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My Grandfather, Zayde, who took the American name Louis, and his bride, Fanny (Bubbe) came to America in 1909 with \$5.00 in his possession. Relatives in the West End of Boston sponsored them.

They were escaping the pogroms in Ukraine where vandals that pillaged Jewish villages, killed residents, and burned homes without punishment, ran rampant. Zayde knew that there was anti-Semitism in America, but it was under the radar and not encouraged by the government, so life had to be better.

The first step of their journey took them to Paris to await steerage on one of the big liners that would take them to the U.S. They waited three months. Bubbe sold her beautiful red hair to a fancy wig shop for enough money so they could wait a little longer. The wait finally paid off and they boarded the ship to take them to freedom. They spent the voyage below deck because they could only afford steerage. Bubbe was sick the whole trip as she discovered she was pregnant!

Once settled with family in the West End, Zayde worked as an apprentice to a painter and wall paper hanger. He learned quickly. They saved money by living frugally and soon moved to Chelsea and opened a paint and wallpaper store. Eventually, they bought a two family house and their family grew to three girls and one boy.

Zayde knew that to be a successful American you had to work hard and learn the language-which he did. Slowly, through hard work, he built a real estate business with property in Winthrop, Revere, Chelsea, Brookline and Newton.

He was so proud of his new life that he changed his birthday to March 15th- the day Federal income taxes were due. When the government changed the date to April 15th, his birthday changed with it! From a greenhorn with \$5.00 in his pocket to a very successful real estate mogul, Zayde accomplished the American Dream.



Photo: Zayde and Bubbe (circa 1940)