

Hi Carlton.

I prefer this method of communication, as well.

I have lots of info to share with you . . . although I don't know how pertinent it is to your family.

But, I will tell you what I have found out about Sam Gibiansky aka Appel., and how he is connected to my family.

I wrote this to you, through the Ancestry site:

I noticed that you list Sam Gibiansky on your family tree.

His wife, Celia Squire (Bashere Skwirsky), was my maternal grandmother's younger sister. My grandmother's name was 'Mossi' or Mollie. Their other sister's name was Beile, or Bella, as she was known in this country.

I have quite a bit of information on Celia . . . and many unanswered questions, as well. The couple 'shifted' names quite a lot. Sometimes using Gibiansky . . . sometimes Appel. I have many documents for them and their children - who were my mother's first cousins. My mother, Beatrice Margolefsky Wagner, died when I was five - and I never got to ask her about her family. She had one sister, my Aunt Millie, who was not very forthcoming about anything 'sad' . . . and there seems to be quite a bit of that, not only in her immediate family, but in her mother's extended family, as well.

I have contacted some folks that knew Celia and Sam's son, Morris - and someone who knows their daughter, Frances' family. We don't know much about Sam. I have a photo which I 'think' may be Celia, one of her brothers, and Sam. Do you have any photos of this 'mysterious' couple? All of my grandmother's sisters - and herself - were rather tragic women. I'm trying to find out more about them . . . and their 3 older brothers. Whatever you can tell me, would be much appreciated.

- Karen Kinser 'Karen Wagner Kinser's SQUIRE Family Tree'

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My grandmother, Mollie (Squire) Margolefsky, was the eldest of the Squire girls, who traveled to the US, from Talne Ukraine, in 1906.

She arrived, on the SS Umbria, with her two younger sisters, Basheva and Beile. I have SS Umbria's June 2 passenger manifest, sailing from Liverpool and arriving in NY harbor on June 10, 1906. I can share any of the documents I mention, if you are interested in having them. (Or maybe you have them already?)

When I first began this 'search for my mother's family' in 2013, I only knew that they came from a town in the Ukraine called 'Tulna'. It has many spellings . . . Tolnoye, Talne, Tulna . . . and others. My grandmother had told stories of a fine home and servants. She said that her father had a lucrative position, as an accountant for a mill, there in Talne. We never knew whether to take her stories seriously, because she was not a fancy person, in the least. I never heard about my grandmother having siblings - or my mother having cousins. This was mostly due to the fact that my mother died when I was five, and just was not around to tell me anything.

And my grandmother died when I was 14, in 1966 - and lived in another state . . . so I never got to ask her anything of importance, either.

Then in 2013 I had my DNA tested with a Jewish genealogy site 'Family Finder' . . . and I met a woman, through the 23andMe genealogy site, who noticed that she and I shared a good bit of DNA and had both listed the same surname. Squire. We also listed the same town in Ukraine - Talna. The woman's name is Betty Perfall and she lives in Washington DC, only 3 hours north of where I live, in the Norfolk VA area. Like me, she knew little about her grandmother, whose name was 'Bella Squire Myers'. Bella tragically took her own life in 1939 at the age of 49 . . . and in those days - as you know - people chose to be hush hush about many things. Bella is buried in Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, in Glendale, Queens NY. Because she was a suicide, she could not be buried

in the Jewish cemetery, under Jewish law . . . however, (as the story goes) her nephew, a NY Judge, managed to make it happen. That judge's name was Sidney Squire. He was Julius Squire's son.

Betty Perfall and I became 'Squire Detectives'.

We shared photos of our grandmothers, who didn't particularly look related . . . and surmised that they could have been cousins, perhaps. ? We were both told that our maternal grandmothers' maiden name was Squire . . . but I assumed that it was an Americanization of a more 'Jewish-sounding' name. I took a WILD guess . . . a very lucky guess, it turns out . . . and began looking for the name 'Skvirski'. One of those bizarre 'coincidences' - I had guessed exactly right!

Then I found a ship manifest, listing three young women named 'Skwirsky', traveling alone and arriving in NY in June of 1906. And there they were! Mosse 20, Bashere 18 and Beile 16. An amazing revelation - our grandmothers were sisters!

We had been given a photo of our great grandparents . . . Chane (Annie) and Solomon 'Squire', from another relative. How amazing . . . to actually see their faces! I didn't even know that a photo existed - or if my grandmother's parents were ever in the U.S.

Then we found their passenger info, as well as the records for the girls' three brothers. The youngest Skwirski brother, Isidore, was the first to make the voyage. And he was the one who chose the name 'Squire'. From there . . . we found spouses names, and their children - many many records confirming where they lived and when. And we wanted to know more about them.

