TODAY, we begin to print the story of our family. It is based on data given us, mostly, by word of mouth by those who lived in Lithuania, & who were acquainted with the various people and events. In addition the story is also founded on documents, such as letters, passports, wedding & birthdays announcements, written facts, found on the covers of siddurim and other books belonging to some members of our family, and so forth.

The material has been verified and checked in a number of ways. Still you may know facts, and anecdotes, unknown to us & which we therefore have not printed; or you may find statements that may bear revision. Do not hesitate to let us know for we will appreciate your courtesy & interest in making this story more complete and accurate.

We present the family history with the feeling that it is accurate -- with the hope that it is interesting -- and with the assurance that it will add to your knowledge concerning the family, which today is spread to the four corners of the earth.

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Ponedel

Ponedel --- that was the name of the small town in Lithuania, where our family had its origin - as far as our records show. Our great-grandmother, Channa, already lived there over one hundred years ago.

Today, the town has been renamed by the government, and it is called PANELOYS. It is in the northeastern part of Lithuania -- about 80 miles northeast of Kaunas (Kovno), the capital of the country.

What did Ponedel look like about 30 or 35 years ago when nearly all of our family still were there? It was just a small, country town, unacquainted with the modern conveniences of a large city. Ponedel had no train-station, no post-offices, no telephone or telegraph, no electricity or gas. The streets were not paved. There were no sinks or bathrooms or heaters in any of the houses.

The nearest train-station was approximately four or five miles distant, in the town of Ponomunke. It is interesting that in those days, the people would not undertake the journey to Ponomunke except for urgent reasons & it took a few hours to cover this distance.

Let us imagine ourselves, at the train-station in Ponomunke. We see a man smoking his corn-cob pipe as he stands near his rickety wagon & his well-groomed horse. The man is Zuse. In addition to being postmes ter of Ponedel, he is also engaged in transporting passengers and baggage between Ponomunke & Ponedel. He himself lived in Ponedel. So we get into the wagon and take a seat on an improvised bench.

As we approach the town, we see the tall spire of the Church which is the tallest building in the entire neighborhood. On our left, is a cornfield, and on the right, is a high wooden fence, surrounding the estate of the porits -- nobleman - who owned the ground in and around Ponedel.

(Continued in next issue)
May 27, 1934

HENRY SUSSMAN REPORTS ON FLORENCE'S CONFIRMATION DINNER

At the dinner in honor of Florence Susman on May 20 given by her parents, there were present Rabbi & Mrs Simon Greenberg and her near relatives, a total of 42 persons.

Dr. Samuel Susman acted as toastmaster & Rabbi Greenberg spoke about the Jewish woman and her duties.

A notable feature of the occasion was the singing of many Hebrew and Yiddish songs, led by Dr. Susman & Rabbi Greenberg. All present joined in the singing, and this added fervor to the festivities.

Florence's father -- Louis -- thanked everyone for their participation in this event & spoke feelingly of his mother, who is greatly missed by her children.

Mendel Susman spoke and expressed his gratitude at Louis's announcement that -- ten trees will be planted, in Palestine in memory of Mama Ita & Pauline Susman.

Henry Susman, in behalf of Florence's uncles and aunts, congratulated her, & her parents --- wishing them many other happy occasions, & long years of health and happiness.

The dinner ended, by the singing of "Hatikvah".

SUSSMANIA

YISROEL LEVIN

The ancestor of the Levin families was Yisroel Levin, whose yahrzeit occurs on May 27, (Sivan 13). He died in 1914, aged 73 years.

Yisroel Levin was born in Shaltekens - a village near Ponedel - about 1841. There, his father (Zvi Hirsh) had a country inn. Yisroel had 3 sisters - Ethel, Leah, and Hashke.

We know very little, about his youth. It appears that he lived in Madjai, & became known as Yisroel Madjai.

In 1868 - he married Fraide Tzippel of Ponedel. He made a living as a peddler & he also was a dyer. At this time, he lived in Pomeauke where 3 children were born to him (Reuben, Nosen, and Maya) When the 3 children married, Yisroel & his wife migrated to Philadelphia (about 1891).

