

SETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

New York, NY 1869

The first Breakstone family member in New York was Bernard (Chaim Ber) Breakstone (Brechstein) who arrived in 1869.¹ Lippa Bregstein arrived in New York in 1870², as did Bernhard Frankel.³ Amelia Breakstone arrived in America in 1872 and was living on the Lower East Side in 1874.⁴ Her sister, Anna Breakstone, arrived in 1878.⁵

Scranton, PA 1871

The earliest Breakstone in Scranton was Jacob Breckstein, who is recorded as living in Scranton in 1871.⁶ His wife and four children came over in 1874.⁷ Isaac Brekstone, Jacob's first cousin, was peddling there, around 1883⁸ and Joseph Breckstein, Jacob's first cousin, lived there for one year in 1884. In 1889, Julius (Yehuda Reuben) Breckstein, Jacob's brother, settled in Scranton with his family, as well.⁹

Wilkes Barre, PA 1876-1901

Bernard Breakstone and his family moved from New York (see above) to Wilkes Barre, by 1876.¹⁰ Bernhard Frankel moved to Wilkes Barre from New York (see above) by 1875.¹¹ Somewhere between 1882-1884, Abraham Breakstone moved to Wilkes Barre¹² and Isaac Brekstone worked as a salesman for Bernard.¹³

Chicago, IL 1878

Kuhne Breakstone Bressler arrived in Chicago in 1878.¹⁴

Texas, PA 1880

Berman Breckstone and his brother, Lewis (Lippa) (see above) were living in Texas, PA in 1880.¹⁵

Honesdale, PA 1881

Lippa Bregstein (see Texas, and New York, above) and his brother, Julius Bregstein, were living there in 1881.¹⁶

Troy, NY 1882

Rev. Louis Brackstein was found there from 1882-1886.¹⁷

Washington, D.C. 1883

Living in D.C. in 1883, was Isadore Wolfe Samuels, the pastor of the Hebrew Orthodox Congregation.¹⁸

(New York, NY 1884)

In 1884, Julius Brekstone moved from Scranton and settled in New York. In 1885, Joseph Brekstone also moved from Scranton to New York and lived there with his cousin, Morris Brekstone.¹⁹ (See Scranton, above). In 1886, Louis Breckstein moved from Troy to New York. By 1888, (and possibly by 1885), Isaac Brekstone, Joseph's brother, settled there, as did Jacob Brackstein.²⁰ In 1889, Abraham Breakstone moved to New York from Wilkes Barre.

Burlington, VT 1886/87

The earliest family member in Vermont was Israel Bregstein.²¹

Rochester, NY 1888

Isaac Bregstone (Breakstone) was living there until 1890. Morris Brekstone was living there in 1888 and 1889.²²

Carbondale, PA 1890

Joseph Breckstein was found there in 1890. Celia Breckstein Stone in 1892.²³

Buffalo, NY 1890

Isaac Bregstone moved from Rochester and lived there in 1890.²⁴

Duluth, MN 1891

Samuel Breakstone was living in Superior, in 1891.²⁵

Detroit, MI 1894

Rachel Lightstone Goodman was found there in 1894, as was her brother, Eli Lightstone.²⁶ Morris Breckstein was living there in 1900.²⁷

(Chicago, IL 1893)

Benjamin H. Breakstone was enrolled in Chicago College in 1893. By 1896, (and possibly before), his brother, Bernard was living there, as well as three other Breakstone families: Jacob Brekstein ; Selig Brekstone; and Hinda Breakstone Horwich.²⁸

Ontario, Canada 1894

Isaac Bregstone was living there in 1894.²⁹

San Francisco, CA 1895/96

Henry H. Bregstone lived there for one year.³⁰

Corinth, MS 1898

Samuel Brackstone moved there in 1898.³¹

Louisville, KY 1900

Isaac Bregstone was living there in 1900 before moving to Chicago in 1901 or 1906.³²

