In Search of Refuge
The Blumenstein Family (1938-1946)
Henry, Franz, and Else Blumenstein
Vienna (1938)
The family in 1932, note that the photo of Regina seems to be cropped from this photo--see Franz’s bare chest…

https://collections.ushmm.org/iiif/assets/317200/full/90,/0/default.jpg?t=1497321903336
Franz in Havana 1939

Source: USHMM
https://collections.ushmm.org/iiif/assets/317080/full/90,/0/default.jpg?t=1497299168351
Grandmother Elsa with Henry, 1939, while quarantined in the Netherlands.

https://collections.ushmm.org/iiif/assets/317149/full/90,/0/default.jpg?t=1497321529335
Franz Blumenstein in Sosua, 1940

USHMM:
https://collections.ushmm.org/iiif/assets/317082/full/90/0/default.jpg?t=149729925740
Meine unglaublich
wunderbare gute
herzliche Mutter,
die alles für ihre
 Kinder gab und
opferte. Fei

Regina Blumenstein-Frank
17. Juni 1966 Nove Zunky Čech
Voyant and Text Analysis
Testimonies of Zellner and Feldman (two testimonies in USHMM collection with transcripts)
Correlation between “didn’t” and “know” in Zellner and Feldman testimonies
References to St. Louis in Feldman vs. Zellner - Zellner seems to mention the trip more
Feb. 12th 1941

My dearest Peryle,

First of all I would like to confirm the receipt of your letter from Dec. 9th via Fini and the letter from Dec. 20th. I am happy that now I get mail from you more often as the long waiting is nerve wrecking. From my Feb. 3rd 41 letter you already know that a transport is put together from here. Mr. Trane left already yesterday and took some papers with him. I have to explain to you again that the exit permit from Holland is the key document. Once I have this I will receive the necessary transit visas. I do not expect any difficulties as you have vouchered for the travel expenses. Therefore until the exit permit is granted nothing else can be accomplished. In any case Mrs. van Teyn has assured me in the presence of Mr. Trane that I will be one of the first to leave. Either by myself or with the transport whichever comes first. Believe me darling I am already more with you than here. Now each week seems like a year but I firmly cling to the hope that this time I will succeed. I am happy to think that you have adjusted so well to your new work and that, with God’s help, we will have our own home by the time we join you. Both of us deeply appreciate what this word “Home” means to us. And again you will be my teacher in a new and strange job, and you will be irritated by my stubbornness. But I promise I will do my best so that I will be able to contribute in the building of our new home and the new future for our child. Heinzl, our whole life, will bring you a lot of happiness. He is a real boy, a little rascal who talks a mile a minute from morning to night. You will have trouble hiding your emotions when he comes with his impish face and tells you what he has done. Julius has taken care of the pictures and I will settle with the movers. Please write every week so that I am not without mail.


Warmest greetings to Paul.
Voyant word cloud of 11 translated letters from Else (Netherlands) to Franz (Sosua, Dominican Republic), 1940-1941.
Online Exhibits: Omeka
IN SEARCH OF REFUGE: THE BLUMENSTEIN FAMILY, 1938-1946

This is the introductory text that appears on the Browse Exhibits page.

Credits

Katherine Hubler, Matthew Lundin, Katherine Sorrels
Omeka

*Photograph

*Embedded Video

*BatchGeo Map
Metadata EXTRAVAGANZA

Work creating item (with metadata) in Omeka.
Omeka Failure - Embedding Video
Omeka - Embedding Video

**SOSUA SETTLEMENT**

The Dominican Republic was aided heavily by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (The Joint), which established the Dominican Republic Settlement Association (DORISA) through its agricultural arm, the American Jewish Joint Agricultural Corporation. This organization provided funding and infrastructure to the largely urban German Jewish population who would take up residence as farmers, dairy, and meat producers in Sosua and other locations throughout the country. Life in this unlikely haven was far from ideal, particularly for those Jews accustomed to the metropolitan centers of Central Europe. Farms failed, the weather was uncooperative, and the small Jewish population meant it was difficult to start a family. Many Jewish men married (or simply took up company with) Dominican women. This is not, however, a story of assimilation into a local population—in fact, quite the opposite. Instead, the Jewish population of Sosua largely maintained its European customs and sense of identity. This is reflected in the mass exodus that occurred in the years following the war. Today, Sosua’s Jewish population is nonexistent.

- USHMM Experiencing History, "Jewish Perspectives on the Holocaust"
Omeka Link to Batch Geo Map

View Franz Blumenstein Emigration 1938-1946 in a full screen map
Batch Geo Map
Omeka

- Useful for curating and displaying images, video, and maps in a meaningful way
- Clunky to create exhibitions, but easy “fit” with historical narrative
  - Text can still do heavy lifting
- Difficult to get sense of scale
- Limited interactivity
Mapping:

Batch Geo
Google Maps
Story Maps
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kristallnacht: Franz Blumenstein arrested</td>
<td>1938-11-0</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Franz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dachau: Franz Blumenstein sent to Dachau</td>
<td>1938-11-1</td>
<td>Dachau</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Franz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franz released from Dachau, sails to South America</td>
<td>1939-02-2</td>
<td>Georgetow</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>Franz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franz arrives in Havana</td>
<td>1939-04-1</td>
<td>Havana</td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Franz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franz emigrates to Sosua</td>
<td>1940-11-2</td>
<td>Sosua</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Franz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franz emigrates to New York</td>
<td>1946-04-0</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Franz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Geocoded 6 records.

See your map below. If you find any markers out of place - just drag and drop them to the correct location.

Note: 1 locations were not found.
Franz’s Trajectory
Elsa’s Trajectory

- 5/27/39
- 5/1/39
- 9/24/43
Can’t figure out how to change to color of the lines! (Kate)

**Blumenstein map**

This map shows the trajectories of all three family members.
Blumenstein Family

Henryat 4.5 years old

Got it!

Blumenstein map

This map shows the trajectories of all three family members.
Figured out layers in story maps.
Mapping Possibilities in Story Maps:

- Visualizing correspondence on a map. Both correspondence between Franz and Else but also correspondence between Franz and various committees, governments, etc.
- Visualizing both the forced separation but also the agency of family members in maintaining connection.
- Visualizing the way options opened up and disappeared.
- Combining visualization with narration.
Henry’s visa

Departed Marseille - August 24, 1946
Henry's passport

Entered US. September 8, 1946.