

Myer and Nella Glick



Myer and Nella Glick in 2014.

Photo source: donated by Nella Glick.

Irving Myer Glick was born Icek Meir Galek in the small town of Blonie, Poland, west of Warsaw, in 1926. He had five brothers and one sister. His family owned a hosiery factory. When the war broke out, Myer's family fled east to Warsaw, away from the advancing Germany army, which nevertheless occupied the Polish capital. At first they had an apartment, but soon they, like all Jews in the city, were forced into the Warsaw Ghetto. The conditions in the ghetto were horrible and deteriorated over time, but Myer and his siblings risked everything to slip out of the ghetto and smuggle food in.

During the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in May and April 1943, Myer and his family hid in their building, but the Germans set the building on fire. Myer and his father jumped out of the building to escape the flames, and were captured by the Germans. The rest of the family did not survive. Myer and his father were deported to Majdanek concentration camp, where they survived for four months. Then they were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where they arrived in late 1943. They were separated after arrival, and Myer never saw his father again. **In 1945, Myer was transferred to a labor camp in Austria.** Most of the German guards simply vanished when American troops were nearby.

After liberation, Myer trekked back to Blonie, with an eight month stay in Krakow, where he found cousins who had survived. Later he traveled to Heidenheim (Wasserhausen?) Displaced Persons camp near Stuttgart, in the American occupation zone of Germany. While there, he was contacted by an uncle, who lived in Philadelphia. With the sponsorship of his uncle, Myer immigrated to the United States in 1949. When he arrived in Boston, his uncle greeted him and brought him to Philadelphia. Myer worked in his Uncle's shoe store in Philadelphia, and then set off on his own, selling shoes at flea markets. After saving enough money, Myer started his own shoe store in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Nella Glick was born in the small village of Podlipce, Poland (today in Ukraine). She lived with her parents, Esther and Solomon Distenfeld, her aunt Clara Hochman (later Wasserstrum), and her sister Yetta (later Bergstein). Her family had a home with a few acres of land on which neighbors grew vegetables. Her father owned a flour mill in a nearby village. Nella was only two years old when the war began. She and her sister survived initially by staying with a Christian family, but from nearby villages. Then she,

together with her sister, parents, and Aunt Clara, survived together in barns, attics, and the forest until the arrival of the Russians in 1945; Nella was eight years old.

After liberation, they went to Ainring Displaced Persons camp in Germany. In 1947, sponsored by relatives and with arrangements made by HIAS, Nella and her family arrived in the United States and stayed in New York. In 1952 they moved to Vineland and purchased a chicken farm. Nella graduated from Vineland High School in 1956.

Myer Glick and Nella Distenfeld met on a blind date in 1958, and married in Philadelphia the following year. In 1969, Myer was given a business opportunity to buy Carmel Lumber Company with his brother-in-law, Ben Bergstein. Three years later, Myer opened his own store, Tri-City Lumber in nearby Vineland. After Myer and Nella retired from the lumber business, they remained in Vineland until 2014, when they moved to Marlton, New Jersey to be closer to their three children. Myer passed away in 2017; he was 91 years old, and they had been married 59 years. Nella Glick still lives in Marlton, and has four grand-children and one great-granddaughter (so far)