



Gramma Heddy:

Maiden name Hedwig ~~Ersehen(?)~~ ^{Josephine} Grass.

Hedwig's mom ^(G.G.Ma) was born in Austria

about 1872, in a town near the border with the Swiss Alps. Named Ersehen(?) 

Hedwig's mom's mom (G.G.G.Ma) was an uneducated woman (Austrian or French). Our G.G. Grandpa was French, an architect and builder of bridges. A small town in France was named after him. He was gone a lot for his work. He usually came home in the winter, and there was usually a new child just born. Their daughter, our great gramma, was very smart. She finished 2 yrs. of high school which was then equal to 4 now, and was quite an achievement. She & her ~~an~~ father wanted her to continue her education, but her mother refused to let her. So at 14 ~~3~~ her father shipped her to the U.S. to make her way. She worked as a house-

keeper for doctors & such. 

Gramma's father (our g. gpa) was born in the German Rhineland. His father was English. He had 1 sister & 4 brothers. His 4 brothers were all killed in WWI. His sister came to the states after he was married, with her husband & son. But her husband got sick & died, and she & her son returned home. Our great grandpa came to the U.S. alone at 15.

— So... G. gma & G. gpa met & married; they were both older when they married. Gramma was their only child— her mother was 36 when she was born. Her folks had a saloon business, which did very well. The mother was the brains behind it — financial & paperwork. Father was the people-person. Gram's mom didn't see her family again for 38 yrs. She returned to Austria and her mother died the next day. When she returned to

the U.S. ^{about 4 months later} she was sick, and died about 2 years later. Gramma was just 18.

After that it was just Gramma & her pop. Gramma wanted very badly to be a physical education teacher, but her father said absolutely no. This decision was made when her mother was still alive. Her mother was on Gramma's side, but in those days father's had the last say. So she changed to commercial studies, and got a job in the mailroom at Long Island Railroad. She stayed on there after graduation. She and Ray (grandpa) were married when she was 25 and he 26.

Grandma Heddy's mom was born 1872 or 3

she was 25 & he 26. They lived in her old house & took care of her father.

Ray had a sister Marion, 5 yrs. younger, and a brother Charles, 14 yrs. younger. Gramma & Ray double-dated w/ Marion & Jack. Gramma was friends w/ Muriel Agnelli (mother of Barbra's husband). Muriel & Joe (everyone loved her, he wasn't so popular), had 3 kids: Bernie, Joey & Artie. Artie & Dad were good friends - both very mechanically minded. Mom & Dad met each other thru Artie. Agnelli's had a summer place I think, and Donovan's used to stay up there sometimes and Dad would come up to visit - on his motorcycle, wearing his black leather jacket! Bernie & Joey were real brains, went to fancy schools, got fancy jobs. Their father pressured Artie to follow in the footsteps, but he was of a different mold, and couldn't take the fancy ^{military} schools. He wanted to go into aviation mechanics, and now he's an overseas pilot, making more money than his brothers ever did. - Ed Gerlach played in a jazz band w/ Barbra U. They dated sometimes. Pat D. went out w/ Joey A. once in a while, though she found him kind of boring. Pat & Ed ended up married, as

did Barbra & Bernie. -

Gramma's father lived w/ her until he died, 2 months after I was born. Mom was married at 20, just after Dad graduated from Brooklyn Polytech & Mom had finished 2 yrs. at L.I. AAT. Dad had offers from Boeing & from N.Y. companies. But he suspected that the N.Y. firms wouldn't ever go anywhere, and he was right. He felt he had a much better future w/ Boeing. So they married in June when he'd graduated and left for Renton (Burien). Boeing more or less paid for the trip out, & they drove. Dad still had 6 mos. military and Boeing gave him leave. They came back to N.Y. and Mom moved into Gram's while Dad was in Va. in army. Mom was 8 mos. pregnant w/ me. I was born in July & they left again for WA. in September, this time taking the rest of their things w/ them. Just before they left, mom's grandpa died. He was 81. A few years later Dad had to

Joseph Meyer
1885-1915
Doctor

Marie Sothy Meyer
1858-1951
Housewife

Albert Meyer
1881-1973

Tax Assessor

Walter Meyer
1895-1963

Watchmaker

Martha Meyer
1886-1960

Stock Broker

Thelma Meyer
1889-1939

—

Louise Meyer
1888-1968

R.N.

Charles Meyer
1882-1885

—

McLair Donovan
1882-1944
NYC Employee

Josephine Meyer
Donovan
1884-1932
Housewife

Julius Gras
1879-1959

Pauline Englem
Gras
1881-1933



Hedwig Josephine Gras