan and

Pemberton. Joseph Simcha Rapaport was born about 1895, the eldest child of Betsy and Moses a bootmaker. In 1901 the family were living in Willesden London. Moses was 29, Betsy 27, Joseph 6, Louis 3, Abraham 1 and Fanny 5 months. By 1911 the family had moved to 34 St James Road, Broughton, Salford. Moses was 39, Betsy 37, Joseph 16, a waterproof garment maker. All three were born in Austria. The rest of the children were born in England; Louis, Abraham, Fanny Cissie and Yettie were born in London, Clara was born 1909 in Salford. In 1919 Joseph married Fanny Levinson at the Manchester New Synagogue. He was naturalized in 1922, becoming Joseph Simpson Rapaport. He was described as a commercial traveller born in Poland. He and Fanny were living at 4 Hampshire Street, Cheetham Hill. By 1929 he had left Cheetham Hill for the more salubrious surroundings of Broughton Park. He was now a waterproof garment manufacturer with his own factory in Julia Street, Strangeways, Manchester. By 1936 he was listed in the phone book as living at 56 Lord Street, Southport. His links with Wigan appear to date from this time. His factories at Miry Lane, Wigan and Rylance Works, Pemberton are listed in the phone books. His home address in 1938 was 34 Hereford Drive Prestwich. In 1942 he had a business at Cannon Street, Manchester and in 1944 at 57 High Street, Manchester. These may have been retail outlets. In 1947 the Wigan factory moved to Rose Bridge Works in Pemberton where it remained for

several years. Joseph and Fanny who had no children moved to Cleveleys in the early 1940s then settled in St Annes after the War. Throughout the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s they travelled to the USA, Australia and South Africa. They were known to be a charitable couple. Heathlands Village in Prestwich, a residential community for elderly people, benefited from their generosity. A whole building called Rapaport House was endowed by Fanny. Joseph died in St Annes in 1956 leaving £33,570. Fanny died in 1991. The company, J S Rapaport and Co appeared in the Wigan Trade Directory of 1969 and the local phone books until 1973. A company bearing the name is still listed by Companies House today.

(1901 census RG13/1226; 1911 census for 34 St James Rd Salford; LancsBMD website; London Gazette 1st Dec 1922; Ancestry British Phone Books 1922-1973; Ancestry Outgoing Passenger Lists; Ancestry National Probate Calendar 24th April 1957)

RICHARDS; Barnett, See chapter 1

RIFKIN; Arthur William was the manager of the Ritz cinema in Wigan from 1938 to 1939. It was advertised as the Most Luxurious Cinema and Theatre in Lancashire when it opened in March 1938. Arthur Rifkin was born in 1893. He does not appear in any censuses which may mean he did not arrive in England until after 1911. First World War Army

records listed him as a corporal in the Royal Garrison Artillery. His address at this time was Ritz Cinema Clapton. In 1920 he married Lily Toltz born in 1898 the daughter of Russian immigrants. A.W Rifkin appeared in an item in the Jewish Chronicle of 5 March 1923 as Secretary of the Excelsior Society, a charitable organisation. In the London Electoral Registers for 1931-35 he was living in Hackney. After he left Wigan he returned to London to manage a cinema in Clapham. He died in 1970.

(Arthur Lloyd Theatre history website; Ancestry WW1 Army Records; FreeBMD Marriage Index; Ancestry Death Index).

ROSENBERG; Samuel lived in Wigan from about 1900. He married Ellen Silverstone in 1888 at the New Synagogue Leeds. Their three eldest children were born there. According to the 1901 census their youngest child **Abraham** was born in Wigan. In 1901 the family were living at 10 Garden Street. Samuel was a tailor/presser, born Russia aged 42, Ellen 40 also Russian, Rose 12, Adeline 10, Isaac 8 and Abraham 1. In November 1901 Sam was elected on to the Synagogue Committee. He was listed as a tailor in the 1903 Wigan Trade Directory. In 1907 Sam and Rose sailed to New York on the SS Cedric. Ellen and the other children followed in 1909. Their home address on the passenger record was 17 Marian Street, Lower Broughton, which means the family had probably left Wigan by 1907 for Salford. The family appear in the US

censuses of 1910, 1920 and 1930 living in Brooklyn, New York. The boys had changed their names to Jack and Leonard.