Richwood, WV 1900

Moses Breckstein and his family moved there from Pennsylvania in 1900.³³

Pittsburgh, PA 1905

In 1905, was found Samuel Breakstone, together with his sisters, Sarah Breakstone Silverman, and Lillian Breakstone Silverman.³⁴

¹ (See the Hamburg Indirect Passenger List 1855-1873, p. 450, which lists a Berka Brechstein, age 18, from Poniman, Poland, who left Hamburg on 8/13/1869. The 1900 PA US Census, also states he arrived in the U.S. in 1869. 1871 NY, NY birth certificate states that his daughter, Emielie Brechstein was born 12/23/1871.)

² The records of the Koenigsburg Relief Committee state that he left Hamburg for America in March, 1870 (See Szajkowski, Zosa, "The First Organized Emigration from Eastern Europe to the U.S.:1869-1870", YIVO Bleter, YIVO, #40, 1956); Ship's Manifest for Prince Albert, Hamburg to NY, arrived 4/20/1870, lists Lippa Brockstein, his wife, Bertha, and son, Moses. Apparently, he lived in New York until 1879, when he then moved to Pennsylvania. (See U.S. 1880 PA Census, "Lewis Brackstine", Texas, PA., which states that Lippa's son, Markis, was born in NY in 1873, his daughter, Rachel, in New York in 1875 and his son, Goodman, in PA in 1879.)

³ New York Passenger Arrival record, 11/17/1870, Anglia from Sweden, "Bernhard Frankel," age 22. (Bernhard was the son of Chaya (Klara) Bregshstein, married to Samuel Frankel.

⁴ (See 1874 NY City Directory and 1900 NY, NY, US Census, ED 930, Sheet 12B, lines 56,57, which states that Amelia arrived in 1872.) She married Samuel Wisansky in 1872 (1900 US Census). Did they previously know one another in Lithuania? The 1900 NY US Census stated that Samuel arrived in 1865, though there is no NY city directory record of him until 1874. The 1920 US Census (Bronx, NY, “Samuel Wisansky”) stated that he emigrated in 1869.

⁵ Anna, in 1879/1880, married Samuel Wisansky’s brother, Louis, who arrived in 1874/75. (See 1900 NY, NY US census, ED 78, p. 13A, lines 30,31; and 1910 US Census, NY, NY, ED 438, Sheet 8A, lines 12,13). Could it be that she knew Louis in Lithuania, before she immigrated?

⁶ He is listed as a member of Congregation Benai Abraham and Jacob in 1871. (See History of Scranton, PA, United Brethren Pub. Hs., Dayton, Ohio, 1891, p. 480). He is found as a peddler in the 1876-1877 Scranton City Directory. The 1880 US census states that his youngest son, Benjamin was born in Russia in 1876/ 77. The 1900 census states that his son, Philip, was born in Scranton in 1872. (No mention of Jacob is found in the 1870/71; 1873; and 1875 Scranton City directories.) His son, Moses Breckstine was living there in 1882. (See 1880-1882 Wilkes Barre City Directory).

⁷ 1874 Hamburg Passenger List, “Rebecka Breckstein”, 8/28/1874. From “Paminon.”

⁸ Harold Rodman (Isaac’s grandson) account in Breakstone World, January, 1932.

⁹ (See 1882-1889 Scranton City Directories).

¹⁰ He worked as a food merchant. He appeared first in the Wilkes Barre paper, Record of the Times, on 8/24/1877 as B Breakstone and appears in the 1880 PA Census and the Wilkes Barre 1882-1884 City Directory as Henry B. Breakstone. Later, he will appear as Bernhard and Bennett. According to the US 1880 and 1900 Censuses for PA, his daughter, Sadie, was born in 1876 in PA. “Wilkes Barre, PA,” *American Israelite*, 2/20/1896 stated that his family moved from NY to Wilkes Barre in 1872.

¹¹ His son, Louis Frank, was born there in January of 1875.

