

Alexander Powell Mazasitisz

Born 1857 New York

1870 US Census New York

Confirmed by a search carried out by Ancestry.com

A **Morris Powell Mazasitisz aged 43** and his wife **Johanna 33** were living in New York Ward 17 District 26 with their two sons **Alexander aged 13** and **Max aged 3**. **Morris and Johanna** were born in **Prussia**, **Alexander and Max** were born in New York, so the family must have immigrated in the 1850's. Morris was a glass dealer. There were many famous glass and porcelain producers in the 18th & 19th Centuries in Prussia many Jews owned or worked in the factories.



Example of Prussian Glass mid 1800's

Prussia was constantly at war during the 19th century with it's neighbours and her boundaries were ever changing with Lithuania, Poland and Germany. Many Jews fled in the mid 1800's to the UK and US to seek a new life. They would have sailed from Danzig (Gdansk) or Bremen and broken their journey or changed ships in London. Often these people could not read or write and the immigration officers put down anything that came into their heads or something that 'sounded like'. Often the place of origin was used as a name by the officials, perhaps the Mazasitisz's came from the beautiful area of Mazuria which is now part of north east Poland.

There appear to be many Powells on the New York passenger lists described as being born in Prussia.



The 'Adler' operated on the Bremen to London route bringing Jewish emigrants from Eastern Europe



Jewish immigrants on arrival

1880 and 1890 US Census

Unfortunately these were destroyed by a devastating fire and only fragments remain. Therefore it has been difficult to trace the whereabouts of Morris, Johanna, Alexander and Max over the next twenty years. There is no trace of the three of them on the **1900 US Census**.

Perhaps the family came together with Alexander to London in the late 1880's. Chatham Street was within walking distance of the Surrey Docks where their ship would have landed and seemed to be full of lodging houses where the family could have taken rooms. **Dorothy May** was born at no 19 in **1895 her mother was Florence Lilian Dunn**

1901 UK Census

43 Gladstone Street Battersea

Alexander Powell, born New York a Stoker in the Gas Works was living with his 'wife' Emily E Buck (crossed out) a Sick Nurse Monthly and his daughter Dorothy M aged 6 in two rooms in a shared lodging house

However there is no trace of **Morris, Johanna or Max** on the **1901 UK Census**

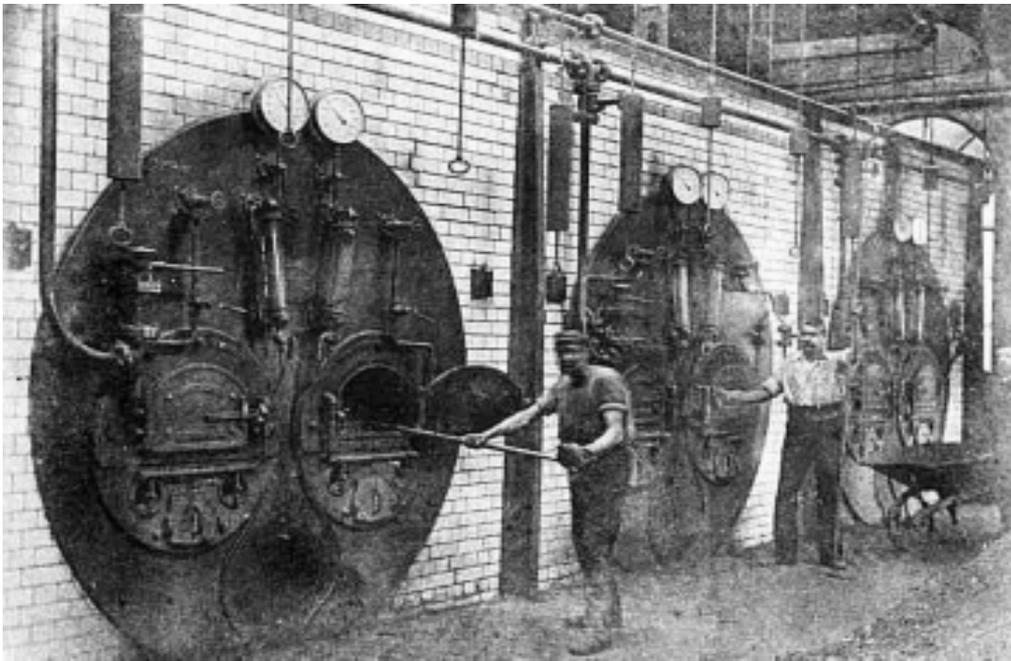
Marriages

A search has been carried out between **1890** and **1902** between **Alexander** and either **Florence Dunn or Emily E Buck** or anyone else for that matter but none has been found.



Site of the Nine Elms Gas Works

The area was grimy and working class according to the Booth surveys. Gladstone Street and surrounding area was later demolished to make way for the new Southern Railway line.



Gas Stokers at Nine Elms

Many new gas pipelines were being laid all over London causing much dust and disruption.