(1891Census RG12/3689;YorkshireBMD Marriage Index; Census 1901 RG13/3554; Jewish Chronicle 22nd Nov 1901; Ancestry New York Passenger Lists; Ancestry USA Federal Censuses)

RUBIN; Jack born Bolton 1906 second child of Dorothy and Mark. He attended Bolton School followed by Manchester Grammar School when the family moved to Manchester in 1920. On leaving school he went into the furniture business founded by his father in Bolton. Jack built it up into a very large concern known as Boardmans. The office and headquarters were at Marshall House in Leigh. The Wigan shops were called the Ribble Cabinet Company, situated on Millgate, and Boardmans on Mesnes Street and Hallgate. The shops advertised regularly in the Wigan Observer. The Leigh shop which opened on Railway Street in about 1924 was Jack's first acquisition. It is still trading today as Alexanders under the ownership of Jack's son Marshall. In 1936 Jack married Joan Marcel of London. They settled in Manchester. In 1938 Jack joined the Manchester Territorials. Soon afterwards he was called up for Army service. He fought in North Africa with the 8th Army and later in Italy at the battle of Monte Cassino. He attained the rank of Major. After the War there was a great

demand for household furniture and Jack began expanding the business. Eventually there were sixty shops mainly in Lancashire and Yorkshire. Most of the business was done on higher purchase, usually weekly payments. Jack was the first person to install a computer for processing these payments. Jack was highly involved with Leigh Rugby League Club, joining the Board in 1947. He became Chairman in the 1960s. He signed Alex Murphy who helped the team get to Wembley and win the Challenge Cup. Jack was also very interested in horse racing and owned several horses. One was called Boardman's Special; another Maori Venture won the Grand National just after Jack died in 1985. He is buried at Southern Cemetery, Manchester.

(FreeBMD website; Information from Marshall Rubin, son.)

RUBIN; Mark, Jack's father was born in Koptsovo, in the Belgorod region of Russia in about 1877. He was one of seven children. He came to England in the 1890s and settled in Bolton in about 1902. In the years before settling in Bolton he had a handcart with which he travelled round the North selling furniture, clocks and household goods. He married Dorothy Hilton a dressmaker of Bolton in 1904 at the North Manchester Brodyer Synagogue. Their address on the marriage record is Broughton Street, Manchester. They settled in Bolton where their eight children were born and lived in the town until about 1920. Mark was a founder member and

benefactor of the Bolton Synagogue. He had a furniture warehouse in Bolton but he also worked as a commission agent. In 1914 he set up a loan company called the Leigh and District Lending Society. The head office was in Bolton but there were several branches in the North West including one on Market St. Leigh. He advertised as M Rubin, Loans (Bolton and Manchester) in the Wigan Observer on 2 February 1918. Mark and Dorothy also began acquiring properties in the streets around Derby Street, Bolton and by 1924 owned at least thirty houses. In 1925 Mark established the Leigh and District Building Society at 88 Railway Road Leigh. Later he set up The County Building Society and A Booth Estates, a property company. Mark died suddenly in 1939. He was buried at Southern Cemetery Manchester. He left £103,000. Obituaries appeared in the Jewish Chronicle and the Leigh Chronicle which described him as a man of extreme generosity and widespread interests.

