

Leib/Louis Chrzonstowsky Thorner b:1893 Brzesne or Lipno, Poland, 12/31/1893; **April, 1987 Death Morris, NJ**
+Clara Morrison b circa 1897-1901 Poland or Mir, Russia

Parents

Moses?

Faga B

Siblings: Michal, Marcel?, Josef

Children

Esther M. Thorner Hirshfield b: circa 1925, NY

Blanche R. Thorner Blumenfeld b: circa 1928, NJ

Aug 4, 1913 ship Rotterdam Arrival NYC from Rotterdam. Last residence: Lipno. Birth: Brzesne

Leib Thorner, age 20 Occupation: Tailor; 5 foot, 3 inches, brown hair, brown eyes

Brothers: Michal Thorner; Marcel Korvska, Lipno, Plock; Father: Hersh ??;

Uncle Gedalia Thorner: 155 So. 2nd St, Brooklyn

June 5, 1917 US WW I Draft Registration Card

Louis Thorner Born 30 Dec 1893, Lipno, Plotzk, Poland

1504 W. Jefferson, Los Angeles Trade: Tailor (?), self employed

Single; short, slender, brown hair, brown eyes Fear specified against war

June 19, 1919 Declaration of Intention Leib Chrzonstowsky, aka Louis Thorner

California Southern District, Central Division, Los Angeles, California, District Court

Clock Operator, age 25, 5 feet, 4 inches, 125 lbs., Fair complexion, Brown hair, brown eyes, born in Lipno, Poland, 12/31/1893, now residing at 120 Nevada Street, Los Angeles, CA. Emigrated to US from Rotterdam, Holland, having previously resided in Lodz, Poland. Arrived NYC 8/6/1913. Unmarried.

January 9, 1920 Census Manhattan

Louis Thorner, 26, single

Joseph Thorner, 24, single

Samuel Fox, 24, single

12/23/1924 Marriage Brooklyn, NY Louis Thorner + Clara Morrison

Louis Thorner, Chatham, NY, Age: 2? Occ: operator; Born: Lipno, Russia; Father: Moses? Mother: Faga B

Clara Morrison, 1326 Washington Age: 23 Born: Mir?, Russia Father: Morris Mother:

1930 Census Chatham Township, Morris, NJ (indexed THOMER on FamilySearch)

Louis Thorner	M	36	Poland
Clara Thorner	F	34	Poland
Esther M. Thorner	F	5	New York
Blanche R. Thorner	F	2	New Jersey

April 19, 1940 Census Maple Street, Green Village, Chatham Township, Morris, NJ

Louis Thorner	M	47	Poland
Clara Thorner	F	43	Poland
Esther Thorner	F	15	New York
Blanche Thorner	F	12	New Jersey

April 25, 1942 WW II Draft Registration Card

Birth Date: 31 Dec 1895 Birth Place: Lipno, Poland Nearest Relative: Mrs. Clara Thorner

Maple Street, Chatham Township, Morris, NJ Employer: SunnyFair Dress Co.

April, 1987 Death Morris, NJ

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

ALL ALIENS, in whatsoever class they travel, MUST be fully listed and the master or commanding officer of each vessel carrying such passengers

S. S. Rotterdam sailing from Rotterdam July 26, 1913

Table with columns: No. on List, HEAD TAX EXEMPTIONS, HEAD TAX DEPOSITS, NAME IN FULL (Family Name, Given Name), Age (Yrs. Mos.), Sex, Calling or Occupation, Able to (Read, Write), Nationality (Country of which citizen or subject), Race or People, Last Permanent Residence (Country, City or Town), The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came.

Number of aliens on this sheet to whom collector has been requested to collect head tax:

Last permanent residence in the country in which the alien has not resided for one year or more. List of names will be found on the back of this sheet.

HOLLAND-AMERICA LINE.

STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

1

Must upon arrival deliver lists thereof to the immigration officer. This (white) sheet is for the listing of STEERAGE PASSENGERS ONLY.

