

The Broker from Podhajce

Charles Freilich · Shlomo Tzvi ben Yitzchak

Ben's 2× great-grandfather · Freilich line · 1864 – 1915

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A Galician jeweller who became a Lower East Side real-estate broker, Charles Freilich sold tenements to his wife's relatives, won his commission on appeal, and was buried among the Lembergers of Mount Zion.

Charles Freilich was born Schloma Hersch Freilich at Podhajce (Pidhaitsi), in Galicia, southeast of Lemberg. The town's Jewish birth register records him on 11 March 1864, at house 212, son of Isaac and Sara; the family's own records, and his 1898 naturalization, gave 17 March, a few days off. His Hebrew name, Shlomo Tzvi ben Yitzchak, is the one on his gravestone. His parents were **Falik (Isaac) Freilich** and **Sara Marjem**, and the patronymic 'son of Yitzchak' reconciles two civil records: the 'Falik' of his 1893 marriage and the 'Isaac' of his 1915 death were one and the same man. His mother's maiden name is less settled: Klein in 1893, Krissel in 1915, and Terkil in this tree, the given name Sara or Sadie constant throughout.

He landed at New York on or about 10 March 1890. On 2 July 1892 he swore his Declaration of Intention in the federal court for the Southern District of New York, giving his address as 247 Broome Street on the Lower East Side; the printed form has him renouncing 'the Emperor of Germany', a catch-all the clerk used, though every later record makes him Galician, and so Austrian. On 20 April 1893 he married **Anna Wachtel** on the Lower East Side, with Rev. Baruch Schohr officiating. When their son **Harry** was born at 80 Essex Street on 2 August 1897, the birth certificate called his father 'Charley Frailish', 31, a jeweller, and recorded four earlier children, three living. In March 1898, a jeweller of 128 Delancey Street, he was naturalized, with David Guran of Eldridge Street, who had known him seven years, as his witness.

BORN	11 March 1864, Podhajce, Galicia (register); 17 March in family records
DIED	24 February 1915, Harlem Hospital, Manhattan, aged 50
HEBREW NAME	Shlomo Tzvi ben Yitzchak
ALSO WRITTEN	Schloma Hersch Freilich; Charley Frailish; Frelich
ARRIVED	New York, about 10 March 1890; naturalized March 1898
MARRIED	Anna Wachtel, 20 April 1893, Lower East Side
OCCUPATION	Jeweller, then real- estate broker and dealer
BURIED	Mount Zion Cemetery, Maspeth, Lemberger society plot

The jeweller became a dealer in buildings. The Real Estate Record of 22 October 1898 shows leases to him from the McKeon family, and over the next years he moved the growing family through 279 Stanton Street and 747 East 5th Street, with seven living children by mid-1905: Harry, Sena (Lena), Sadie, Dorothy (Dora), Fannie (Frances), Sylvia (Rose) and Morris. The New-York Tribune in 1904 and the New York Times in 1906 record him as a Manhattan broker selling tenements and flats on the Lower East Side and in Harlem, and several of his buyers were Anna's family: 'a Mr. Wachtel' at 77 Avenue D and Louis Wachtel in 1904, and the firm of Wachtel & Reich, which bought two Harlem flats through him in June 1906.

One deal went to court. On 2 December 1909 Bessie Tucker signed a note promising 'Charles Freilich, the broker' \$350 for arranging a swap of her building at 149 Ridge Street for one on Shepherd Avenue in Brooklyn, \$100 down and the rest at closing. The closing collapsed because her building carried a third mortgage she had not disclosed, and she refused to pay. He lost in the Municipal Court but won on appeal in July 1910: the judges held that the buyer had been ready, so she could not use her own default to escape the commission, and ordered a new trial. *Freilich v. Tucker* is the only reported case under his name.