Here, Yisroel worked at various trades. He was a presser of men's trousers; he made ink; he lent money on interest; and he worked in Mendel Susman's bathhouse. (Mendel is his son-in-law).

Yisroel and his wife lived with Mendel. In his last years Yisroel was blind. He died at 329 Pine Street, Philadelphia, June 7, 1914. He was very religious, observing all the mitzvot of Jewish law.

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IN OUR MAIL

Dear editors:

Every member of our family in New York devour the contents of our family paper - the SUSSMANIA with relish, and impatiently awaits more. So, I think that this delightful medium for the exchange of occurrences and events in the family - affords a very interesting diversification. Therefore, "Viva la Susmania!"

Alfred Susman (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

Editors:

The name SUSSMAN NEWS suggested in issue #9 appeals to me greatly. I cast my vote to have the new name used.

Mephtali Susman

To the editors:

We extend the best of wishes to the SUSSMANIA bulletin & the sincere hope that it will continue to act as a tie between the family for now and for generations to come.

S.M. Levine & family

NOTE

Another list of addresses will be printed in a few weeks. Please let us know of any corrections, changes, and additions, to the list published in #6, April 22, 1934.
Local News

Louis (Leibig) Sussman got eyeglasses for the first time, in his life, on May 25. He is 68 years old, and till now he had no need for eyeglasses.

Naftali Sussman took part in a play, on May 27, & a full review of this will be given, in the next issue.

On May 27, Rebecca & Nathan Sussman provided "eats" & entertainment for their cousins Evelyn Goodman, Sylvia Sherman, & the following Sussmans: Sylvia, Hilda, Harold, Brother Nathan. The entertainment consisted of a marionette show.

Louis Samuel will be three years old -- June 4, 1934.

Philip Sussman is already a licensed operator. He passed the automobile examination - on May 26.

Henry & Bette Sussman motored to Trenton on Sunday, May 27 - to visit her cousins.

The additional address list will be published June 22. Please send in changes and additions.
were built for comfort rather than for beauty.

YISROEL ZISMAN'S HOUSE

Yisroel Zisman's house had large rooms with many windows in each of them. However, the "spalnes" (bedrooms) had no windows. Along the entire front of the house - facing the street - was the porch (called "ganik"). From here one door led to the "krom" (store), and another door opened into the house proper.

The house was on the side of the hill, with the lower side nearest to the creek. The main street ran downhill towards the creek and it was called "Aropberg" (downhill).

Going into the house through the door at the side of the store, you enter the "shtub" (living room). It has one window facing the street & two windows facing the "geheft" or yard. A small, dark corridor leads from the shtub to a small room and the dining room (both on the left) and to a room without windows (the bedroom) on the right. Behind the bedroom was the large kitchen.

Attached to, and directly behind this house was the "antkegen" (the house in the rear) which has an apartment of four rooms for another family.

THE BIG STOVE

Let us stop for a moment to look at the large stove in the kitchen. It is made of brick and covers one entire wall, rising from the floor to within two feet of the ceiling. In general appearance it resembles a baker's oven. This stove served for cooking food & for warming the house. Under the stove was a space for the chickens called "popitzes". The top of the stove was named the "roobe", and this was a coveted, & much occupied space for sleeping - especially in the winter nights.

(see the plan of the house, page 3)
PLAN OF
YISROEL ZISMAN'S
House and Grounds

The Creek

Meadows (belong to Yisroel)

The Big Garden (belongs to Yisroel)

an alley (used by all)

LEGEND
BR - bedroom
CC - corridor
DR - dining room
e - to cellar + workroom
EP - enclosed porch
KR - kitchen
LR - living room
W - work room
d - door
w - window
X - water board
s - stoves

Yard

Lot + Home of Main Rental

SHED

Small Garden

DR BR

K X

BR

LR

C

BED

ROOM

STORE

FORK

gate

"AROPBARJ (street)
Local News

Rabbi Greenberg - of Zeternion Temple - officiated at the ceremony unveiling the monument for Mushe Sussman on Sun., June 3, in the presence of about seventy persons — members of the family, friends of the family. After the prayers were recited, Rabbi M. Frankel - of the Yeshiva Mishkan Yisroel — spoke in Yiddish.

