

The Garniers: Two German Immigrants Begin an American Family

1. **ROBERT EMIL**¹ **GARNIER** was born 9 November 1865 in Friedrichsdorf, Germany and died in Queens, New York on 29 May 1945.¹ He married **AUGUSTA CAROLINE WILHELMINE KORNSTEDT** on 24 March 1887 in Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey.² She was born 2 August 1867 in Bredow, Pomerania, Prussia.³ She died 31 October 1947 in Hollis, Queens, New York.⁴

The Parentage of Robert Emil Garnier

Although Robert's death certificate lists his father as Emil and his mother as unknown, Augusta, the informant, can be considered an unreliable source for these pieces of information as she likely never met her husband's parents.⁵

Robert is believed to have been the son of Frederic Alexandre Garnier and his second wife, Marie Marguerite Lotz.⁶ The evidence supporting this includes:

- The marriage return filed for Robert and Augusta's wedding lists Robert's parents as Alexander Garnier and Marie Lutz.⁷ Although he gives his father's middle name instead of his formal name, and a slight difference in

¹ Borough of Queens, New York, Department of Health, death certificate no. 4381 (1945), Robert E. Garnier; New York City Municipal Archives, New York, New York.

² State of New Jersey, marriage return (24 March 1887), Robert Emil Garnier – Auguste Kornstedt; New Jersey State Archives, Trenton.

³ "Germany, Select Births and Baptisms, 1588-1898," database, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 March 2022), entry for Auguste Caroline Wilhelmine Kornstaedt, baptized 25 August 1867, Bredow, Pommern, Prussia.

⁴ Borough of Queens, New York, Department of Health, death certificate no. 9342 (1947), Augusta Garnier; New York City Municipal Archives, New York, New York.

⁵ Borough of Queens, death certificate no. 4381 (1945), Robert E. Garnier.

⁶ No birth or baptismal records found despite the following searches:

Family History Library Remote Lookup, 20 October 2021 email to Michelle Torosian from *FamilySearch* LookUp Team stating that no entries were found for an Emil Robert or Robert Emil Garnier born 1865-1866 in "Kirchenbuch [Churchbooks], 1629-1875" microfilm, DGS 102103623, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah. Baptismal records in this collection do not extend later than 1834.

Steffen Martin, Registration Office, Friedrichsdorf, Germany (steffen.martin@friedrichsdorf.de) to Michelle Torosian, email, 22 November 2021, stating that no birth records or baptismal records from that time period are held by the town of Friedrichsdorf.

"Baden and Hesse Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1502-1985," online database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61060/> : accessed 20 November 2021) also searched for Emil or Robert Garnier, born 1865 +/- 1 year with no relevant results.

Additionally, email sent 16 October 2021 from Michelle Torosian to various staff members of Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Friedrichsdorf, the Protestant church in Friedrichsdorf that existed at the time requesting assistance were not replied to.

⁷ State of New Jersey, marriage return (1887), Garnier – Kornstedt.

spelling is noted in his mother's maiden name, this form would have been completed by Robert who had firsthand knowledge as to the identity of his parents.

- An excerpt from *Hessische Familienbücher [Hessian Family Books]*, lists a son, Emil Robert Garnier, born to Frederic Alexandre Garnier and his second wife, Marie Marguerite Lotz, on 9 November 1866.⁸ While the day and month are consistent with the date of birth used by Robert, the birth year listed is one year later than his date of birth as listed on his death certificate. The year as listed in the compilation is thought to be an error. Emil was the listed given name of three sons in the family, which may explain why he later went by Robert Emil instead of his given name of Emil Robert.⁹ Also, in some regions of Germany, children would be baptized with two or more names, and when brothers shared a first name, they would often all go by their second name.¹⁰
- In the same *Hessische Familienbücher [Hessian Family Books]*, a daughter, Henriette Sophie Garnier, is also listed for Frederic Alexandre Garnier and Marie Marguerite Lotz.¹¹ Her relationship to their parents is well established.¹² Her son, Friedrich Lutz, listed Robert E. Garnier as his uncle upon his arrival at Ellis Island in 1905.¹³ This supports that Robert

⁸ Angelika Schroeder, Essen, Germany (email address for private use), to Michelle Torosian, email, 24 January 2018, "Emile Robert Garnier"; Garnier Family files, privately held by Torosian, mictorosian@yahoo.com [street address for private use], Briarcliff Manor, New York; attached file "See AUszeg Garnier.doc," described as excerpt from book *Hessische Familienbücher [Hessian Family Books]* by Gottlieb See.