(Information from Mark and Marshall Rubin, grandsons; Lancs BMD website;1924 Bolton Rate books; Ancestry National Probate Calendar; Leigh Chronicle 5th March 1939; An Industrious Minority :A History of the Bolton Jewish Community by John Cowell and Hilary Thomas published 2012)

RUBINSTEIN; Elias Family documents in the collection of the Archives+, Manchester, relating to the Rubinstein family

tell the story of Elias who arrived in Manchester from Russia in about 1890. Before setting up in business for himself he worked for Coops of Wigan a large clothing manufacturer and tailoring business founded in 1862. According to the documents, Elias travelled to Wigan each Sunday evening and returned on Friday afternoon. Elias and his wife Sarah were married in Ivenetz, Russia where their four eldest children were born. By 1901 the family were living at 66a Cheetham Hill Road. Elias was a draper aged 44, Sarah 45, Jack 21 a tailor, David 19 a cap maker, Rosa 17 and Annie 15. The two youngest Joe 8 and Leah 7 were born in Manchester. In 1911 they were still at the same address. The census stated that they had been married for 31 years, seven out of their nine children were living. David died in the USA in 1927. Elias who became a tailor's trimmings merchant died in Manchester in 1922, leaving £3326. His wife Sarah died in 1936.

(Family Documents now housed at Manchester Central Library Archive; 1901 Census RG13/3767; FreeBMD deaths Index; Ancestry National Probate Calendar; Index of Wills)

SCHUR; Solomon and family, See chapter 5

SEGAL; Barnett and family lived in Wigan from the 1890s. They appeared in the 1901 census living at 12 Garden Street. Their neighbours were Rev Goldstone and family at number 14 and the Rosenbergs at number 10. Interestingly all three families ended up living in the USA. In 1901 Barnett

aged 44, was a Russian-born draper, **Sarah** his wife also Russian was 43. There were four sons; **George** 18 born Russia, a draper's assistant, **Eli** 16, born Russia, a travelling draper, **Hyman** 7 and **Harry** 5, both born Wigan. In the 1895 birth record Harry was named as **Henry**. Sarah's maiden name was Alch. Barnett appeared in the 1903 Wigan Directory as a travelling draper though his surname is misspelt as Shergill. He was a member of the Wigan Dorshei Zionist Society and was one of the speakers at their meeting in June 1900. He was elected Hon Secretary of the Society in September 1900 and became Hon Secretary of the synagogue the following year. By 1903 the family were in the USA living in Boston, Massachusetts. A record of their emigration to the USA appears on the Boston Passenger and Crew Lists. They left Liverpool on 31 July 1903. On the Manifest they were listed with their Hebrew names as follows; Bertzig, Chava, Chone, Eli, Jacob and Henach. The list informs that they were going to live in Boston with their relative Sam Seiniger. The family all appeared in the 1910 Federal Census as Siegel/Seigel. Barnett, now called Bernard and Sarah now Sophie, together with George, Hyman and Harry were living at 841 Blue Hill Avenue. Eli, his wife Fannie and baby daughter Helene are also living there together with Fannie's parents, the Seinigers. Eli had married his cousin Fannie in 1909 in Massachusetts. Eli was described as a jewelry pedlar (sic), George and Hyman were leather salesmen and Henry aged 14

presumably was at school. The First World War Draft Registration Cards for **Henry Paul Siegel** described him as a clerk in a law firm. By 1920 the families were still at the same address. Eli now a father of three, George and Hyman are all in the jewellery business and Henry was a lawyer but by the 1930s all four brothers were partners in a jewellery business in Boston called The Washington Jewelry Company. Eli was president. The business appeared in the US City Directories of the 1930s and 1940s. Henry's Second World War Draft Card in 1942 puts his place of work as the Washington Jewelry Company on Washington St Boston. **Henry Paul Siegel**, later known as Paul, born Wigan 1895, died in Massachusetts in 1982. His mother Sophie died in 1917 and his father Bernard (Barnett) died in December 1929 both in Boston.

