

My grandfather Harris Bright, who I never met, because my grandparents divorced in the 30's, was married to Chia Idel, called Ida. I was 6 when she died, but I do remember her letting me comb her long white hair.

Well, they had 8 children. But the first 2 boys died at birth. Then they had Leonard, birth name was Leib, but when he went to the US in his teens he changed it to Leonard. Next was Sophie, then my mother Sara. They moved from Poland to Paris, where Marie was born. My mother told me that her father was a difficult man. Harris and family moved to London. They settled in Soho, the French quarter of London, and they all spoke Yiddish, French and English! My grandfather had a tobacconists and newspaper shop, I think in Wardour Street, and his was the first shop in the West End to sell Yiddish newspapers. Then Minnie was born, and after her was a boy called Bernard. He was what they called a 'blue baby', meaning probably a hole in his heart, and he died on his first birthday, my mother said. Minnie was named after Harris's mother, my great grandmother – yours too?wife.. Mother also said that Harris had nephews that were old men when he was a child. remember Mossy Bright very well, they used to visit us in Staines. About 65 years ago I do remember him telling my husband , who was a Civil Servant, that he should leave the Ministry of Education and get a job buying and selling. But no, he retired at 55, and has been receiving a Government pension, for the past 38 years! My husband Cyril is 93, and I am 88. We have recently become great grandparents! We have 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

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My mother said they came from Warsaw, but I now know that is doubtful, because I have been told that at that time Jews were not allowed to live there. There is a town in the south of Poland with a name very like Warsaw where a lot of Jews lived. We had an Israeli brother in law who was born there, the 8th of 9 children, but go to Israel in 1939.

Brenda Dombey is my first cousin, Marie and Simon's daughter. Her sister is Adrienne Paknadel – Powell, and she lives in Ottawa. Stephen is Brenda's son, and he lives in Toronto. I don't have his email address, but you could email Brenda.

Adrienne is also interested in the family history, though her recollections sometimes differ from mine! She was the youngest in the family and used to visit relations with her parents, whereas there were 4 of us, born over 10 years, so we were not usually taken with, though I do remember going to Danny and Fanny's sweet shop. During the war Aunty, as we called her, Fanny used to stay with us in Staines to get away from the bombing. We did get bombed because they wanted to destroy Staines Bridge, but it wasn't as bad as London