⁹ Schroeder, to Torosian, email, 24 January 2018; attached file "See AUszeg Garnier.doc," excerpt from book *Hessische Familienbücher [Hessian Family Books]* by Gottlieb See.

¹⁰ "Germany Personal Names: Given Names," *Family Search Wiki* (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany_Personal_Names : accessed 15 November 15, 2021).

¹¹ Schroeder, to Torosian, email, 24 January 2018; attached file "See AUszeg Garnier.doc," excerpt from book *Hessische Familienbücher [Hessian Family Books]* by Gottlieb See.

¹² Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Friedrichsdorf (Evangelical Church Friedrichsdorf) (Friedrichsdorf, Germany), baptismal certificate number 14, Henriette Sophie Garnier baptism (1858); pdf, "Garnier H S Baptism Certificate 2", "Hancock Family Tree," by username leoniejuup, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/17513308/person/18024868717/gallery> : accessed 17 October 2021). Baptismal record corroborates Henriette Sophie's parents were Frederic Alexandre Garnier and second wife, Marie Marguerite Lotz.

Berlin, Germany, death record 689 (1918), Sophie Lutz (Garnier), Landesarchiv Berlin, Berlin, Germany; "Berlin, Germany, Deaths, 1874-1955," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2958/> : accessed 19 October 2021). This death record lists the decedent's parents were Fredrich Alexander and Marie Margarete Garnier.

¹³ Berlin, Germany, birth record number 350 (1888), Friedrich Wilhelm Lutz, Landesarchiv Berlin, Berlin, Germany [State Archives Berlin]; "Berlin, Germany, Births, 1874-1899," database with digital images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/5753/> : accessed 17 October 2021). This birth certificate lists Friedrich's mother as Henriette Sofie (Garnier) Lutz.

"New York Passengers Arrivals List (Ellis Island), 1892-1924" database with images, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9PR-TCFX?i=568&cc=1368704> : accessed 17 October 2021), manifest, S.S. *Neckar*, Bremen to New York, arriving 1 November 1905, entry for Friedrich W. Lutz; citing NARA series T715, roll 637.

and Sophie were siblings, and therefore Sophie's parents can be reasoned to Robert's parents.

The Childhood of Robert Emil Garnier

The town of Robert's birth and childhood, Friedrichsdorf, was a unique place with a distinct history. After French Catholic King Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes in 1685, which had protected the rights of minority Protestant Christians in France, French Huguenots were forced to either convert to Catholicism or flee the violent persecution that ensued.¹⁴ A fellow Protestant, German Prince Frederick II, offered a group of these French Huguenots land within the state of Hesse, Germany. Friedrichsdorf, named after their benefactor, was founded in 1687.¹⁵ Two hundred years later, the town was still a French Huguenot village, with its people bilingual by necessity: German was needed to conduct secular affairs with the surrounding areas while a 17th century version of French was used at home and for worship. Inhabitants of Friedrichsdorf "consider it derogatory to intermarry with their German neighbors," but they still considered "Germany as their county... for which, if need be, they would fight and die."¹⁶

Robert was the tenth child born to his father, Frederic Alexandre Garnier and the ninth child of Frederic's second wife, Marie Marguerite Lotz. The family would grow to thirteen children in total.¹⁷ Frederic Alexandre was a teacher, which positioned the family as bourgeois (middle-class) in Friedrichsdorf.¹⁸ Solid social position wasn't a guard against family difficulties, however; Robert's mother, Marie Marguerite, died when he was only nine years old in May 1875. Frederic Alexander remarried the following year, however, he too passed away in April 1878 when Robert was just twelve years old.¹⁹

¹⁴ *Musée Protestant*, "The Period of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes" (<https://museeprotestant.org/en/notice/the-period-of-the-revocation-of-the-edict-of-nantes-1661-1700/> : accessed 18 April 2022).

¹⁵ For basic information on the founding of Friedrichsdorf, "A French Huguenot Village in Germany," *The Spectator* (10 January 1885) : 12-13; *The Spectator Archive*, database with images (<http://archive.spectator.co.uk/article/10th-january-1885/13/a-french-huguenot-village-in-germany> : accessed 12 March 2022).

For Frederick II's title of Prince, *Wikipedia*, "Frederick II, Landgrave of Hesse-Homburg" (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_II,_Landgrave_of_Hesse-Homburg : accessed 19 April 2022).

