

HODES/HODDES

The Hoddes family in the United States came from Libau (now Liepaja) in Latvia (then occupied by Russia). Libau is in Courland (Kurzeme in Latvian, Kurland in German), a region in western Latvia.

The Hoddes family can be traced back to our great great grandmother, Minnie Sternberg Effenbuch, who was born in Grabin (now Grobina), Latvia, in about 1831. Minnie is pictured in *The Washington Times* of April 8, 1921, on the occasion of her 98th birthday. She died in Washington on Dec. 19, 1921.

According to Sarah Hoddes Kasdon, who seemed to be the family historian, the Effenbach family had gone to Latvia from Poland. According to RootsWeb.com, the Effenbach family had settled in Grobin, Latvia, about 1790.

Czar Paul I of Russia formally permitted Jews to live in Courland soon after becoming Emperor in 1796. Courland was a separate province of the Russian Empire from 1797-1918.

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Minnie's daughter Sheine Roche (Rose) Effenbuch married Isser Hodes. He owned a tannery. They had eight children, of whom one died and seven survived: Leopold, Johanna, Anna, Helen, Rose, Sarah, and Rebecca. All seven came to the U.S.

The Hodes family lived in Durben in a log cabin.

Just as in the play "Fiddler on the Roof," the family also took in an itinerant Hebrew teacher.

In 1890 there was a pogrom and the soldiers chased the family out of their home and took all of their possessions. While fleeing, my grandmother, Rose Hodes, lost her ninth child and my grandfather, Isser Hodes, died.

The family fled to Libau on the west coast of Latvia where other Effenbachs lived. Economic conditions were better there. My grandmother had a small business and with the help of relatives they managed to live.

According to my mother, a man in Libau wanted to marry Rosa Hodes but would take only the three youngest children. She told him the family had to stay together.

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The first to come to the United States was Leopold Hodes. At military age he had managed to escape by using a dead man's passport and hiding under the hay in a wagon. He arrived in Ellis Island on Aug. 21, 1896, on board the Persia which had departed from Hamburg, Germany. According to the ship manifest, he was 21 and a tailor. (www.ellisislandrecords.com)

He lived in D.C. with the Harmel family [Katie in Chicago was one of their daughters.] Leopold worked in D.C. as a tailor and saved every penny in order to bring over the rest of the family.

In order to save more money, Leopold brought over his sister, Johanna. Johanna Hodes arrived in Ellis Island on Sept. 19, 1896, on the Furst Bismarck which had departed from Hamburg on Sept. 3 and had stopped in Southampton to pick up additional passengers. According to the ship manifest, she was 25 years old. (www.ellisislandrecords.com) In Washington Johanna worked in a grocery store.

In Washington the family name Hodes was changed to Hoddes.

Leopold and Johanna brought over their sister, Anna. Under the name Anna Hoddes, she arrived in Ellis Island on June 16, 1899, on board the H.H. Meier which had departed from Bremen. She and Johanna worked in a grocery store, saving money to bring over the rest of the family.

After they had saved enough money, they brought over their mother, Rosa, and sisters Helen, Rose, Sarah, and Rebecca. Leopold met them at the dock in Baltimore and brought them to a grocery store he had bought for them in S.W. Washington (near the location today of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum).

My mother, Sarah, became a milliner and Rebecca (Bee) worked at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

When my grandmother died she owned the building housing the grocery store and their living quarters plus another building. The sisters generously gave the property to Aunt Bee who was handicapped.

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In the 1910 Census (as of April 15, 1910) in Washington, D.C. are Alexander Johnson, age 31, grocery merchant; wife Johanna, 29, they married 4 years; son Alvin, 2; and daughter Agnes, 1.

In the 1920 Census (as of June 1, 1920) in Washington, D. C. are Alexander Johnson, 43, a driver with Haggaman (bakery); wife Johanna, 42; son Alvin, 12; daughter Agnes, 11; daughter Esther, 9; son Harry, 8; and son Robert, 3.

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Janet Kasdon Lobred
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