(1901 censusRG13/3554; Lancs BMD website; 1903 Wigan Trade Directory; Jewish Chronicle 7th Sept 1900; Ancestry passenger and Crew Lists; USA Federal censuses for 1910, 1920, 1930; Ancestry USA WW1 and WW2 Draft Registration Cards; Massachusetts Marriage Records; Massachusetts Death Index; JGenOnline Worldwide Burial Registers)

SCHRAGER; Jacob was the Area Consultant Pathologist for Wigan for about thirty years. He was born in the Ukraine in 1914 and according to family legend intended to become a

Rabbi. For reasons unknown he became a doctor instead. He qualified MB B. Ch in 1941 from Queens University Belfast. During the War from 1942 onwards he served in the R.A.M.C. Jacob/Jack appears in the Medical Registers in Belfast between 1943 and 1947. His daughter Vivien recalls him telling her that whilst studying he earned money by giving Hebrew lessons. In 1947 he married Doreen Levy at Dollis Hill Synagogue. The announcement of their engagement the previous year stated he was the son of Mrs E and the late Mr S Schragger of Wisconsin USA. Ethel Schragger had moved to Wisconsin where there were several Schragger relatives. Jack and Doreen visited in 1954. Their daughter Vivien was born in 1958. The family lived at Kingsmead, Wigan Lane. Vivien recalls that her father was devoted to his work. He often worked seven days a week. He frequently attended court hearings to support the families of Wigan miners in their fight for compensation; their menfolk had died from lung disease contracted from working in the mines. In 1971 Doreen, Vivien (and the dog) left Wigan for London. Jack continued working both in Wigan and London He retired officially in 1978 but still continued to engage in research in London. He died in 1981 and is buried at Bushey cemetery.

(Information from Vivien Schragger-Powell; Ancestry UK Medical Records; Ancestry Outgoing Passenger Lists; Wigan Observer 7th July 1978; Chapter 7 of this book)

SOLOMON; Joseph and family, See Chapter 1

SOLOMON; Isaac born Wigan 1894 to Lipman and Sarah nee Sardaski who were married in 1888 in Leeds. Lipman was a tailor born in Russia about 1866. The Solomon family were in Wigan only a short time. They appeared in the 1901 census in Glasgow. There were four children in the family but only Isaac was born in Wigan. In 1901 the family were at 125 Thistle St in the Gorbals area of Glasgow. Lipman was 35, Sarah 32, Nathan 11, Mark 9, Isaac 6 and Leah 3.

(LancsBMD website; YorkshireBMD Marriage Index;1901 Scottish Census.RegNo 644/12).

SOLOMON; Isadore L., was the manager of a money-lending firm called the British Loan Company. In 1901 Isadore was lodging at 126 Darlington Street, the home of Thomas Craven, a colliery over-looker. Isadore was 29, born in Russia. The British Loan Co advertised regularly in the Wigan Observer as early as 1888 and also appears in the Wigan Trade Directories of 1890 and 1895. In the 1909 Kelly's Lancashire Directory, Isadore was listed as manager of the company at 12 Caroline St.

(1901 censusRG13 /3554)

SPIRO; Solomon was listed in the 1901 census lodging at 15 Caroline Street, the home of William Carrington. Solomon was

a travelling jeweller aged 21, born in Russia. He was one of many Jews who happened to be in Wigan at the time of the Census. He doesn't appear in any further records.

(1901 Census RG13/3555)

STEINBERG; Maurice. The Jewish Chronicle of 6 March 1954 announced the birth in Wigan of Steven Steinsberg to Esther and Maurice. The address was 220 Scholes. The family stayed in Wigan only a short time as their next two children were born in Manchester; Graham in 1956 and Anne in 1961. Maurice a pharmacist born in 1925, was the son of Samuel and Sarah nee Glick.