¹⁶ "A French Huguenot Village in Germany," *The Spectator* (10 January 1885) : 12-13.

¹⁷ Schroeder to Torosian, email, 24 January 2018; attached file "See AUszeg Garnier.doc," excerpt from book *Hessische Familienbücher [Hessian Family Books]* by Gottlieb See.

¹⁸ Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Friedrichsdorf (Evangelical Church Friedrichsdorf), baptismal certificate number 14, Henriette Sophie Garnier baptism (1858). The baptismal certificate specifically describes the father Frederic Alexandre Garnier as "maître d'école et bourgeois" (school teacher and bourgeois).

¹⁹ Schroeder to Torosian, email, 24 January 2018; attached file "See AUszeg Garnier.doc," excerpt from book *Hessische Familienbücher [Hessian Family Books]* by Gottlieb See.

Robert left Germany and arrived in America before reaching the age of eighteen.²⁰ It is believed that he came to America in 1882, the year which recorded the highest level of German immigration to America, or the following year of 1883.²¹ Land shortages, economic pressures of industrialization, and lack of political rights were some of the reasons so many Germans emigrated during that timeframe.²² By 1885, he was living on Henderson Street in Jersey City.²³

Jersey City: A “Golden Door” for Immigrants

Jersey City is located in northeastern New Jersey, directly across the Hudson River from lower Manhattan. The mid to late 1800s were a distinct period of growth for Jersey City. It was a major transportation hub, with several railroad terminals from various lines, along with the ferries and barges that crossed the

²⁰ County Court of Kings County, Volume 241, page 118, 24 October 1892, oath of Roberd [sic] E. Garnier; digital image, “New York, U.S., State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1794-1943,” database with images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com) : accessed 21 March 2022). In this document, Robert attests to arriving in America before reaching the age of 18.

²¹ For high number of Germans arriving in 1882, *Library of Congress*, “The Germans in America: Chronology,” (<https://www.loc.gov/rr/european/imde/germchro.html>) : accessed 14 October 2021).

For 1882 being Robert’s immigration year, 1900 U.S. census, King Co, New York, population schedule, Borough of Brooklyn, 25th ward, enumeration district (ED) 432, sheet no. 5, dwelling 65, family 111, Robert Garnier household; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com) : accessed 14 October 2021); citing NARA microfilm T623, roll 1062.

1910 U.S. census, Kings Co., New York, population schedule, Borough of Brooklyn, 25th ward, ED 689, Sheet 14B, dwelling 138, family 317, Robert E. Garnier household [indexed as Sarnier]; database with images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com) : accessed 14 October 2021; citing NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 973.

1930 U.S. census, Queens Co., New York, population schedule, Hollis, 4th ward, ED 41-1245, Sheet 9A, p. 229 (stamped), dwelling 163, family 173, Robert E. Garnier; database with images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com) : accessed 14 October 2021); citing NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 1600.

For 1883 being Robert’s immigration year, 1920 U.S. census, Queens Co., New York, population schedule, Woodhaven, 5th ward, ED 337, page 248 (stamped), sheet 5B, dwelling 71, family 127, Robert E. Garnet [sic]; database with images *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com) : accessed 21 March 2022); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1234. Note that immigration year is listed as 1983, which is probably an error for 1883.

No passenger records for Robert Emil Garnier have been located. Databases searched include “Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934”, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2452/>) : accessed 16 October 2021), “New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7488/>) : accessed 16 October 2021), “Baltimore Passenger Lists, 1820-1964,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8679/>) : accessed 18 November 2021), “U.S. Atlantic Ports Arriving and Departing Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1959,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8758/>) : accessed 18 November 2021), and “Massachusetts, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1963,” *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8745/>) : accessed 18 November 2021). Search terms included names Robert Garnier, Emil Garnier, Garnier with birthplace of Germany and arrival date of 1882 +/- 2 years. No relevant results noted.

²² PBS, “When Did They Come?” *Destination America* (https://www.pbs.org/destinationamerica/usim_wn_noflash_2.html) : accessed 18 April 2022).

