

SECURITY NATIONAL
FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
Galveston, Texas.

J.F. Block, Agent
212 Spring Street
Little Rock, Arkansas.

3-10-1942

Dear Mae:

Looking over your letter of the 4th from Los Angeles whenever you advised the clerk at the Hospital desk that Father was born in Austria and Mother in Latvia and Lily was born in 1866. (she was born in Camden, Ark.)

All of the children were born in Camden. Lilly is 7 years younger than I and my birth date was Feb. 7, 1860, this would make Lilly's birthday Feb. 16, 1867.

I well remember that my oldest brother Ed who was 10 years old when Lilly was born assisted my in pushing the baby buggy in which Lilly was rode around in infancy.

Our family left Camden in 1863 on the way to old Mexico, where we lived for a year or two until Peace was declared in the Civil War, on account of the fact that the Northern states hired Hessian soldiers from Germany to fight the Confederate States, this influenced the Southern men and they were bitter to anyone who spoke German and so much so that all German speaking people had to leave the Southern States and as my Father and Mother spoke it, they were forced to leave for the North or get out of the Southern States. I was about a year old when our family went to Mexico and was about 3 years old when we moved back to Camden. Father had many negro slaves etc. if you are interested I will be glad to write more on these lines.

Love to all & Kisses to the kiddies,

Uncle Joe.

The above is copy of Uncle Joe's letter.

I haven't been able to find the letter from Aunt Lillie in which she wrote that her mother's people in Latvia (Russia) had white slaves, that she moved to Austria when she was a little girl (Bohemia). Aunt Lillie also wrote that a cousin of her mother's pretended to be a Catholic to get an education and he was a tutor to a Grand Duke. Aunt Lillie also told me that Solomon Block came to this country with his first cousin Wise, whose son became Rabbi Wise in Cincinnati, and his daughter Effie Wise married Adolph Ochs, the wealthy publisher of a Chattanooga newspaper and a benefactor and a statue in his honor is in Chattanooga. I have a clipping dated March 2, 1925, about Dad's first cousin, Abe Lazarus who was head of the Ritchie Grocery Co. and a High School was named for him in Camden.

I also haven't found the letter from Stanley Block in which he said a Spanish Land Grant was given Solomon Block and I don't know whether this was for the property in Ark. or La. but I assume La. When I locate these letters I'll be glad to copy them for you.