

*(Rosenbaum - continued from page 3)*

been a struggle to care for, feed, and clothe so many children. My grandfather, L.N., did not talk about his childhood, and L.N.'s wife would write that: "The story of his early life was a subject he disliked to discuss, unlike most so-called self-made men who revel in talking about their past, particularly if they had to overcome seemingly unsurmountable [sic] obstacles such as foreign background, hunger, poverty and crowded tenements. With my husband, his early life had been particularly difficult and was a period to be forgotten."

At some point, David Rosenbaum abandoned his family, and it is not known where he went, how he lived, or where he died. Perhaps his son, L.N., continued to hope that his father would reappear one day because Fani is buried in a double plot in Herzl Memorial Park. However, that space beside Fani remains vacant to this date.



Photo by Don Silverman

First it was her older children and later L.N. who provided for their mother. According to L.N.'s wife: "L.N. was devoted to his mother who seemingly was the only one in the family with any intellectual or artistic tastes; she was able to read and write in an age when most foreign women were illiterate. Also she spoke several languages and was fond of reading. She was a good woman who tried to keep her brood together but, when her husband disappeared and left for parts unknown, she had no alternative but to send her children to work as soon as they were able to earn money."

### **The Next Generation**

Of Fani and David's children, we know the following: Edward became a salesman who married and raised his family in New York City. Benjamin began his working career in a cigar factory. Harry at some point worked in real estate. James lost an arm in a factory accident. Charles ran off and joined the Army to serve in the Philippine Insurrection, lying about his age in order to enlist. He later moved to Hollywood and changed his name to

Harvey Howard. (Nonetheless, when he died in 1928, he was buried as Charles A. Rosenbaum with full military honors. His grave is in what is today called the Los Angeles National Cemetery.) As for "Willie," his occupational listing in the 1900 U.S. Federal Census is, unfortunately, illegible.

Of the daughters, we know that Gussie was married twice. Her first husband was an Italian contractor named Christopher Martini who died in an accident. Apparently, Gussie was a terrific Italian cook, and with the encouragement of Martini, she opened up a small but popular restaurant. Gussie's second husband was a Jewish cook named "Jake," but their attempt to run a restaurant in New Jersey failed. And finally there was Dora, who married Morton Lynn; I was told that Lynn worked for Dunn and Bradstreet. Dora (who died in 1955) and Morton (who died in 1965) are buried in Beth Israel Cemetery in Fresno, CA.

### **The Most Successful Son**

L.N. was the most ambitious of Fani's "brood" and in time, the most successful. He dropped out of public school in New York City at age thirteen and made his way to Nashville, Tennessee, where he was admitted to the bar shortly before his twentieth birthday. Sometime between 1902 and early 1903, L.N. relocated to Seattle, and on February 9, 1903, he was admitted to the Washington State Bar. Shortly thereafter, his mother and several siblings also moved to Seattle.

In the 1905 Seattle City Directory, Mrs. Fannie [sic] Rosenbaum is listed as living at 2011 Yesler Way along with her children Dora, a clerk at Bon Marche; James, a clerk at Pacific Mercantile Law Co; and William, a stripper for the Puget Sound Cigar Company. Fannie [sic] appears again in the 1909 Seattle City Directory as "widow of David," living at 10-119 18th Avenue along with William and Dora. Another of Fani's sons, Edward Rosenbaum, also moved to Seattle. In 1905 he is listed as a traveling salesman, boarding at 105 12th Avenue South, and in 1909, his career is given as "real estate," and he is living at 163 22nd Avenue.

By 1905, L.N.'s law career was beginning to expand into finance and real estate. He was helping to support his mother and several siblings, and some of his brothers would eventually work for him. On March 19, 1905, L. N. wed Bella Weretnikow, a young Russian-Jewish immigrant who graduated in 1901 as a member of the first class of the University of Washington's Law School. Bella and L.N. had five children, Adrian, Joseph, Fran-

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