²³ Wm. H. Boyd, compiler, *Gopsill’s Jersey City, Hoboken, Union Hill and West Hoboken Directory: 1885-1886* (Washington, D.C.: Wm. H. Boyd, 1885) 217.

river into New York City.²⁴ The Emigrant Landing Depot at Castle Garden, which operated from 1855 to 1890 prior to the opening of Ellis Island, was also located in lower Manhattan, directly across the Hudson from Jersey City.²⁵ A steady stream of immigrant labor, factories with easy access to both rail and boat transportation, and proximity to New York City were several factors for Jersey City's success. By 1860, more than half of the adult male population of Jersey City was foreign born, with 11% of the adult males reporting German birth. The Germans that settled in Jersey City were largely successful, with almost three-quarters of them reporting being employed in white-collar or skilled labor positions.²⁶

The Parentage and Childhood of Augusta Carolina Wilhelmine Kornstedt

Augusta was the daughter of Otto Kornstedt and his wife, Auguste Ulrich.²⁷ She was born 2 August 1867 in Bredow, part of the city of Stettin, in what was at that time Prussia.²⁸ Located in the Oder River delta adjacent to the Baltic Sea, Stettin was a major port city of the German Empire.²⁹

In early summer 1870, when Augusta was just shy of three years old, the family journeyed to the United States, along with older brother, Gustave, and younger sister, Elise.³⁰ It is believed the family settled in Jersey City, New Jersey,

²⁴ "Jersey City: America's Golden Door," *Jersey City Online* (http://www.jerseycityonline.com/history/jc_history.htm : accessed 21 March 2022).

²⁵ Sunny Jane Morton, "Castle Garden: Immigration before Ellis Island," *FamilySearch Blog*, 14 July 2018 (<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/ny-castle-garden-ellis-island> : accessed 14 March 2022).

²⁶ Douglas V. Shaw, *Immigration and Ethnicity in New Jersey History* (Trenton, New Jersey: New Jersey Department of State, New Jersey Historical Commission, 1994), 19-21; database with images, New Jersey State Library (<https://dSPACE.njstatelib.org/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10929/24561/h6731994.pdf?sequence=1> : accessed 18 March 2022).

²⁷ State of New Jersey, marriage return (1887), Garnier – Kornstedt. "Germany, Select Births and Baptisms, 1588-1898," *Ancestry*, database entry for Auguste Caroline Wilhelmine Kornstaedt, baptized 25 August 1867, Bredow, Pommern, Prussia. Queens, New York, death certificate no. 9342 (1947), Augusta Garnier.

²⁸ "Bredow (Drzetowo)," *AhnenWiese.webnode.com* (<https://ahnenwiese.webnode.com/bredow/> : accessed 7 March 2022).

"Drzetowo", *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drzetowo> : accessed 7 March 2022). Bredow was renamed Drzetowo and is now part of Poland.

²⁹ *In Your Pocket Essential City Guides*, "Why Stettin became Szczecin – History of the City" (https://www.inyourpocket.com/szczecin/why-stettin-became-szczecin-history-of-the-city_78265f : accessed 19 April 2022).

³⁰ 'Pomerania, Germany, Passenger Lists, 1869,' database with images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 March 2022), passenger list, entries for Otto Kornstaedt, Auguste Ullrich, Gustav Kornstadt, Auguste Kornstadt, and Elise Kornstadt, leaving Stettin, Pommern, Germany on 15 June 1870 on *Western Metropolis* for New York; citing "Passagier Listen. Rep. 79 ca. 1804-1924," Landesat für Kultur und Denkmalpflege (State Office for Culture and Monument Preservation), Landesarchiv (State Archives) Greifswald, Greifswald, Germany.

"New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957," database with images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 March 2022), passenger list, entries for Otto Kronstadt [sic], Auguste, Gustav, Auguste and Elise, arrived

as a younger brother, Johann Wilhelm Kornstedt, was born there 25 May 1874 and baptized at a German church in nearby Hoboken the following month.³¹ The toddler died in Jersey City in December of the following year.³² While it is unknown what impact the child's death had on the family's decision regarding where to live, the family remained in Jersey City for a year or so after Johann's death and then returned to Bredow.³³ A sister, Philippine, was born in Bredow on 7 January 1877.³⁴ It was not a permanent move, however, as the family returned to Jersey City by 1882.³⁵

Robert and Augusta's Long Life Together

It was in Jersey City that young immigrants Robert Emil Garnier and Augusta Kornstedt most likely met and married. Although their family bible lists the date of their marriage as 5 November 1886, their marriage more likely occurred several months later on 24 March 1887, as evidenced by their marriage return which bears that handwritten date, along with a stamp showing that the return was filed the following day.³⁶ The reason for the discrepancy in these dates most likely

8 July 1870 on Western Metropolis; citing Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1897, NARA microfilm publication M237.