Two of Mushe’s sons, Samuel and Simon, then removed the veils from the monuments. Kaddish was recited by all the sons, and the ceremony was completed.

Sussman (Hirsh Leib, Rebecca, Jennie, Nissi, and Dr. Samuel) motored to Doylestown. Later they went to the unveiling of the monument (see above). The Doctor was rushing to be on time, and he passed six machines on the road — and 184 autos passed him — so that did he drive. Yet he arrived on time; only 45 minutes late.

Harry and Sophie Levine — of 1525 E. 25th St., Brooklyn - invite the members of the family to visit them.

They were in Philadelphia on June 5.

Hyman & Gertie Sussman attended a sorority dance, last week.

Anniversaries

Our heartiest congratulations and our best wishes for more happiness, to Ida and Simon Sussman on their tenth wedding anniversary — June 10, 1934.

Greetings — to Teddy Goldfarb, on his tenth birthday — June 10.

Nafatali, Alias Bliss

After a week of consideration — we are at last able to offer — a review of the part taken by Nathan Sussman — in the play, "speaking to Father" — which was given last week.

Transformed, for the night, into Prof Bliss — Nafatali had for his object, the winning of the hand of beautiful Miss Pickering. Garbed in striped pants, tail coat, tortoise-shelled glasses, derby & cane, the Professor nevertheless failed.

We sympathize - with you, O learned one, & venture the suggestion that, if you aspire to be successful as a female charmer — in your next histrionic endeavor you accept no part but that of an athletically-looking mustachioed Romeo.
WATER

Every day, water was brought by
a gentile servant from a well near
the house. The servant filled two
large barrels which stood near the
two kitchens, & this usually suf-
ficed for the daily needs. Another
barrel held the used and dirty wa-
ter and garbage - and this was fed
to the cows.

THE SHALKE

And now we walk out of the house
and enter the "firhaus", (enclosed
porch) which faces the yard. It is
between the front and rear houses.
Here are locked "almers" (closets)
stored with food. From the porch
there is a stairway leading to the
second story. (In Ponedel it was a
distinction to have a house with 2
stories, since most of the houses,
had only one floor). One room on
the second floor was the "shalke".
It was a large room used sometimes
for a minyan (religious services),
and sometimes for sleeping, during
the summer. The other half of the
second story was an attic known as
the "houdem", which was used as a
storage room for all kinds of rags
and other articles.

THE CELLAR

From the yard there was a stair-
way down to the cellar. Here, too,
were stored foods: potatoes, beets,
turnips, radishes, carrots, and so
forth. These vegetables were grown
in the garden back of the house, &
were kept in the earth of the cel-
lar floor --- to preserve them for
the winter. Barrels of pickles and
sourkraut were also in the cellar.
This place was the coldest part of
the house. Since refrigerators and
ice were unknown in Ponedel, every
thing that had to be kept cold was
stored in the cellars.

THE WORKROOM

At the back of the houses, was a
low building partly in the ground.
Here Yisroel, with his working-men
sewed shoes and boots. These, he
sold to the gentiles on the market
day. Here also, were three carding
machines. The gentiles brought the
raw wool from the sheep; and for a
kopeck or two per pound; they were
permitted to use the machines - to
comb the wool. (At home, the goyim
then spun the carded wool into ya-
rns and wove it into cloth.)

THE BACK YARD

The stalls for the cows, were in
the yard, at a small distance from
the houses. Nearby was a shed, for
chopped wood, prepared in the sum-
mer for winter use. No one at that
time or in those places dreamed of
coal or gas for heating.

In addition to the garden, there
was a meadow behind the house; and
it went as far as the creek, which
was the boundary line of Yisroel's
grounds. The hay grown there - was
more than enough for the two cows
for the entire winter. During the
summer, the cows were taken to pas-
ture grounds by a gentile shepherd.
In fact - he took the cows of most
of the Jews to pasture. At milking
time, he brought them back to each
owner.