We set out to 'find' the rest of our grandmothers' families. And that is how we finally came to SAM GIBIANSKY !

Everyone else's information was fairly 'straightforward' - but not the third sister listed on the manifest. Bashere?

We were given a handwritten list of the 'Swirski' children' from an elderly relative (of a cousin of Betty's). It listed a name we'd never heard before . . . a Shana. Someone else mentioned a Sophie. We thought there were more sisters. The NY census records were invaluable in finally determining that 'Basheva/Bashere/Shava/Shana/Sophie' were all one person. And her American name was Celia.

She marries Sam Gibiansky in June of 1912, and they have their first child, Frances in June of 1913. Then they have Margaret in 1915 and Morris in 1920. On the 1920 Census, they are listed as Sam and Celia Appel - and only Frances and 'Maxie' are listed. Margaret is not shown.

By 1925 Celia is back at her very elderly parents' home - with all 3 kids in tow. Sam is nowhere to be found. Then, Celia's mother dies in 1927. And Celia remains, living with her father, until Solomon dies in March of 1928. Then, the children - Margaret, Frances and Morris are listed on the roster of the Hebrew Orphans Assylum. They remain there, through the Depression. It shows them being checked out for holidays, (it appears - by their father). He shows up on different documents as Sam Gibiansky or Sam Appel. First we thought it was two different men - but on one census he is Appel and so is Celia. On another - they and the children are Gibiansky. ? Because the children were the same - and all the dates jived - we knew that this was the same family.

We had 'heard' that a relative who actually knew Celia, had said, "Sophie was NUTS!" And both Betty's and my grandmother were psychologically/emotionally 'unstable' . . . so we were not surprised to hear this. My grandmother had lost 3 young children, in a row, according to family lore. (But no one really talked about it! Another hush job. Too painful.) I later made this my 'mission' to find those children, and put to rest who they were - where they were - and how they died. I just found the 3rd child last week. My relatives always explained my grandmother's depression by saying that she had never bounced back from the loss of the children. I can understand that - that is a MAJOR trauma . . . especially 3 times. And they weren't still births. Two were under

one year old, and one was 16 months old when he died. Mollie had long bouts of severe depression - staying in bed for weeks. But, also good times.

We don't know what pushed Bella to suicide. She seemed psychotic before her death. Thought she was bitten by a rabbit. Assumed it was rabid. Didn't want the children to catch the rabies. Went to her brother's home and stuck her head in an oven. That was the story Betty had heard.

And then . . . Celia.

Her emotional state was confirmed, when we found her name on the 1935 census - as an inmate at the Middletown 'Homeopathic' Hospital, which was what they called a 'mental institution', in 1935. She is still there (or there again, we are not sure) in 1940, when she is supposedly 51 - and divorced! And it appears that she may have died there on 22 July 1940. But I also located what I think could be her grave, in Mt. Lebanon Cemetery. She is buried as Celia Appel, d. Mar 23 1949. I need to solve that discrepancy - and find out where I originally got the 1940 death date.

I have not found official divorce papers, yet.

But, I did find Sam in the 1940 census. He is 45, living in Brooklyn with a woman named 'Sadie' - and only Frances 23 and Max 20. (Morris is referred to as Max several times in the records.) And, again, Margaret is not listed.

We also found Sam's WWII Draft Registration. At the time he filled it out, he was 50 years old. He states a different birthdate than he had on his WWI registration. He always states on records, that he was born in Raigrod, Poland. He lists his birth as Dec 5 1891. (In 1917, when he filled out the WWI papers, his birthdate was May 2, 1889.) And the person he lists as 'always knowing his address' is a Minnie Gibiansky. They both reside at 6714 Jackson St. in Guttenberg NJ. I looked for this woman in records, but could not find a Minnie Gibiansky. He could have married again - or it could be a relative. His place of employment is the same address. He is the 'proprietor' . . . And the business is APPEL EMBROIDERY WORKS.

It is only a guess . . . but I think he may have used the name Appel, when it suited, because it sounded less Jewish, less Polish - and more American. And, it is interesting, but in the early 1900s, Guttenberg, Hudson NJ was the 'embroidery capital' of the US.

So that is the short version of what I know, about Sam Gibiansky/Appel and Celia. I have other info about their children - and have found some of their children's kids, but no one seems too interested in finding out about their family's past.

There seems to be a strain of some sort of mental / emotional issues . . . in the female members . . . of this family. It is a shame that they did not have access to today's anti-depressants and other 'helpers'. Things might have turned out differently for them.

So, how are you connected to Sam?