

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Maurice Berkman**

Mr. Maurice Berkman is currently a resident of Houston, Texas. But he spent 45 years of his life running a grocery store in Simonton, Texas. He begins his interview with recollections of his father, Harry Berkman, who grew up in Visneva, Russia but immigrated to Galveston, Texas in 1911. In 1913 he joined the American military to fight in World War I. In order to do so he had to sign a Declaration of Intention renouncing his allegiance to any foreign prince.

27 Pages

⇓ *Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview.* ⇓

Interview Summary

People

Dr. Dailey
 Nicholas II, Emperor of all Russia
 Isadore Berkman (Uncle, a tailor)
 Rabbi Jacob Keilin
 Dora Glick (Mr. Berkman's mother from Lwow, Poland)
 Oshman Family
 Arthur Berkman (Brother who died in Italy in WWII)
 Mitch Mayes (store in Fulshear)
 Mullins Family
 Dr. Denton Cooley
 Walter Cronkite
 Florence Feit Berkman (Wife)
 Leon Hale (magazine article 1964)
 Jim Reno (Sculptor)
 Mr. Harkins (horse training)
 Stephen F. Austin (Westfall League)
 Spence Family (Jackie Spencer)

Places / Businesses

Vishneva, Russia
 Port of Galveston
 Simonton, Texas
 Eagle Lake, Texas
 Rosenberg, Texas
 Houston, Texas
 Fulshear, Texas
 Jewish synagogue in Wharton
 San Jacinto high School
 Weingartens Grocery
 Dewalt, Texas
 The Aleutian Islands in WWII (Attu, Kiska, and Dutch harbor)
 Lehmanns in Rosenberg

Events

Declaration of Intention
 Ellis Island vs Galveston as an immigration port
 Prohibition Era
 Flood of 1913
 Jewish heritage
 Prejudice Klu Klux Klan
 Masons
 Crisco, sugar and coffee