Arriving at Port of New York August 4, 1913

Table with columns for No. on List, Final Destination, By whom passage paid, Whether ever before in the United States, Whether going to join a relative or friend, Condition of Health, Deformed or Crippled, Height, Color of Hair and Eyes, Marks of Identification, Place of Birth. Includes handwritten entries for various passengers.

Leib Thorner
155 So 2^d St Brooklyn N.Y.

Form 1 REGISTRATION CARD 2007 No. 20

1 Name in full Louis Thorner Age, in yrs. 27
(Given name) (Family name)

2 Home address 1504 W. Jefferson Los Angeles
(No.) (Street) (City)

3 Date of birth Dec. 30 1893
(Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Alien

5 Where were you born? Lipno Plotzk Poll
(Town) (State) (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? Russia

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Self. 24

8 By whom employed? Self.
 Where employed?

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? No

10 Married or single (which)? Single Race (specify which)? Caucasian

11 What military service have you had? Rank No: branch _____: years _____: Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? After specified against war

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Louis Thorner
(Signature of registrant)

If person is of African descent, tear off this corner

4-48. A

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? Short Slender, medium, or stout (which)? Slender

2 Color of eyes? Brown Color of hair? Black Bald? No

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? No

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Bertha Alexander
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct 567
 City & County Los Angeles
 State Cal.

June 5
(Date of registration)

JANIDIRO

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

ORIGINAL 275 ✓

No. 10875

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

United States of America,
Southern District of California,
County of Los Angeles } ss:

In the District Court of the United States.

Leib Chrzonstowsky known as *Louis Thorne*, aged *25* years,
occupation *Clock Operator*, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Color *White*, complexion *Fair*, height *5* feet *4* inches,
weight *125* pounds, color of hair *Brown*, color of eyes *Brown*
other visible distinctive marks *none*

I was born in *Lipno, Poland*
on the *31st* day of *December*, anno Domini *1893*; I now reside
at *120 Nevada St. Los Angeles*, California.
(Give number, street, and city or town.)

I emigrated to the United States of America from *Potterdam, Holland*
on the vessel *Potterdam*; my last
foreign residence was *Rotterdam, Holland*; I am *not* married; the name
of my wife is _____; she was born at _____
and now resides at _____
(If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given.)

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to _____

THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF RUSSIA, of whom I am now a subject;
I arrived at the port of *New York*
State of *New York*, on or about the *6th* day
of *August*, anno Domini *1913*; I am not an anarchist; I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:
SO HELP ME GOD.

Leib Chrzonstowsky known as *Louis Thorne*
(Original signature of declarant.)

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court
at Los Angeles, Cal., this *19th* day of *June*
anno Domini *1919*

[SEAL]

CHAS. N. WILLIAMS,
Clerk of the U. S. District Court, Southern District of California.
By *Ruth Williams* Deputy Clerk.

Name: Louis Thurner [**Louis Thorner**]
Age: 26 Birth Year: abt 1894 Birthplace: Poland Russia
Home in 1920: Manhattan Assembly District 8, New York, New York
Race: White Gender: Male
Immigration Year: 1913
Relation to Head of House: Head
Marital Status: Single
Father's Birthplace: Poland Russia Mother's Birthplace: Poland Russia
Home Owned: Rent
Able to Read: Yes Able to Write: Yes
[Occupation: operator, cloak, suits]

Household Members:

Louis Thurner 26
Joseph Thurner 24
Samuel Fox 24

Name: Joseph Thurner [**Joseph Thorner**]
Age: 24 Birth Year: abt 1896
Birthplace: Poland Russia
Home in 1920: Manhattan Assembly District 8, New York, New York
Race: White Gender: Male
Immigration Year: 1912
Relation to Head of House: Brother
Marital Status: Single
Father's Birthplace: Poland Russia Mother's Birthplace: Poland Russia
Able to Read: Yes Able to Write: Yes
[Occupation: Labor]