³¹ German Reformed Church (Hoboken, New Jersey), baptism register, 1857-1876, 28 June 1874, entry for Johann Wilhelm, son of Otto Kornstedt and Augusta Ulrich, born 25 May 1874, Jersey City, New Jersey; digital image, "U.S., Dutch Reformed Church Records in Selected States, 1639-1989," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 March 2022); citing The Archives of the Reformed Church in America, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

³² "New Jersey, U.S., Deaths and Burials Index, 1789-1971," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2540/> : accessed 18 March 2022), entry for John Kornstadt, died 4 December 1875 in Jersey City, New Jersey, noting age at death 1 year and 6 months. John is the English version of the German name Johann.

³³ Isaac Costa, compiler, *Gopsill's Jersey City and Hoboken Directory: For the Year Ending April 30th, 1876* (Jersey City, New Jersey: Jersey City Directory Co., 1876), 363, Kornstadt, Otto; also subsequent year by the same title: (1877) 396. Note dates are approximate as it is unknown exactly when the information to compile these directories was collected.

³⁴ Bredow, Stettin, Prussia birth registration no. 19 (1877), Bertha Anna Philippine Kornstaedt; "Eastern Prussian Provinces, Germany [Poland], Selected Civil Vitals, 1874-1945," database with images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 18 March 2022); citing Landesarchiv Berlin, Berlin, Germany.

³⁵ Wm. H. Boyd, compiler, *Gopsill's Jersey City and Hoboken Directory: For the Year Ending April 30th, 1882* (Washington, D.C.: Wm. H. Boyd., 1882) 198, "Kornstedt Otto".

For 1878, Isaac Costa, compiler, *Gopsill's Jersey City and Hoboken Directory: For the Year Ending April 30th, 1878* (Jersey City, New Jersey: Jersey City Directory Co., 1878) 419; a review off the alphabetized listing from Koops to Kotter found no listing for Kornstedt.

For 1879, Isaac Costa, compiler, *Gopsill's Jersey City and Hoboken Directory: For the Year Ending April 30th, 1879* (Jersey City, New Jersey: Jersey City Directory Co., 1878) 413; a review off the alphabetized listing from Korbett to Kramerr found no listing for Kornstedt.

For 1880, Wm. H. Boyd, compiler, *Gopsill's Jersey City and Hoboken Directory: For the Year Ending April 30th, 1880* (Washington, D.C.: Wm. H. Boyd, 1880) 223; a review of the alphabetized listing from Kolb to Krafft found no listing for Kornstedt.

For 1881, Wm. H. Boyd, compiler, *Gopsill's Jersey City and Hoboken Directory: For the Year Ending April 30th, 1881* (Washington, D.C.: Wm. H. Boyd, 1882) 205; a review of the alphabetized listing from Koehler to Kough found no listing for Kornstedt.

³⁶ Garnier Family Bible Records 1865-1967, *The Holy Bible* (Publisher and location unknown, 1886), "Marriages"; privately held by Warren A. Garnier, Jr. [address for private use], Columbus, New Jersey, 2018.

relates to the date of the birth of their first child: daughter Elsy Elizabeth was born 24 August 1887, only five months after the date on their civil marriage record, but ten months after the date recorded in the family bible.³⁷ The young couple may have lied about the date of their marriage to hide that Elsy was conceived prior to their marriage.

At the beginning of their married life, Robert and Augusta lived with her parents and siblings in Jersey City at 88 Woodward Street.³⁸ By 1889, the young family had left New Jersey for Brooklyn, New York.³⁹ In 1892, the couple and daughter, Elsy, shared a Brooklyn home with Augusta's 15-year-old sister, Philippine, known as Bena.⁴⁰ In 1895, the couple had a second child, Robert Irving Garnier.⁴¹

During the first half of their marriage, Robert was a professional portrait artist. For twenty-four years he owned his own business, "where he copied photographs in crayon or water-color, or oil."⁴² He must have been fairly successful, as by 1900 the family owned the Brooklyn house they lived in, although with a mortgage.⁴³

Various penmanship and ink colors indicate that entries were made separately over various years. Photographs taken of and provided by Warren Garnier, Jr. to Michelle Torosian 16 October 2021 indicate that several pages at the front of Bible are missing, including that which listed the publisher and place of publication. Other pages indicate publishing date of 1886. Bible had been in the possession of Norman Garnier, grandson of Robert and Augusta Garnier, then given to his nephew, Warren A. Garnier, Jr., great-grandson of Robert and Augusta Garnier.