(FreeBMD Births Index)

STRACH; Erich Dr., See Chapter 7

SYTNER; Aaron, Esther and family, See chapter 6

SYTNER; Reuben born 1887 in Manchester, the second child of Aaron and Esther. He lived in Wigan from about 1890 and became a tailor. In May 1906 it was reported that he had won two diplomas of merit in the Tailor and Cutter magazine competition where he was one of the youngest entrants. In October 1906 he formed a branch of the Master Tailors and Cutters Society in Wigan. He was nominated as secretary, but declined, accepting the assistant secretaryship instead. In February 1907 he gained third place in a dresscoat cutting

competition and in September 1907 he gained second prize in a London tailoring competition. By 1911 he was a tailor's foreman living in Manchester at 4 Bedford Street, the home of his relatives the Bertelstein family. In 1912 he decided to try his luck in the USA. As he explained to Bill Williams in an interview in 1976, he felt it would be a good career move. He landed a job in New York working for Levy and Markowitz, following which he managed a tailoring shop in Ohio. He also worked in Toronto and Niagara. In 1915 he returned to Manchester to his previous firm Cohen and Wilks, where he took charge of the cutting room. He went to live with his mother's family, the Greenbaums in Moreton Street. In 1919 he married May Tidbury, a tailoress. She was not Jewish, but Reuben's family accepted her. May and Reuben lived with May's mother in Harpurhey in East Manchester when they were first married. Their twin daughters Audrey and Patricia were born in 1928. Sadly Patricia died soon after birth. In the 1929 Kelly's Lancashire Directory, Reuben was listed at 37 Chestnut Street, Cheetham Hill. He was a member of the UK Association of Master Tailors and Cutters. The family moved to Blackpool in 1947. Reuben wrote several books and articles on tailoring including, 'The Art of Fitting Gentlemen's Garments', in 1955 and, 'On the Application of Split Measures', in 1953 and 1967. Reuben died in 1983 aged ninety five.

(LancsBMD website; 1901 census RG13/3557; Jewish Chronicle May 25 1906; October 5 1906; February 8 1907; September 7 1907 ; Interview 1976, copy at Manchester Jewish Museum Archive; Free BMD website; Tailor and Cutter 24 April 1953; Ancestry BMD Deaths Index)

SZEINBERG; M. appeared in the 1885 Wigan Directory as the manager of the Manchester and District Loan Company on 33 King Street. Emanuel (Manny) did not live in Wigan. In the Manchester Courier of 25 July 1885 he was listed among the donors to the Jewish Board of Guardians. The report stated that M Szeinberg of Cheetham Hill had sent his annual donation of 10/6d. There was a case reported in the Liverpool Mercury in 1883 whereby Peter Ward who worked as an agent for Mr Szeinberg appeared in court in Wigan charged with forging a promissory note for £15 on the Manchester and District Loan Company. Peter Ward was also an agent for the Albion Loan Company. In the same court case he was accused of embezzling £9 8s 6d from Mr Samuel Lichtheim the proprietor of that company.

(See Lichtheim Biography; FindMyPast Newspaper records, Liverpool Mercury 26th Sept 1883)

TARSHISH; families, See Chapter 5

TOUBKIN; Basil was born in Manchester in 1924. He became a pilot in the Second World War, serving in Burma. In

1947 he married Irene Beaver at Southport Synagogue and they settled in the town at 77 Leyland Road. Basil ran a retail electrical business in Wigan called Grimes, situated on King Street. The shop specialised in radios and televisions and advertised regularly in the Wigan Observer in the 1950s. A notice in the paper in 1953 announced that the business was under new management. Basil then went into the hotel business. By 1972 that business was voluntarily wound up. Basil died aged 51 in Southport. An obituary for him appeared in the Jewish Chronicle on 14 March 1975. He was buried at Southport's Duke Street cemetery where his memorial stone was unveiled the following January.

