

# Temple Israel Archives

## Partial Phone Interview with Bertha Landau

Date Unknown

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Partial Phone Interview

Bertha Landau

Phone calls for 9/15/2008

B: Bertha

M: I also wanted to talk to you about the Landaus from Clarksdale **also**.

B: Well let me just give you some information over the phone. My father had two brothers and a sister. Rudolph was my father. Alfred was his older brother. My father was the youngest of the children. Alfred lived in Clarksdale with his wife Emma.

M: Do you know when they were there?

B: I can't give you an exact time, but they came over about 1937 or 1939 from Germany. They were trying to get out of Hitler's Germany. His other brother had been over here before that. His middle brother's name was Berthold.

M: I think I have him on record as being in Clarksdale in 1915.

B: It's very possible. He was over here with his wife Resha. Anyway, they lived in Clarksdale.

M: Did they know someone there? Did they go there for business reasons?

B: I don't know that. I think the reason they came there is because my father had an uncle called Max . Landau. He lived in Clarksdale with his wife, named Carly. My father came over to this country in 1912. He finished Gymnasium and he was working in the Netherlands. He didn't want to serve in the German army and that's why he came over. He went to Clarksdale and he didn't know any English. He taught himself how to read and speak English and he can spell better than I can spell. He traveled, he went to Clarksdale and then he took a job traveling. I don't know with whom. This is my father Rudolph.

My mother's parents, I'm sure you have all the Alperins because a lot of people did the heritage if the Alperins. My mother went to Clarksdale one day for a dance and met my father and came home and told her mother that she had met the man she was going to marry. This is about ten years before they got married. Apparently for my mother, it was love at first sight. It took my father ten years to come to Memphis and ask my Grandfather if he could date my mother. They got married in 1927. So they dance was approximately in 1917. Clarksdale at one time was an alive community.