¹² Abraham’s death certificate stated that he emigrated to the U.S. in 1880. He is found in the 1882-1884, and the 1888 Wilkes Barre Directory. He worked in Bernard’s store as a clerk. He then shows up for the first time in the 1889 New York City Directory, working in produce.

¹³ Harold Rodman (Op. Cit.).

¹⁴ She was married to Robert (Shebsel/Solomon) Bressler in 1870. He arrived in 1875 and Kuhne arrived with their 3 children in 1878. Their daughter Etta was born in Chicago in Feb. of 1879. (See 1900 US Census, Chicago, IL, ED 606, Sheet 15B, lines 64-71).

¹⁵ Berman had actually arrived in America in 1875, and may have been living in PA. since then. (See Emigrant Register of the Police Chamber of Malmo, 1875, 1875:68:1057 which show him sailing from Malmo, Sweden, to NY on October 15th, 1875; 1900 and 1920 US NY Census, which list Berman as immigrating in 1874/1875; and his son, Nathan's 1910 NY census statement, that he was born in PA in 1875). (Berman's statement in the 1880 US census that Nathan was born in Pennsylvania in 1873 is not correct.) Both Berman and Lewis (Lippa) were recorded as living in Texas, PA, and working as tin peddlers in the US 1880 PA census.

¹⁶ Julius had arrived in America in 1880. (See 1900 and 1920 NY Census and "The Bregstein Story", Jessie Tratnor). Honesdale is the next town to the east of Texas, PA.

¹⁷ (See Troy City Directory, 1882.) In 1886, he moved to New York. (See 1886 NY City Directory).

¹⁸ (See Boyd's City Directory, Washington, D.C., 1883).

¹⁹ Though Morris Breakstone stated in the US NY 1920 Census that he arrived in 1874, his name does not appear in city records until 1885.

²⁰ (See NY City Directories 1874-1889).

²¹ (See 1886/87 Burlington City Directory, where he is listed as a Boarder and a peddler). According to the 1900 VT census, he arrived to the U.S. in 1886. According to the 1910 VT census, he arrived in 1883.

²² (See Rochester City Directory 1888-1891). According to the 1900 Kentucky census, Isaac arrived in the U.S. in 1878. The 1910 IL census, lists his arrival date as 1885. Could Isaac have been living in Rochester before 1888?

²³ (See Carbondale City Directory, 1890, 1892.) Celia's husband was Hyman Stone (B113).

²⁴ (See City Directory, 1890.) He was working as a tailor.

²⁵ (See Duluth City Directory).

²⁶ (See Polk and Trow's Detroit City Directories, 1894.) Rachel was married to Hyman Goodman (B652).

²⁷ 1900 Detroit City Directory.

²⁸ (See Chicago City Directories, 1896; and biography of Benjamin H. Breakstone in Currey, J Seymour, Chicago, Its History and Its Builders: A Century of Marvelous Growth, S.J. Clark Pub. Co., 1912, Chap. Five, p. 340). Hinda Sara Bregstone was married to Hirsch Horwich. Isaac Bregstone was living there in either 1901 or 1906, when his son, Philip was born. (See U.S. 1910 Ill. census).

²⁹ (See 1900 Kentucky census which shows three children born to Isaac in Canada between 1894-1899; and interviews with Fern Heman, Elaine Finder and Cliff Bregstone who stated that Isaac's son, Charles, was born in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1895.)

³⁰ 1896 San Francisco City Directory.

³¹ Rachel Clothier, Images of America: Corinth (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2009), p. 43. (Also, see 1900 US Mississippi Census.)

³² (See 1900 KY census). He might have lived there, as well, in 1893/94 when he married his wife, Estele, who was born in Kentucky.

³³ Abraham Isaac Shinedling, West Virginia Jewry: Origins and History 1850-1958, 1963, pp.1197-1199

³⁴ (See Pittsburgh City Directory, 1905.) Sarah was married to Harry Silverman. Lillian was married to Henry B. Silverman.