State of New Jersey, marriage return, Garnier – Kornstedt, 24 March 1887.

³⁷ Garnier Family Bible Records, "Births."

³⁸ Wm. H. Boyd, compiler, *Gopsill's Jersey City, Hoboken, Union Hill and West Hoboken Directory: 1887-1888* (Washington, D.C.: Wm. H. Boyd, 1887), 217 for Garnier, 310 for Kornstedt, noting same address for both men.

³⁹ Mrs. H. Sundelof, "Golden Years", *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (New York), 14 November 1936, page 5, column 1; database with images, *Newspapers.com* (www.newspapers.com : accessed 15 October 2021).

⁴⁰ 1892 New York State census, Brooklyn, ward 23, 17th election district, page 1 (inked), population schedule, Robert E. Garnier household; digital image, "New York, U.S., State Census, 1892," database with images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 March 2022); citing New York State Library, Albany, New York.

⁴¹ For date of birth, South Carolina, State Board of Health, Vital Statistics, certificate of death 002430 (1964), Robert Irving Garnier; digital image, "South Carolina, U.S., Death Records, 1821-1970," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 15 March 2022); citing South Carolina Department of Archives and History, South Carolina Death Records: 1962-1965, Columbia, South Carolina.

For parents; City of New York, Department of Health, certificate and record of marriage no. 3331 (1918), Robert Irving Garnier – Natalie Anita Myerson, 10 April 1918; New York City Municipal Archives, New York, New York.

⁴² Sundelof, "Golden Years", p. 5, col. 1.

⁴³ 1900 U.S. census, King Co, New York, population schedule, Borough of Brooklyn, 25th ward, enumeration district (ED) 432, sheet no. 5, dwelling 65, family 111, Robert Garnier household; online database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 14 October 2021); citing NARA microfilm T623, roll 1062.

By 1910, Robert was working for Mueller's Macaroni.⁴⁴ This company was founded in Jersey City by another German immigrant, Christian Friedrich Mueller.⁴⁵ Augusta's sister, Bena, had married Mr. Mueller's son, Christian, Jr., known as Fred, in 1897.⁴⁶ Robert's artistic talents may have been used to design the company's early packaging, which dates to 1907.⁴⁷ Robert rose to district manager for Mueller's, during a time when the company experienced tremendous growth.⁴⁸ A new factory was opened in Jersey City in 1915, which at the time was the "world's largest and most modern macaroni plant" and was therefore poised to increase capacity when World War I cut off pasta imports from Italy.⁴⁹ From 1928-1935, Robert drove in excess of 300,000 miles in his sales role for Mueller's.⁵⁰

At some point between 1912 and 1913, the Garniers moved from Brooklyn to Queens.⁵¹ In 1915, 1920 and 1925 the Garnier family lived in Woodhaven, Queens.⁵² By 1930, Robert and Augusta had moved to a Hollis,

⁴⁴ 1910 U.S. census, Kings Co., Brooklyn, 25th ward, ED 689, Sheet 14B, dwell. 138, fam. 317, Robert E. Garnier household [indexed as Sarnier].

⁴⁵ "Our Story," *Mueller's Pasta* (<https://www.muellerspasta.com/about-us/our-story/> : accessed 22 March 2022).

⁴⁶ For marriage, "New Jersey, U.S., Marriage Records, 1670-1965," database, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 22 March 2022), entry for Bena Kornsted and Christian F. Mueller, Jr. 7 Sept 1897, Jersey City, New Jersey.

For Christian F. Mueller Jr's relationship to father, Christian Fr. Mueller, Sr., 1880 U.S. census, Essex Co., New Jersey, population schedule, Newark, ED 81, p. 31 (inked), dwelling 111, family 275, Christian Mueller household noting son Friederick [sic]; database with images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 19 April 2022); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 779.

⁴⁷ Regarding Robert's involvement in packaging design, April Garnier Poitras, *Garnier/Myerson Family History*, p.3, revised April 2018; pdf provided to Michelle Torosian May 2021. April Garnier Poitras is the great-granddaughter of Robert and Augusta Garnier and records in this paper information told to her by her father, Warren Garnier.

Regarding dating of packaging, "Interesting Facts about Mueller's Macaroni, Spaghetti, Egg Noodles," *Modern Packaging* [magazine], February 1953, promotional reprint by C.F. Mueller Co., Mueller vertical file, Jersey City Free Public Library, Jersey City, New Jersey.