(FreeBMD website; Wigan Observer February 25 1953; Ancestry British Phone Books; London Gazette 13 April 1972; Jewish Chronicle 9 January 1976; Information from Valerie Beaver sister-in-law)

VALINS; Joseph and family, See chapter 7

WALKER; Abraham and family lived at 1 Garden Street, Wigan in 1891. Abraham was a 23 year old tailor, born in Russia. His wife Dinah was 23, Polish. Both the children were born in Warsaw. Bertha was 3 and Philip 8 months. I have been unable to find any other information about the family. Their surname was probably given to them on arrival in England.

(1891 Census RG12/3052)

WELDON; Clarence From about 1958 he was the owner of an old-established photographic business and studio on Marsden Street, Wigan called Foley and Scott. The Weldons never lived in Wigan. Clarence was born in Leeds about 1908, the youngest of the five children of Annie and Louis, a clothier. The family later settled in Southport. Clarence married Margaret Andrew in Manchester in 1940. He built up a chain of photographic shops. On the wiganworld website, a former employee described him as a lovely Jewish man. He died in 1979 in Southport.

(1911 census for 32 Wellcome Mount Leeds; Lancs BMD website; Wiganworld memory of Marsden Street 24th July 2009)

WILLIAMS; William appeared in the 1901 census boarding at 198 Darlington Street East. He was 32, a Russian born clothing dealer. In the 1909 and 1924 Kelly's Lancashire Directories there are entries for William Williams, a furniture dealer of 92-94 Frog Lane. This may be the same person. His name was probably acquired when he arrived from Russia. There is a death of a William Williams in Wigan in 1928, aged 59. Again it may be the same man. There are burial records of Jewish people with the surname Williams on the MDCS list but William is not among them.

(1901 census RG13/3554; FreeBMD deaths Index MDCS
Burial website)

WILLIAMSON; Wolfe and Charles, See chapter 1

APPENDIX 1

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Agreement Book

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Pigot's Directories

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Wigan Trade Directories

Transcripts of Interviews at Manchester Jewish Museum

Bernard Forster

Dolly Phillips nee Franks

Reuben Sytner

Newspapers

Jewish Chronicle

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Appendix 2

BIRTHS

One hundred and fifty eight Jewish children were born in Wigan between 1833 and 1954

ABELSON, children of Charles and Jane

Harry 1891; Isabella 1893, John 1896, Walter Myer 1898

ABELSON, children of Julius and Ella

George 1905, Myer 1908, Moss (Maurice) 1910

ABRAHAMS

Ivor 1935, Lynne 1942

ADLER, children of Frank and Fanny

Aaron 1903, Eva 1906, Hymie 1908

ADLER children of Solomon and Annie

Eva 1906, Benedict 1908, Philip 1910

BERNSTEIN, child of Hyman and Leah

Nathan 1895

BERCOWICK

Louis 1896, Esther 1898

BLOOM

Rosa 1900

BLUMENFELD (born in Leigh)

Dora 1904, Cicely 1906, David 1910, Eveline 1912, Bernard
1914

CHECKMAN

David 1887, Lazarus 1890

CANN

Minnie 1913, Annie 1915

COHEN

Nee Glat, Sarah Hannah 1887

Nee Silver, Barnett 1897

Nee Morris, Minnie 1900, Leah 1902, Samuel 1904

COWEN

Simon Leon 1903

FISHER, children of Barnett and Jane

Kate 1900, Samuel 1901, Leah 1904, Rachel 1906, Sarah 1909

FISHER, child of Solomon and Sarah

Rose 1905

FOX

Saul 1902, Hyman 1903, Louis 1905, Eva 1910

FRANKS, children of Arnold and Jane

David 1898, Elizabeth 1900, Ethel 1901, Sarah 1903, Benjamin
1904, Esther 1907

FRANKS, children of Simon and Minnie

Sarah Dora (Dolly) 1904, George David 1907

GARBUTT

Rosie 1899, Florrie 1901, Betsie 1904, Jessie 1907, Archie
1910.

