

Edye Comins Baker

My grandfather, Harry Weinstein, came to America from England via a Cunard steamship, the SS Carmania, in 1913. His plan was to find a job that enabled him to send money back to London to take care of his wife, Annie, and their child, Connie, (my mother) and save enough to bring them over. His first job was as a shoe cutter. Being ambidextrous, he was able to produce twice the amount of work and earn the money quickly to bring his family from England. In June 1914, the family reunited in Boston and moved into a house in Lynn on Washington Street.

My paternal great grandfather, Shlomo Weinstein, came to England from Krakow Poland when he was 22 and my great grandmother, Elizabeth was born in London. My mother's parents, Morris Lewis Richupsky and Hannah Bernstein, came to England from Russia. Although successful business people in their home country, they left to escape Eastern European pogroms.



A hardworking, industrious, creative innovator, my father, Adrian Comins, talent was reviving failing businesses including a shoe making factory, a tennis racket enterprise and later creating a brake lining factory with his father and brother. Both he and my mother were leaders in Jewish cultural affairs, instrumental in establishing the first synagogue in Swampscott, aiding refugees from war-torn Europe and supporting the Zionist movement.

Theirs was a legacy of love, family, community service, and social justice.

Photo: Harry, Connie, and Annie Weinstein (circa 1912)