⁴⁸ Sundelof, "Golden Years", p. 5, col. 1.

⁴⁹ "Interesting Facts about Mueller's Macaroni, Spaghetti, Egg Noodles," *Modern Packaging* [magazine], February 1953, promotional reprint by C.F. Mueller Co., Mueller vertical file, Jersey City Free Public Library, Jersey City, New Jersey.

⁵⁰ Sundelof, "Golden Years", p. 5, col. 1.

⁵¹ George Upington, Pub., *Uppington's Elite Directory of the Borough of Brooklyn* (Brooklyn: George Upington, Publisher, 1912), 527, "Garnier, Robt. E." Subsequent year by the same title (1913), 574 searched between names Gariepy-Garribaldi noting no Robert Garnier.

⁵² 1915 New York State census, Queens Co., election district 52, ward 4, population schedule, Woodhaven, p. 26, 434 Benedict Ave, Robert E. Garnier household; digital image, "New York, U.S., State Census, 1915" database with images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 15 March 2022); citing New York State Archives, Albany, New York.

1920 U.S. census, Queens Co., N.Y., Woodhaven, 5th ward, ED 337, p. 248 (stamped), sheet 5B, dwell. 71, fam. 127, Robert E. Garnet [sic].

1925 New York State census, Queens Co., election district 18, population schedule, Woodhaven, p. 12, 8823 87th Street, Robert E. Garnier household; digital image, "New York, U.S., State Census, 1925," database with images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 23 March 2022); citing New York State Archives, Albany, New York.

Queens house on 111th Avenue, which would be their home for the rest of their lives.⁵³

Robert's Natural Death

After fifty-eight years of marriage with Augusta, Robert passed away at home on 29 May 1945 of natural causes.⁵⁴ He was buried at Evergreens Cemetery a few days later, in the Ascension section of the cemetery, plot 2735.⁵⁵

Augusta's Tragic Death

Augusta would survive her husband for two more years; however, her eventual death was not caused by illness or old age. On Halloween evening in 1947, at approximately 5:30 pm, Augusta was struck and killed by an automobile while crossing the intersection at Farmers Avenue and 110th Road, only a short block and a half from home.⁵⁶ The sun had just set about a half hour prior to the collision at 4:53pm and it may have been raining, both of which could have hampered visibility and the driver's ability to brake.⁵⁷ Augusta was buried alongside Robert in Evergreens Cemetery.⁵⁸

Robert¹ and Augusta had two children:

2. i. ELSYE ELIZABETH GARNIER. Born 24 August 1887 in Jersey City, New Jersey.⁵⁹ Died 23 October 1987 in Woodbury, Nassau County, New York.⁶⁰ Married William G. See on 24 February 1909 in Brooklyn, New York.⁶¹

⁵³ 1930 U.S. census, Queens Co., N.Y., Hollis, 4th ward, ED 41-1245, Sheet 9A, p. 229 (stamped), dwell. 163, fam. 173, Robert E. Garnier.

Borough of Queens, death certificate no. 4381 (1945), Robert E. Garnier.

Borough of Queens, death certificate no. 9342 (1947), Augusta Garnier.

⁵⁴ Borough of Queens, death certificate no. 4381 (1945), Robert E. Garnier.

⁵⁵ Lauren [last name unknown], employee of The Evergreen Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York, [(e-mail address for private use)] to Michelle Torosian, email, 30 October 2020, "Re: Genealogy Information"; privately held by Torosian, mictorosian@yahoo.com, Briarcliff Manor, New York.

⁵⁶ Borough of Queens, death certificate no. 9342 (1947), Augusta Garnier.

For distance, Google Maps, map of 190-67 111th Avenue in Queens, New York, noting intersection of Farmers Boulevard and 100th Road one block north and less than one block west (<https://www.google.com/maps/@40.7025751,-73.7653684,17z> : accessed 23 March 2022).

⁵⁷ For sunset, Sunrise & Sunset calendar tool, *Time and Date* (<https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/> : accessed 23 March 2022) using search parameters set to Queens, New York, 31 October 1947.

For rain, April Garnier Poitras, *Garnier/Myerson Family History*, p.4, revised April 2018; pdf provided to Michelle Torosian May 2021. April Garnier Poitras is the great-granddaughter of Robert and Augusta Garnier and records in this paper information told to her by her father, Warren Garnier.