GLICKMAN

David 1888, Lazarus 1890, Annie 1892, Jane 1894

GOLDSTONE, children of Rev Jacob and Esther

Morris 1900, Bertha 1902, Barnett 1903

GOLDSTEIN, child of Jacob and Annie

Rebecca 1890

HARRIS

Esther 1837

HOFFMAN, children of Solomon and Agnes

Jacob 1881, Sam 1884, Annie 1886, Wolfe 1889

HOFFMAN child of Jacob and Rachel

Annie 1884

JACOBSON

Rose 1903, Sarah 1905

JOSEPH children of Abraham and Sarah

Samuel 1902, Eli 1904, Gertrude 1907, Isaac 1911, Maurice
1913, Lazarus 1915, Rose 1918

JOSEPH (BURDE) children of Samuel and Sarah

Rosa 1888, Bella 1891, Annie 1893

KRESNER

Henry 1884, Florence 1886

LEAMAN

Ian 1941

LEVI, children of Daniel and Jane

Janetta 1890, Fanny 1891, Lena 1893, Hyman 1898, Samson
1900, Abraham 1902, Jessie 1904

LEVI, children of Simon and Belle

Barnet 1890, Harris 1891, David 1893

LEVI/LEVY child of Nathan and Rachel

George 1893

LEVY, child of Sarah and Michael

Elkin 1833

LEWIS

Aaron 1893, Leah 1895, Hyman 1898, Hilda 1900

LIVINGSTONE

Sarah 1889

LOUIS

Hyman 1882, Leah 1884, Aaron 1886, Gertie 1900

MARKS

Miriam 1892

MATTISON

David 1948, Mark 1951

MILLER

Ellen 1900

MYERS, child of Solomon and Annie

Myer Simon 1900

MYERS, child of Harry and ETTY

Julius 1914

NIMAN, children of Alfred and Leah

Rebecca 1891, Annie 1893, Sarah 1896, Fanny 1900

NIMAN, children of Isaac and Jane

Julian 1893, Solomon 1905

PHILLIPS

Celia 1943, John Rodney 1945

RICHARDS

Hyman 1882, Max 1887

ROSENBERG

Abraham 1900

SCHUR

Michael 1902

SEGAL

Hyman 1897, Henry 1895

SOLOMON, children of Joseph and Jane

Eli 1853, Hannah 1854, Sarah 1855, Abraham 1856

SOLOMONS

Isaac 1894

STEINSBERG

Steven 1954

SYTNER

Morris 1891, Leon 1893, Lipman and Jacob 1895, Leah 1898,
Joseph 1908

TARSHISH children of Abraham and Esther

Myer 1887, Rachel 1889, Marie 1890

TARSHISH, child of Barnett and Annie

Mayer Harris 1893

TARSHISH, children of Marks and Annie

Lily and Esther 1896, Maria 1898, Miriam 1899, Rachel 1900,
Jacob and Lily 1904, Sarah 1906

TARSHISH, children of Samuel and Maria

Myer 1894, Isaac 1897, Mendel 1900, Gertie 1902, Marks 1905

VALINS

Anne 1935, Clifford 1937

Appendix 3

Marriages

Few Jewish marriages took place in Wigan during the lifetime of the Congregation. The earliest I have found was in 1887. The records for Wigan's Jewish marriages all give the venue information as follows:

Wigan Register Office or Registrar Attended

It is likely that the Rabbi acted as Registrar/Marriage Secretary. The only Ministers named were in 1893. Rabbi Dagutski and Rev M Marks officiated at the Tarshish marriage. Rev Jacob Goldstone witnessed the Herman/Bender marriage in 1903

- 1887 Simon Levi and Belle Reis
- 1888 Nathan Levy and Rachel Hym (should be Hyams)
- 1891 Samuel Lewis and Sarah Levi
- 1893 Jacob Samuel Tarshish and Maria Tarshish
- 1894 Hyman Bernstein and Leah Goldberg
- 1894 Saul Tumim and Doris Wulff
- 1898 Solomon Myers and Annie Abelson

- 1899 Joseph Aronson and Ella Hirshman
- 1902 Frank Adler and Hannah (Fanny) Kell
- 1903 Joseph Herman and Rachel Bender
- 1931 Charles Wolfson and Hilda Jacobs

Appendix 4

Occupations of Wigan's Jewish residents

Boarding-House keeper

Abraham Blumenfeld.