Name: **Samuel Fox**
Age: 24
Birth Year: abt 1896
Birthplace: Russia
Home in 1920: Manhattan Assembly District 8, New York, New York
Race: White Gender: Male
Immigration Year: 1910
Relation to Head of House: Boarder
Marital Status: Single
Father's Birthplace: Russia Mother's Birthplace: Russia
Able to Read: Yes Able to Write: Yes
[Occupation: Shipping clerk]

Source Citation: Year: 1920; Census Place: Manhattan Assembly District 8, New York, New York; Roll: T625_1199; Page: 9B; Enumeration District: 610; Image: 601. **Source Information:** Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. **Original data:** Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920. (NARA microfilm publication T625, 2076 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. For details on the contents of the film numbers, visit the following NARA web page: . Note: Enumeration Districts 819-839 are on roll 323 (Chicago City). **Description:** This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1920 United States Federal Census, the Fourteenth Census of the United States. It includes all states and territories, as well as Military and Naval Forces, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and the Panama Canal Zone. The census provides many details about individuals and families including: name, gender, age, birthplace, year of immigration, mother tongue, and parents' birthplaces. In addition, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1920 Federal Census. © 2013, The Generations Network, Inc.

CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF MARRIAGES

6732

Louis Thorner

and (Bride)

Clara Morrison

Wetham	Bride's Residence	13 26 Washington
24	Age	23
white	Race	white
Single	Status	Single
Apostrophe of the	Name	Miss Russia
Clara Morrison	Name	Morrison
Single	Status	Single
First	Name	Clara

Handwritten signature or stamp at the bottom of the document.

WE hereby certify that we are the Groom and Bride named in this Certificate, and that the information given therein is correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Louis Thorner Groom

Clara Morrison Bride

Signed in the presence of

Louis Sanders

and

Abram Schneider

It shall be the duty of the clergyman, magistrates and other persons who perform the marriage ceremony to keep a registry of the marriages celebrated by them. Every person authorized by law to perform the marriage ceremony shall register his or her name and address in the office of the Bureau of Records (Sec. 26, Sanitary Code). It shall be the duty of every person required to make or keep any such registry, or to present to the Bureau of Records a copy of such registry signed by such person, within ten days after the marriage. A copy of such registry shall thereupon be placed on file in the said Bureau (Sec. 26, Sanitary Code). Sec. 1239, Chap. 532, Laws of 1905, makes the failure to report within ten days a written copy of a copy of the marriages provided to be registered a misdemeanor, punishable by fine or imprisonment.

Name: Louis Thomer [sic] Thorner
Gender: Male
Birth Year: abt 1894
Birthplace: Poland
Race: White
Home in 1930: Chatham, Morris, New Jersey
Map of Home: [View Map](#)
Marital Status: Married
Immigration Year: 1913
Relation to Head of House: Head
Spouse's Name: Clara Thomer
Father's Birthplace: Poland
Mother's Birthplace: Poland
Occupation: [Dress Operator]

Education:
Military service:
Rent/home value:
Age at first marriage:
Parents' birthplace: [Poland, Poland]
[Veteran: No]

Household Members:

Name	Age
Louis Thomer	36
Clara Thomer	34
Esther M Thomer	5
Blanche R Thomer	2 [2 1/12]

Source Citation: Year: 1930; Census Place: Chatham, Morris, New Jersey; Roll: 1373; Page: 2B; Enumeration District: 12; Image: 312.0; FHL microfilm: 2341108.

Source Information: Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002.

Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626, 2,667 rolls.

Description: The 1930 Census contains records for approximately 123 million Americans. The census gives us a glimpse into the lives of Americans in 1930, and contains information about a household's family members and occupants including: birthplaces, occupations, immigration, citizenship, and military service. The names of those listed in the census are linked to actual images of the 1930 Census. [Learn more...](#)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State New Jersey
County Morris
Township or other division of county Township of Chatham

Enumeration District No. 14-12
Supervisor's District No. 1
Sheet No. 2 B

Enumerated by me on April 4th 1930, Edward Freyler, Enumerator 5051

Main census table with columns: PLACE OF ABODE, NAME, RELATION, HOME DATA, PERSONAL DESCRIPTION, EDUCATION, PLACE OF BIRTH, MOTHER TONGUE OR NATIVE LANGUAGE OF FOREIGN BORN, CITIZENSHIP, ETC., OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY, EMPLOYMENT, VETERANS. Includes handwritten entries for Philip and Estrella, and a large section for the Thorner family.