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Now, we leave the house to take
a stroll in the town itself to see
other sections of Ponedel.
Phume Derman-Perlloff

Far away in Charjui, Russian Turkestan - on January 27, 1910 - Phume Derman Perlloff died of typhoid fever.

Phume was the daughter of Yisroel and Hina Rachel Zissman. Born in Ponedel about 1875, she was married to Eliyahu Derman (see No. 6) when she was seventeen years old.

Although her husband did a little business, he spent - most of the time in study. As a result -- Phume opened a store in her home.

Three children were born of this marriage: Jennie and Mollie Sussman & a boy who died while very small.

In 1899, her husband died, and Phume opened a retail and wholesale general store, and moved to the market place of Ponedel. She was very frugal, a hustler, and full of energy. Many a time - she stayed until late into the night in her store to check accounts, etc. Often she went to Dvinsk (a city in Latvia) to purchase goods for the store.

Meanwhile, Phume met Mordechai Perlloff, a widower with 2 children. He was a shochet. Soon they married (1902).

Mordechai obtained a position as shochet in Charjui, Asia. This is about 2500 miles, from Ponedel in a strange & exotic land. In this city, Phume devoted herself entirely, to home and her children. She bore three sons: Berel Moshe & Yisroel Itze and another son -- who died in infancy.

Here, she lived happily; and later her mother came for a visit. During a hot spell she took a cold bath. This developed first into a cold, then into typhoid and before the doctors recognized what it was Phume died from fever.

She was buried in that city on the next day - Tuesday, July 5, 1910.

On August 10, 1934 - the supplement will contain a list of yahrzeiten, of members of our family. Please send in the names of your departed (English and Yiddish) & the date of death ---- by June 24, 1934.

Correction --- Phume was born in Spieg, near Ponedel

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What "Sussmanews" Wants
By Benjamin Sussman

There is a minority, so goes the rumor.
That has not much of the sense of humor.
There also are such, who like to hear scandal.
That type of news the editors do not handle.

The editors do aim to publish all the news
Of each and everyone, plus the family views.
They want your own comments, of interest to all
They want none of gossip, or scandal, or gall.

Hence, lend your support, and don't hesitate.
Begin to write now, 'tis never too late.
And make this fine paper of views and news,
A bigger and much better Sussmanews.

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Our Children

Nelson Ginsberg attends Public School 17 (Richmond, Staten Is.) He is in 8-a grade and serves as class banker in the school. On May 8, 1934, he won a race (70 yard dash), at the Curtis High School. He received a silver medal as first prize.

Sylvia Sherman was a member of the chorus - in "The Flower of Venezia", an operetta that was given by the children of the Junior High school - which she attends. (May 24, 25, 26).

Florence Sussman has the position of banker of her class -- in the Overbrook High School.

Shirley Ginsberg, is in 3-a grade of Public School 17, Staten Isl.
OUT-OF-TOWN NEWS

NORFOLK, VA.
Julius Robin bought a grocery store again at 400 W. 31st Street.

Local News

Minnie Sussman (Mendel’s daughter) and Mr. Harry Broder motored to Woodbine, N.J. last Sunday, June 10.

Last week, while Israel Goldfarb was helping a fruit man on his wagon -- an automobile bumped into the wagon. Fortunately he escaped serious injuries.

A party to celebrate her confirmation was given by Florence Sussman for her friends on June 9, at her home.

You cannot hide news from our reporters. We discovered that Joseph Sussman was -- in Atlantic City on June 2.

Philip and Faye Sussman attended a dance last week -- which was given by the Brith Sholom Lodge, of which he is a member.

Louis & Mollie Sussman were guests at the silver wedding anniversary of one of the members -- of the Philadelphia Clothing Manufacturers’ Association in the Green Room of the Majestic Hotel on Saturday night, June 9.

Edward Sussman (Lizzie and Sam’s son) was graduated from the Minnie Mayer Heb. Sunday-School on May 13.

On June 4 -- Florence Sussman earned one dollar for the first time in her life. She worked as a substitute teacher at the Har Zion Hebrew School, Wynnewood.

Mrs. Fannie Goodman, Rubin and Katie Hyatt, and Hirsch Leib Sussman attended a party given for Hyatt’s a friend who is going on a trip to Soviet Russia.