Cabinet maker/joiners

Israel Cohen; Abraham Jacobson; Louis Wittenberg.

Clothing manufacturers

Frank Adler; Ety Friend; Sam Tarshish; Joseph Valins.

Clothing retailers

Harry and Raye Abrahams; Rachel Valins.

Drapers

Benedict Adler; Aaron Bey; Jacob Burman; Reuben Burman; Solomon Fisher; Solomon Fox; Arnold Franks; Leon Franks; Simon Franks; Harry and Isaac Jaffe; Henry Lewis; Samuel Louis; Barnett Segal; George Segal; Marks Tarshish.

Dressmaker

Annie Abelson

Doctors

Norman Goldstone; Philip Lewis; Sam Mattison;
Myer Phillips; Jacob Schragar; Erich Strach.

Fancy goods retailer

Sarah Niman

Financiers

Benedict Adler; Frank Adler; Solomon Adler;
Solomon Schur; Marks and Annie Tarshish.

Furnishers

Charles Abelson; Arnold Franks; Solomon Schur;
Barnett and Annie Tarshish; Marks Tarshish.

Glaziers

Hyman Berman; Joseph Cann; Hyman Ettinger;
Aaron Garbutt; Lazarus Garbutt; David (Daniel) Levy;
Abraham Poviansky; Barnett Richards; Hyman
Segelman; Wolfe Williamson.

Hairdresser

Manny Phillips.

Hatters (travelling)

Benjamin Clain; Mannie Garbutt; Harris Goldstein.

Jewellery travellers

Harry Checkman; Hosel Cohen; Joseph Elichman; Harris Glickman; Abraham Livingstone; Solomon Myers; Joseph Solomon; Solomon Spiro; Abraham Tarshish; Simon Tarshish.

Jewellers/Watchmaker

Julius Abelson; George Cohen; Jacob Lanzetter; Simon Levi; Philip and Leah Dora Ney; Paul Cowen-Ney; Alfred Niman.

Licensed Victualler

Israel Bernstein.

Market traders

Leah Cowen; Simon Levi; Michael Marks; Zygismunt Markusfeldt; Leah Dora Ney; Leah Niman; Aaron Sytner; Louis Sytner.

Ministers of religion

Myer Bercowitz; Moses Eker; Jacob Goldstone; Wolfe
Hirshowitz.

Pharmacist

Maurice Steinsberg.

Photographer

Samuel Joseph (Burde).

Picture framers

Louis Bloom; Solomon Hoffman; Jacob Nevick.

Pressers

Jack Ray; Samuel Rosenberg; Samuel Lewis.

Tailors

Morris Bercowick; Hyman Bernstein; Isaac
Bertelstein; Jacob Cohen; Bernard Cowen; David
Cowen; Barnett Fisher; Eva Fisher; Louis Fisher; Wilf
Fisher; Solomon Fost; Aubrey Fraser; Henry Fraser;
Morris Fraser; Jacob Goldstein; Frank Hadland;
Solomon Hadland; Moses Harris; Joseph Herman;
Abraham Joseph; Alfred Kresner; Aaron Laskey;
Nathan Levy; Frank Miller; Alfred Niman; Isaac
Niman; Joseph Ray; Lazarus Samuel; Lipman

Solomon; Aaron, Esther, Jacob, Lipman, Morris and Reuben Sytner; Abraham Walker; Charles Williamson; Sarah Wolff.

Teachers

Moses Bialy (Science); Abraham Hart (Hebrew); Herta Israel (German).

Telephone operator

Florence Kresner.

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