

# 1. Author's Note

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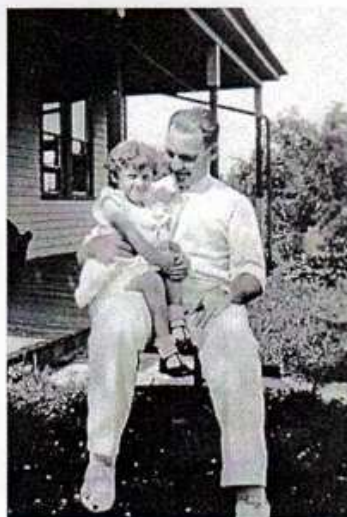
Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Holidays. Several months ago when I decided to put together a brief genealogy of our family for a Christmas present, little did I know what an endless adventure it would be.

The sources for the document are many. There are items from the family collection, various legal documents, remembered stories, and family interviews. On the Kessler side, we are blessed with Grandpa's books. These books are admittedly difficult to read and sometimes clearly fictional, but I find them to be treasures nonetheless.

During this adventure, I found a need to visit both Schuylkill county and Pittsburgh to interview some folks who might have known Mom, Dad, Grandpa Elias, Grandma Emma, Grandpa Phil, and Grandma Mary. I asked my nearest sibling, Mary, to join in my adventure, swearing her to secrecy of my surprise. Lynn, who was coming east to visit Mary at that same time, joined us. It was a remarkable weekend; an extraordinary event. We met family we had never met, we walked in the footsteps of our ancestors, and found out more than we had ever known.

For the sake of readability, the first edition is more a set of essays than a vigorous genealogy study. Where most genealogies have many charts, I have inserted pictures and stories. The first essay about the excellent adventure refers to Bob and Arlene as "Mom and Dad", all



Elias and Arlene Kessler