

Myer was born in Melbourne, Australia on the 30 April 1921. He was the youngest son of Samuel David and Rose Harris and he had two older brothers Solomon (Solly) and Isadore (Issy).

Myer's paternal grandfather Hyman Harris was born in Russia and married Rachel Nagovfski who was born in Poland, on the 11 June 1879 at the Great Synagogue, Belgrave Street in Leeds. Their first child Ellen was born later the same year. Ellen was followed by Barnet, Betsy, Rebecca, Samuel, Solomon, Morris and finally Eli in 1893.

After the birth of Morris in 1886, Hyman became a naturalised British citizen. The document is dated 3 September 1886 and Hyman lists his occupation as a butcher. He has signed the document with a cross indicating that he could not read or write. Hyman's family have advised that he was the first Kosher butcher in Leeds. He opened his butchers' shop on Thursday nights when the local men got paid and after the pubs closed, he held a meat auction. He also used to send food parcels to the poor, but this was not discovered until after he died.

*The Leeds Commercial Directory of Jews of Great Britain 1894.  
Harris, Hyman, 54 Bridge Street; and at 30, Hope Street; Family butcher and German wurst  
and sausage manufacturer and poulterer. Est. 1876.*

The 1911 census shows the family living at 148 North Street, Leeds. Hyman and Rachel have been married for thirty-two years and they state that they had ten children of which four had died. Hyman is running the butchers with Rachel assisting, along with their sons Samuel and Eli. Their daughter Betsy is now married to Harry Hyman, an auctioneer's assistant, and they are also living at the house with their son Louis.

On 2 January 1914, Samuel travelled to Australia on the ship Otranto, travelling from London to Melbourne. Family have stated that Samuel was a gambler and may have had to leave England because of his debts. In 1915 Samuel married Rose Lipman in Melbourne, Victoria and their first child Solomon was born in the same year. Their second son Isadore was born in October 1917 followed by Myer in 1921. Myer's birth certificate states that his father Samuel was working as a tramway conductor and the family were living at 25 Myrtle Street in Clifton Hill, Melbourne.

#### Rose's family

Rose's father was Moses Aaron Lipman who was born in Russia in 1854. He married his first wife in South Africa, and they had two children. When his wife died the children were raised by relatives whilst Moses travelled to London. In London, he met and married Betsy Silker and their first child Myer was born in 1892 in Tower Hamlets. He was followed by a sister Dora and they both attended Berner Street school in Tower Hamlets in 1897. Two further girls were born in London, Rose and Precia.

Moses then returned to South Africa with Betsy and the children following on the 7 July 1897 on the ship Aotea to Cape Town. Moses and Betsy had a further five children all born in South Africa with the youngest Lionel born in 1908. Moses ran a canteen at the Kimberley diamond mines.

Moses first marriage had produced two children who survived into adulthood, but only just, with one being a son who died without issue, apparently from wounds suffered in the Boer War, and a daughter who married and had Moses' first grandchild, born the very same day as his youngest child, Lionel, though in different parts of South Africa, namely Kimberley and Cape Town. The daughter who married died not long after, leaving a toddler who was raised by her father, Moses' son-in-law and grew up in South Africa.

By 1914 the family had moved to Surrey Hills in Australia where Moses was working once again as a tailor and Betsy was a dressmaker. The Lipman family all remained in Australia.

#### The return to England

In 1925, Samuel, Rose and their three young boys decided to move back to Leeds where Samuel's family were still living. They travelled on the ship the Largs Bay which arrived on 1 August 1925 into the Port of London. The passenger manifest states that their forwarding address was 148 North Street in Leeds. There are many photos of the family on board the ship in the gallery.

The family settled in Leeds and Myer attended the City of Leeds school where he enjoyed sport and was a member of both the school's cricket and football teams. After finishing school Myer worked for Wireless Instruments (Leeds) Ltd as a radio engineer. In 1939, the register states that the family are living at 8 Southland Drive in Leeds and Myer's father Samuel had returned to butchery along with his older brother Solomon. At the outbreak of war all three brothers served in the Armed Forces with Myer enlisting into the RAFVR.

After Myer's death his parents Samuel and Rose, returned to Melbourne on 22 January 1948 to live out their retirement until they died in the 1950's. Myer's brothers remained in Leeds where they married and raised their own families.