

Loosening the Mortar of the Fuchs Brick Wall

In early 2018 I received an in-mail through Ancestry.com from a woman who saw my DNA relationship and she asked if I was related to Robert Fuchs. I replied yes that he was my maternal grandfather. We began a direct email communication outside of Ancestry.com and have been in contact ever since sharing photos and knowledge. Through email she has introduced me to other Fuchs descendents of my grandfather's siblings. This has resulted in the loosening of the mortar in the Fuchs brick wall. My mother never knew any of these family members that I'm in contact with now, and though she's complained over the years that they she and her sisters never knew anyone else outside the base family, frankly her interest is now quite limited. It is mostly my sister and I engaging with these relatives. My sister and I would like to visit them this year, traveling either to Philadelphia or NY (or both) to meet as many of them as possible. My grandfather was born in NY and that is where his father Adolph Fuchs immigrated to, from somewhere in Austria. Our cousin Deborah Liebowitz lives in Philadelphia and cousin Carol Fuchs-Schneider lives in NY. Deborah and the other members of the family have shared their photos of my grandfather, grandmother, mother, and aunts that I'd never seen before. It's opened up a whole new world to me and extended my sense of family. Since that first contact I've been able to new find information such as a Naturalization record that corroborates an address I've seen elsewhere, and Deborah and I have corroborated dates and names we've both accumulated and are still in the process of verifying.

Right now I'm in the process of narrowing in the possible Shtetls Adolph Fuchs could've come from. I also don't yet know where he and wife Celia Bienenstock married--whether in the U.S. or in Europe--enroute or after route. Having that information would be very helpful. My theory is that they could've possibly met enroute during their individual migrations or shortly thereafter. Neither Deborah nor I have determined 100% which passage records we have are the right ones but we're in agreement on at least one of them that THAT is most likely our relative.

Deborah has a sharp mind that I admire and she can extract unobvious details from documents just like me. She is a cheerleader for all the other family members and they all share freely, with a sense of humor, which I appreciate. Collectively, we can burst through the Fuchs brick wall now that we've loosened up the mortar.