

Dec. 10, 1965

Dear Leslie:

I promised you a run-down on the family tree of your grandmother, and here it is.

Lena & Abraham Lagofsky (Login) begat six children as follows:

Gertrude, Anna (my mother), Charles, Sarah, Max, and Esther (in that order).

The first one to die was Gertrude (the eldest), who left 8 children; 6 living, all in New Jersey. Gertrude's oldest daughter, Freda, was about the same age as your grandmother, Esther, and they grew up together. The 4th daughter, Sarah, also passed away in New Jersey and left 3 children, all living in New York. The rest of the family you probably have heard about. Your grandmother was the only girl in that family who out-lived her husband, and also the oldest one to die.

Your grandmother's father, Abraham, was one of 7 children - 5 girls and 2 boys, and most of your grandmother's cousins (Big Ida & Little Ida, and ~~Big Freda & Little Freda~~, included) were on his side, and as I recall, most of them are still in New York. Your great-grandfather, Abraham, whom I saw while I was in Washington back in 1930, was about 76 then, and a sweet, mild-mannered little man, with a snow-white beard & rosy cheeks. He was about 78 when he died of bronchial pneumonia.

Lena, your grandmother's mother, and my grandmother, was taller than her husband and I barely remember her. Her maiden name was Goodseidt (later anglicized to Goodsaid). She had one brother only, and he left a son, Morris Goodsaid, whom I also met while in Washington. He was working for the Govt. printing office there, and I recall he had twin boys, about 8 yrs. old then. So you see twins run in Esther's family. My mother used to talk years ago of a cousin on the Goodsaid's side who lived in Little Rock, Arkansas and owned a scissors factory, of all things. And my cousin, Dora Gordon (Gertrude's daughter), who still lives in Newark, N.J., phoned me about 4 years ago from the Palace-Sheraton Hotel in San Francisco and we had quite a conversation. I

My mom
sent this to
Don + he
gave me a
copy.

hadn't seen nor talked to her since I left Wash. in 1932, so she had a lot to say. Her brother Herman Jaffe is now a prosperous lawyer (he was struggling thru law school at Rutgers Univ. the last time I saw him), and has been to Europe a few times, and I was especially happy to learn all of these cousins had prospered and doing well, as back in the 30's they were in the throes of the depression and barely getting by. Dora told me another cousin on Grandfather Abraham's side, Nathan Schultz, was none other than the well-known Metropolitan Opera singer (baritone), Norman Scott, so you see we also have musicians in the family. You have probably heard of Charlie Login's 3 daughters, Ethel, Rosalie and Gertrude, all being so talented musically.

Your Grandmother's mother, Lena, was I believe, in her early 50's when she died of inflammatory rheumatism. I remember my mother saying she was bedridden for 5 years before she passed away. She was considered a very intelligent and capable woman and was 2 years older than her husband. She made the decisions in that family as Grandfather Abraham was too easy going and not forceful enough. I've always felt Esther took after her father in her gentleness and simple tastes, and no interest whatever in showiness or display. And I remember long before your father was born, my mother telling her sister to be more interested in the gifts Joe used to give her. He was so devoted to her. Esther used to have a phobia of her children getting too fat and when the twins were about 7 or 8, my mother used to bawl her out for not feeding them more - she used to say to her they were growing boys and needed meat & potatoes and to stop starving them. But then, that was my mother (and she would have lived longer if she had not been so heavy). And your grandfather, Joe, tho't the world of Esther and my mother, as Esther was so close to her. When she had problems, it was my mother she went to. We were all living in Montana then. Joe tho't the world of his children. I believe he was rather disappointed that none of his sons went thru college, particularly, since he never had the opportunity himself. The last time I saw Joe was the first year I was married, and he & Esther dropped in on me at our apartment in San Francisco (during World War II), and he stuck a \$50.00 bill in my pocket for a wedding present. That was Joe - generous to a fault.

Loretta