Vertical handwritten notes on the left margin: 'Chatham, N.J.', '4-11', '4-14', '4-15', '4-16', '4-17', '4-18', '4-19', '4-20', '4-21', '4-22', '4-23', '4-24', '4-25', '4-26', '4-27', '4-28', '4-29', '4-30', '4-31', '4-32', '4-33', '4-34', '4-35', '4-36', '4-37', '4-38', '4-39', '4-40', '4-41', '4-42', '4-43', '4-44', '4-45', '4-46', '4-47', '4-48', '4-49', '4-50', '4-51', '4-52', '4-53', '4-54', '4-55', '4-56', '4-57', '4-58', '4-59', '4-60', '4-61', '4-62', '4-63', '4-64', '4-65', '4-66', '4-67', '4-68', '4-69', '4-70', '4-71', '4-72', '4-73', '4-74', '4-75', '4-76', '4-77', '4-78', '4-79', '4-80', '4-81', '4-82', '4-83', '4-84', '4-85', '4-86', '4-87', '4-88', '4-89', '4-90', '4-91', '4-92', '4-93', '4-94', '4-95', '4-96', '4-97', '4-98', '4-99', '4-100'.

ABBREVIATIONS TO BE USED IN COLUMNS INDICATED: Col. 1-White, Col. 2-Black, Col. 3-Other race, Col. 4-Male, Col. 5-Female, Col. 6-Under 5, Col. 7-5-9, Col. 8-10-14, Col. 9-15-17, Col. 10-18-20, Col. 11-21-24, Col. 12-25-34, Col. 13-35-44, Col. 14-45-64, Col. 15-65-74, Col. 16-75-94, Col. 17-95-104, Col. 18-105-114, Col. 19-115-124, Col. 20-125-134, Col. 21-135-144, Col. 22-145-154, Col. 23-155-164, Col. 24-165-174, Col. 25-175-184, Col. 26-185-194, Col. 27-195-204, Col. 28-205-214, Col. 29-215-224, Col. 30-225-234, Col. 31-235-244, Col. 32-245-254, Col. 33-255-264, Col. 34-265-274, Col. 35-275-284, Col. 36-285-294, Col. 37-295-304, Col. 38-305-314, Col. 39-315-324, Col. 40-325-334, Col. 41-335-344, Col. 42-345-354, Col. 43-355-364, Col. 44-365-374, Col. 45-375-384, Col. 46-385-394, Col. 47-395-404, Col. 48-405-414, Col. 49-415-424, Col. 50-425-434, Col. 51-435-444, Col. 52-445-454, Col. 53-455-464, Col. 54-465-474, Col. 55-475-484, Col. 56-485-494, Col. 57-495-504, Col. 58-505-514, Col. 59-515-524, Col. 60-525-534, Col. 61-535-544, Col. 62-545-554, Col. 63-555-564, Col. 64-565-574, Col. 65-575-584, Col. 66-585-594, Col. 67-595-604, Col. 68-605-614, Col. 69-615-624, Col. 70-625-634, Col. 71-635-644, Col. 72-645-654, Col. 73-655-664, Col. 74-665-674, Col. 75-675-684, Col. 76-685-694, Col. 77-695-704, Col. 78-705-714, Col. 79-715-724, Col. 80-725-734, Col. 81-735-744, Col. 82-745-754, Col. 83-755-764, Col. 84-765-774, Col. 85-775-784, Col. 86-785-794, Col. 87-795-804, Col. 88-805-814, Col. 89-815-824, Col. 90-825-834, Col. 91-835-844, Col. 92-845-854, Col. 93-855-864, Col. 94-865-874, Col. 95-875-884, Col. 96-885-894, Col. 97-895-904, Col. 98-905-914, Col. 99-915-924, Col. 100-925-934.