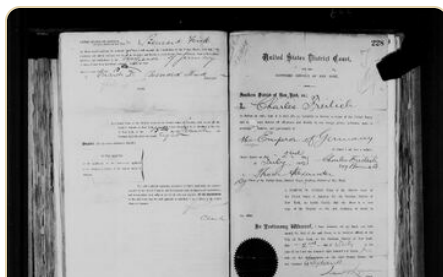
By 1915 the family had moved uptown to 165 East 112th Street in Harlem. Charles died at Harlem Hospital on 24 February 1915, aged 50, still a real-estate dealer; the death certificate spells him 'Frelich', which is why it hides from a search under Freilich. He was buried at Mount Zion Cemetery, Maspeth, in the Lemberger society plot, where his father-in-law Nathan Wachtel already lay, strong evidence of the family's Lemberg roots. His stone remembers him as 'my beloved husband and our dear father'. Anna lived twenty more years as his widow and was buried not beside him but at Riverside Cemetery, Saddle Brook, New Jersey, the start of a Freilich family plot there.

His life is traced through the Podhajce register, his 1892 Declaration and 1898 naturalization, the 1893 marriage and 1897 birth certificates, the real-estate columns, the published appeal, his 1915 death certificate and his Mount Zion burial record.

FROM THE ARCHIVE

A handwritten birth register from Podhajce, 1864. It is a multi-column table with entries for births, including names, dates, and parents' names. The handwriting is in a cursive script.

1864 Podhajce birth register — original scan (Gesher Galicia)



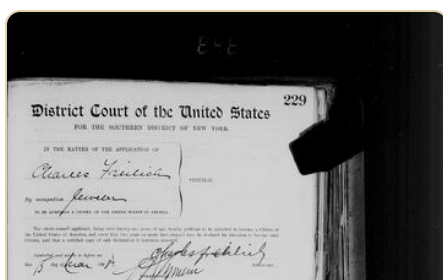
Declaration of Intention, SDNY, 2 Jul 1892

A marriage certificate from the State of New York, dated April 26, 1893. It certifies the marriage of Carl Freilich and Anna Wachtel. The document includes a header, a body of text, and a signature.

1893 marriage certificate

A "Certificate and Record of Birth" from the State of New York, City of New York, No. 33652. It reports the birth of Harrie Frailish on August 5, 1897, at 80 Essex St. The father is Charley Frailish, 31, jeweller, born Austria. The mother is Annie, maiden name Wachtel, 29, born Austria. There are 4 previous children, 3 living. The midwife is Lena Langfelder, 253 E 2nd St. The document includes a header, a body of text, and a signature.

Certificate and Record of Birth, Manhattan, no. 33652 (reported 5 Aug 1897): 'Harrie Frailish', boy, born 2 Aug 1897 at 80 Essex St; father 'Charley Frailish', 31, jeweller, born Austria; mother Annie, maiden name Wachtel, 29, born Austria; 4 previous children, 3 living; midwife Lena Langfelder, 253 E 2nd St (NYC Municipal Archives B-M-1897-0033652)



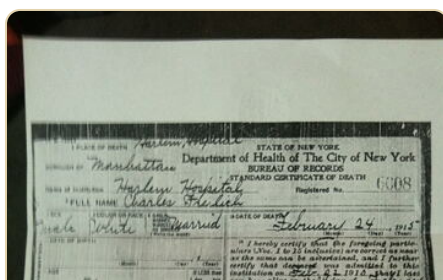
His naturalization, U.S. District Court SDNY, 15-16 Mar 1898: jeweller, 128 Delancey St; born 17 March; landed at New York about 10 March 1890; witness David Guran

A newspaper advertisement titled "Resale on West 135th Street." It lists real estate sales, including a five-story flat on West 135th Street, a five-story flat on Lenox Avenue, and two six-story flats on West 12th Street. The advertisement includes the names of the brokers and the properties being sold.

Broker of two sales to Wachtel & Reich, Harlem (New York Times, 26 Jun 1906)

A document titled "FREILICH v. TUCKER" from the Supreme Court, Appellate Term, July, 1910. It is a legal document with a header, a body of text, and a signature.

Freilich v. Tucker, 68 Misc. 318 (N.Y. Sup. Ct., App. Term, July 1910): his suit for a \$250 broker's commission



Death certificate 1915

Read online, with every record: https://ouryichus.com/featured.html#fr_charles · Family tree card:

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