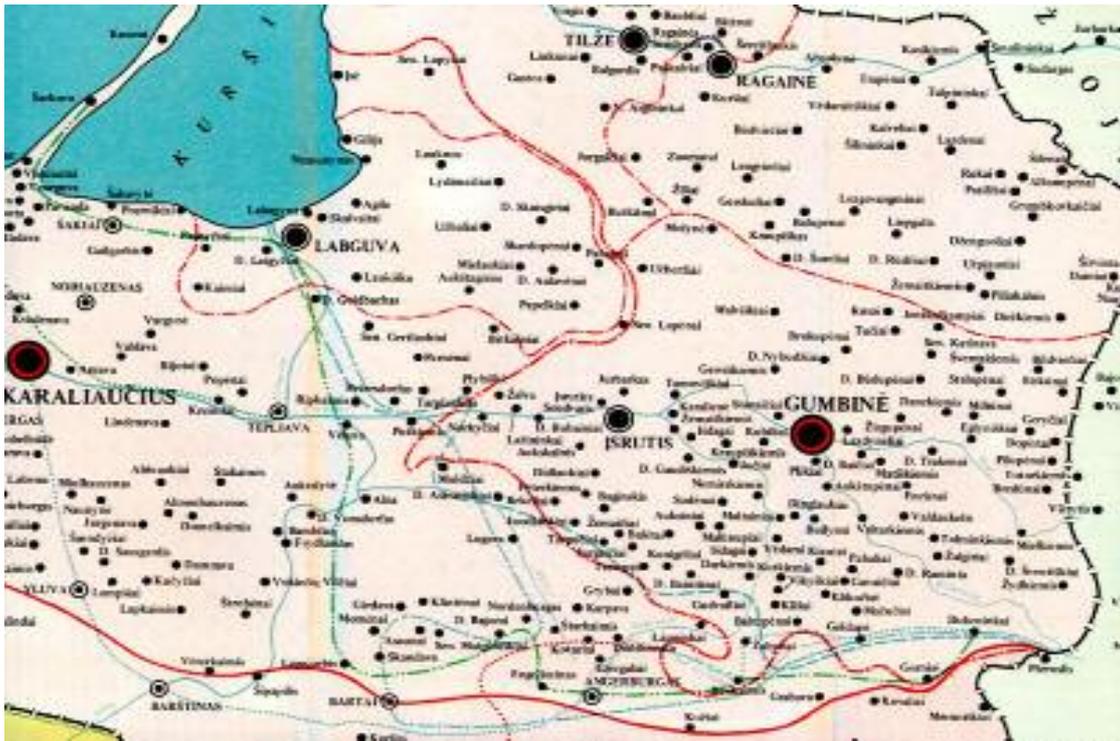


Gas pipe laying in Battersea

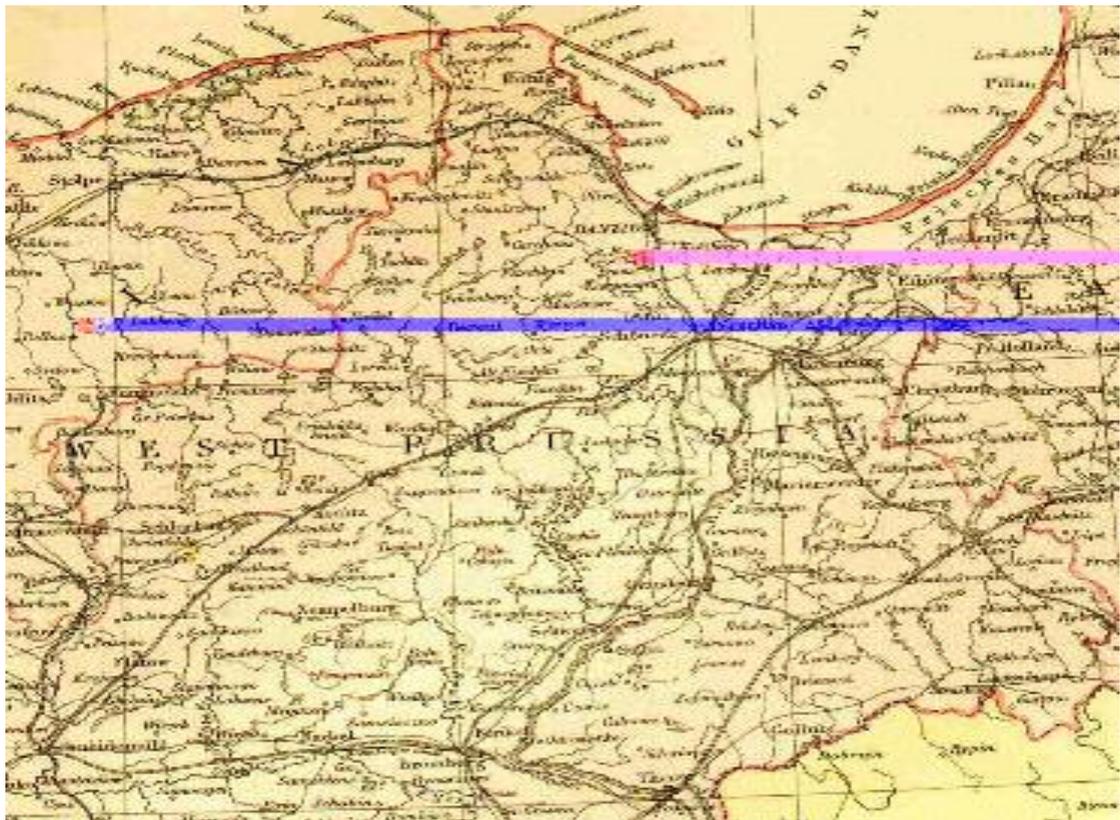
A search has been made of the origins of wife **Emily E** born in Reading Berks to no avail also of **Florence Lilian Dunn** who did not appear on the **1901 Census**

A full search has been made on all international and Jewish databases to discover the origins of the **Mazasitisz** name. It was obviously miss spelt when the family arrived either firstly in the UK to change ships or in New York. It may stem from the town or area the family originated from in Prussia. Possibly Mazuria. Dorothy must have destroyed all records of it, if of course she had any.

She did however pass the name on to five of her children, her first son with Harry Bird being named Norman Edward **Alexander Mazasitz** after her father



East Prussia



West Prussia