name: **Louis Thorner**

event year: 1940

event place: [Maple Street,] Green Village, Chatham Township, Morris, New Jersey, United States

gender: Male

age: 47

marital status: Married

race (standardized): White

relationship to head of household (original):

relationship to head of household (standardized): Head

birthplace: Poland

estimated birth year: 1893

residence in 1935: Same House

[Occupation: Dress or Press Operator, Press Factory]

Household	Gender	Age	Birthplace		
head	Louis Thorner	M	47	Poland	
wife	Clara Thorner	F	43	Poland	
daughter	Esther Thorner		F	15	New York
daughter	Blanche Thorner		F	12	New Jersey

Citing this Record

enumeration district number: 14-17

family number: 207

sheet number and letter: 10A

line number: 20

nara publication number: T627

nara roll number: 2370

digital folder number: 005462108

image number: 00470

"United States Census, 1940," index and images, FamilySearch

(<https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/K4TN-8VT> : accessed 09 Feb 2013), Louis Thorner, Green Village, Chatham Township, Morris, New Jersey, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 14-17, sheet 10A, family 207, NARA digital publication T627, roll 2370.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

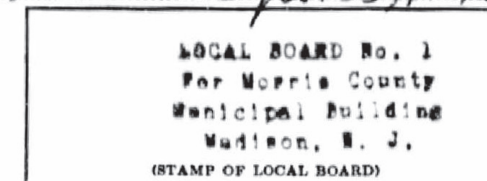
SERIAL NUMBER U 29411	1. NAME (Print) Louis Thorner		ORDER NUMBER
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) Maple St., Chatham Twp. Morris N. J.			
3. MAILING ADDRESS Maple St., Chatham, N. J.			
4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS 47	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Lipno	
DATE OF BIRTH Dec. 31 1895		Poland.	
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Clara Thorner, Maple St., Chatham, N. J.			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Sunnyfair Dress Co. 589 Eighth Ave., New York.			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Same			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
D. S. S. FORM 1 (Revised 4-1-42)	(over)	16-21630-2	Louis Thorner (Registrant's signature)

REGISTRAR'S REPORT					
DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT					
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION		
White	5'4"	130	Sallow		
Negro	EYES		HAIR		
	Blue		Blonde		Ruddy
Oriental	Gray		Red		Dark
	Hazel		Brown		Freckled
Indian	Brown		Black		Light brown
	Black		Gray		Dark brown
Filipino			Bald		Black

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification.....

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrar for Local Board.....
 Signature of registrar: *Harold L. Spier*
 (Number) (City or county) (State)
 Date of registration: *Apr 25, 1942*



(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)

Source Citation: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); Washington, D.C.; State Headquarters: New Jersey. Source Information: Ancestry.com. U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: United States, Selective Service System. Selective Service Registration Cards, World War II: Fourth Registration. National Archives and Records Administration Branch locations: National Archives and Records Administration Region Branches. Description: This database is an indexed collection of the draft cards from the Fourth Registration, the only registration currently available to the public (the other registrations are not available due to privacy laws). The Fourth Registration, often referred to as the "old man's registration", was conducted on 27 April 1942. The records include name of registrant, age, birth date, birthplace, residence, employer information, and physical description. © 2013, The Generations Network, Inc.

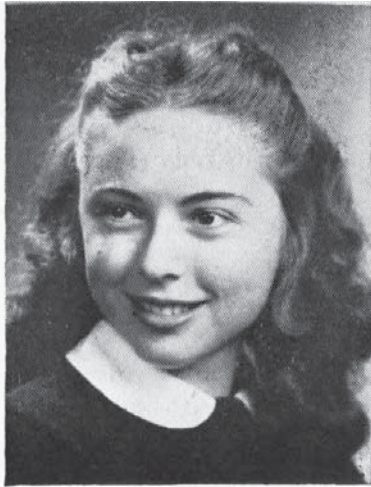
Name: Blanche Ruth Thorner

1946

Estimated Birth Year: abt 1926 Age: 20

School: Chatham High School School Location: Chatham, New Jersey

Year: 1946



Blanche Ruth Thorner

Willing she is and eager to please; what other virtues are better than these?