Mendel Sussman is at Atlantic City where he will remain this week.

On June 10 Simon and Ida Sussman entertained realitives & friends who visited them -- on the occasion, of their tenth wedding anniversary.

On June 10, Henry and Hattie Sussman motored to Atlantic City.

A poem "Brain & Conscience" -- written by Thelma Sussman will appear next week.
JEWISH STORES AND TRADES

Let us take a walk in the street towards the Shul-hof. Although the business center was in the market place - yet, nearly every house in the main street had a store. Most of them sold the same kind of merchandise --- including "everything under the sun"; - herring, cereals, and other foods; dyers, axle-grease and mercury; sugar and saccharine; candles, nails, and oils; kerosene, tobacco, etc. Here and there was a store, selling only one variety of goods: such as Mendel Chave's leather store; Zelig's iron store; and Sender's dry-goods store.

Not all Jews were storekeepers. There were Jewish truckmen, blacksmiths, tailors, shoemakers, dyers, butchers, chimney-sweeps, glazers, peddlers, hat-makers, etc.

THE MARKET DAYS

No Jew did any business on Saturdays, of course. The main business days were on Tuesday (market day), and on Sunday (when the goyim came to Church). The rest of the week, business was at a stand-still. Often, the wife took care of the business, while the husband used his time for study in the synagogue...

On market days - the gentiles came from neighboring villages, & farms to sell their goods in town and to buy whatever supplies they needed, from the Jewish storekeepers.

THE SHUL-HOF

The synagogue was the center for Jewish spiritual & cultural life.

Thrice a day - the Jews came there to pray. Also when the Jew had nothing else to do at home, or there was no work - he went to the shul. This place was more than the house of prayer. It was the Jewish library; the house of study; the public lecture place for maggidim (traveling preachers); the meeting place to decide Jewish communal matters; and the center where the Jews came to spend their leisure hours.

In the shul you would find a number of men studying the Talmud and other Jewish works. Some were reading the sedrah of the week; others were reciting Psalms; but most of the men sat around in groups, near the stove, discussing "politics" - local, national, international, and telling stories about "gute yiden!" Also, the Rabbi and the two shochtim could be found most of the day in the synagogue.

On the Shul-hof was the Shul - a large building used on Saturdays & holidays. Caste - being very distinct in the small town, the wealthier Jews prayed in the Beis Hamedrash; the middle class, "in the Shtibel; and the artisans used the neiel Minyan.

Fonedel had other Jewish communal buildings --- such as the bathhouse which was used especially on Thursdays and Fridays; the slaughterhouse where kosher meat is provided for the Jews; and the "Hekdesh", a lodging place for Jewish beggars who passed thru the town.

This, in brief, is the physical picture of Fonedel when our grandparents and parents lived there. No doubt, many changes & improvements have been made since then, and in the course of our story, they will be mentioned. Many an interesting story can be told about the spiritual life in the town, and this too will be printed later as the occasion therefor arises.
The towns shown on this map are only a small number of those in this locality. But we included only those that are of interest to the story of our family.
Beggan as "SUSSMANIA"

SUSSMAN NEWS

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER of the SUSSMAN-LEVIN families

Vol. I. (March-September 1934)

24 Issues

EDITORS
Dr. Samuel Sussman
Hirsh Laib Sussman
IsraeL R. Sussman

SPECIAL DONORS FOR VOL. I
Louis & Mollie Sussman
Samuel & Fannie Levine
The Editors

Published in Philadelphia
This book contains the first two volumes of the "Sussmania" and "Sussmanews"--from the very beginning (March 18, 1934) to the end of the second volume (March 8, 1935). We have divided the Sussmanews into two volumes per year arbitrarily for convenient handling. Statistical information as to the amount published, & other similar items, are found at the beginning of each volume.

Each volume is preceded by its own index (of which there is only the copy I have). None of the subscribers received an index copy. At the end of each volume I have included letters & other records pertinent to that particular volume. Other records & documents relating to the family, I have bound in volumes marked "Records", q.v. .

I bound this volume in November 1935. Samuel Sussman, Phila.