⁵⁸ Borough of Queens, death certificate no. 9342 (1947), Augusta Garnier.

Lauren [last name unknown], employee of The Evergreen Cemetery, email to Torosian, 30 October 2020.

⁵⁹ For birthplace of Jersey City, City of New York, Department of Health, certificate and record of marriage no. 1693 (1909), William G. See – Elsy E. Garnier; New York City Municipal Archives, New York, New York.

3. ii. ROBERT IRVING GARNIER. Born 26 April 1895 in Brooklyn, New York. Died 14 February 1964 in West Columbia, South Carolina.⁶² Married Natalie Myerson 10 April 1918 in Brooklyn, New York.⁶³

Proof Summary

No birth certificate has been located for Robert Irving Garnier despite the wide availability of these records for his reported birth in Brooklyn on 26 April 1895.⁶⁴ Robert Irving's death certificate is blank in the fields for his parents' names.⁶⁵ An analysis of other sources, however, supports the assertion that his parents were almost certainly Robert Emil Garnier and his wife, Augusta (Kornstedt) Garnier.

- On his marriage record to Natalie Myerson, Robert Irving's parents are listed as Robert E. [Garnier] and Augusta Kornstedt. Robert Irving would have known his parents and he signed the document, certifying that the information given was correct, and establishing that he provided this information.⁶⁶
- Robert Irving is enumerated with parents Robert and Augusta and listed as "son" in the U.S. census records for 1900 and 1910, and in the New York State census for 1905 and 1915.⁶⁷
- A newspaper article written on Robert Emil and Augusta for the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary mentions their son, Irving.⁶⁸

⁶⁰ *FindAGrave* memorial 2814775, Elsie G. See, photograph by *FindAGrave* user "Frank W." (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/2814775/elsie-see> : accessed 18 March 2022)

⁶¹ City of New York, certificate and record of marriage no. 1693 (1909), See – Garnier.

⁶² South Carolina, State Board of Health, Vital Statistics, certificate of death 002430 (1964), Robert Irving Garnier; digital image, "South Carolina, U.S., Death Records, 1821-1970," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 15 March 2022); citing South Carolina Department of Archives and History, South Carolina Death Records: 1962-1965, Columbia, South Carolina.

⁶³ City of New York, Department of Health, certificate and record of marriage no. 3331 (1918), Robert Irving Garnier – Natalie Anita Myerson; New York City Municipal Archives, New York, New York.

⁶⁴ Search of the "New York, New York, U.S., Index to Birth Certificates, 1866-1909," database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61779/> : accessed 3 March 2022) using search criteria including name of Robert Garnier, Garnier (surname only) or Sarnier with birthdate of 1895 +/- 1, with male gender, found no likely matches.

A visual inspection of all G surnames for 1895-1897 in DGS Film 7900139, "Manhattan, Brooklyn 1893-1897 All boroughs, A-K 1898-1900", digital images 1079-1143, also found no listing for Robert Garnier. A visual inspection of images 270-291, representing the expected location for the surname Garnier was also made, with no relevant listings found.

Search also performed with New York City Department of Records & Information Services, "Historical Vital Records," database with digital images (<https://a860-historicalvitalrecords.nyc.gov/search> : accessed 16 March 2022). Search terms used include the surname Garnier for years 1890-1900 in all boroughs with no relevant findings.

⁶⁵ South Carolina, certificate of death 002430 (1964), Robert Irving Garnier.

⁶⁶ City of New York, certificate and record of marriage no. 3331 (1918), Garnier – Natalie Myerson.

⁶⁷ 1900 U.S. census, King Co, N.Y., Brooklyn, 25th ward, ED 432, sheet no. 5, dwell. 65, fam. 111, Robert Garnier household.

1910 U.S. census, Kings Co., N.Y., Brooklyn, 25th ward, ED 689, Sheet 14B, dwell. 138, fam. 317, Robert E. Garnier household [indexed as Sarnier].

1905 New York State census, Kings County, Brooklyn, election district 32, block B and C, page 13 (inked), Robert Garnier household; "New York, State Census, 1905," database with images; *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7364/> : accessed 17 October 2021); citing New York State Archives, Albany, New York.

1915 New York State census, Queens Co., election district 52, ward 4, Woodhaven, p. 26, 434 Benedict Ave, Robert E. Garnier household.

⁶⁸ Sundelof, "Golden Years", p. 5, col. 1.