Among Blanche's various activities were the Press Club, *Chatter* Board, and the G.A.A. She played after-school basketball and hockey. As a member of the public speaking class during her senior year, she held a role in "Murder Is Fun." Her hobbies include bike-riding, piano playing, and sewing. After graduation, Blanche plans to further her education by entering college and majoring in medicine.

(26)

Source Information: Ancestry.com. U.S. School Yearbooks [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

Original data: Various school yearbooks from across the United States.

Description: This database is a collection of middle school, junior high, high school, and college yearbooks from across the United States. While yearbooks may not provide information about the vital events that are usually associated with genealogical research, they do provide other information about individuals' lives. This information helps place people in historical context as well as provides detail that helps turn individuals, sometimes only known by names and dates, into actual people.

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Stories of prosperous farms, huge rose-growing greenhouses, and times enjoyed in simple, bucolic settings make up the township's history in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Chatham Township is an embodiment of these historical stories and images. There was a time when the marshes of the Great Swamp were hunting grounds for huckleberries, when a Noe family horse pulled milk carts through the streets, and even, it was whispered, when the massive, three-story, Greek Revival Boisaubin mansion was used as a stop along the Underground Railroad. One of the most notable stories is of a lady known as Madame Bey, who opened a camp for prizefighters, making Chatham Township a sports page dateline known throughout the country.

Seven

A COMMUNAL EXPERIENCE

Shortly after World War I, a small group of Jewish immigrants living in New York City dreamed of an experiment in communal living. They hoped to get back to nature living outside of the city and were eager to obtain better education for their children. Most wanted to continue working in New York and needed a railroad to carry them into the city. In 1922, they chose about 100 heavily wooded acres in the Floral Hill section of Chatham Township, close to the Chatham Borough line and running north along Lafayette Avenue to just beyond Southern Boulevard. They divided the property by lot, as could be expected in an idealistic colony. Most members were highly educated, but the group included all walks of life: teachers, artists, newspaper editors, a real estate broker, several tailors, a movie producer, a printer, and a few musicians. Some descendants of the founders still live there, but nearly all original houses have been much remodeled or replaced. Louis **Thorner** (right), one of the founders of the Colony Association, bought two acres in 1922. He was a tailor by trade but planted an orchard and raised vegetables and fruit for sale at his property.





This is the simple house that Louis **Thomer** built. The vegetables and fruit that he produced in his small orchard and large garden were sold from a stand in front of his property. His daughter, Blanche **Thomer** Blumenfeld, tore down the small original house and built a new home at the site, 12 Maple Street.



The association set aside five acres of land at the corner of School Avenue and Spring Street for a school and social center. The school was never built, but the social center has survived as Colony Pool. Nearly all children attended classes in the Red Brick School until 1929, when Southern Boulevard School was opened. Bernard Sommer bought the three-story mansion above, at 269 Lafayette Avenue, and conducted a private school there until the Great Depression ended his venture. In local lore, the school became known as the Big Mistake.



On May 26, 1986, the Chatham Township Historical Society hosted a panel to discuss the colony's history. Shown from left to right, panelists Florence Robbins Stea, Goldie Chibka, **Esther Thorner** Hirshfield, and Jennie Switzen talked of the pleasant surprise early colonists had when surrounding neighbors were friendly. They talked of education, the pond, the Samovar Tea House, the sales of lots, and many other things that formed a lasting colony in the township.



When Louis Thorner's wife, Clara Morrison Thorner, refused to live in a tent, he came out from New York on weekends and built a two-room house. They later added two rooms and a porch on ground level and, as the years passed, built upstairs rooms and an interior stairway. Finally, Clara was able to relax in a deck chair with her cat, leading a simpler, easier life.