

April 25 1966

Mr Ernesto Davila Angulo

11 Hidalgo St.

Magdalena Sonora Mexico

Dear Mr Angulo,

The following will recount some of the details of a search which I started as a hobby about 9 years ago. I became interested in preparing a history of the LATZ family which according to my research originated in POSEN, then in Prussia. I have re-searched it fairly well as far back as 1750 and among some of the documents I came across I found a mention of MIGUEL LATZ of Los Angeles Cal. I also found a newspaper clipping printed at the time of the death of Mrs Ana Maria Davila <sup>Natalie</sup> Latz.

With these notes as my clues I contacted the U.S. Consul in Nogales who in turn contacted authorities in your city. They provided me with the names of members of your family and I chose your name from among them as the one most likely to help me as you appear to be the closest male member to Miguel Latz. Natalie

up to about a year ago I had never been aware that any members of the LATZ family existed in Mexico except that I found a Michail Philip Latz listed in the Mexico City phone book. I discovered this on a visit to Mexico in 1963 where I vacationed with my wife. We took the usual tourists 3 week trips from Mexico City to Acapulco etc and enjoyed

every moment of it. Upon my return home I wrote to Mr M.P. Latz but he did not answer either the first or second of my two letters.

I don't know how much you may recall of the older history of the Latz family but I found my research most intriguing. The reference in the photostat to a home and school refers to an endowment made about 1820 for the establishment of these two institutions and to which Miguel Latz and Arnold Ferber made some contributions as evidenced by the plate mentioned. My letters indicate records made in 1938 before Hitler destroyed most of the files and records and contains the copy of a will made by Rabbi Solomon Benjamin Latz in which he established the funds to endow these two institutions.

I have found mention of Rachel and Sol Ferber, parents of Arnold Ferber. Rachel was a grand-daughter of a Jacob Latz. But what really prompts my letter to you, is to determine the origin of MIGUEL LATZ as I cannot locate his name in any of the city records or family records. The first mention was as a contributor to the home which would indicate close ties with relatives in Posen. It may be, that no one has the facts I seek at this late date but I find the

records for them, more exciting than reading a  
current detective novel.

If you or your family members can provide  
me with any facts or are interested in any  
of the facts I now possess I would be glad to  
communicate further with you. Also would like  
to know if you know of the Ferbers who are  
also mentioned in California *EL VIA*

I came across a member of the family,  
Private Benjamin Latz who served in the Mexican  
War as a soldier in the American Army 1846/1847  
and entered Mexico at that time. My own  
grandfather Jacob Wolf Latz came to the U.S. about  
1845 with several others of his family.

I hope that my letter interests you  
enough to reply to me. Be assured that  
there are no great fortunes at stake either  
way as I undertook this as a hobby when  
I retired about 10 years ago. If you believe  
this would interest any other members of your  
family you are at liberty to pass this on.

Hopefully and Sincerely -  
Jacob Latz

456 BROOKLYN AVE  
BROOKLYN 11225  
N.Y.

*EL VIA*

In the large hall by the entrance where the picture of Solomon Latz hangs, is engraved on the wall: This Home came into existence by the legacy of the merchant, Solomon Benjamin Latz, in Posen, amounting to 6000 thaler. On a large heavy marble plate are engraved the names of other philanthropists. Some contributions amounted to 40,000 or 30,000 marks. Amongst them are mentioned the contributions of the descendants of Mr. Solomon Latz, (all in German) the relatives of the founder, Miguel Latz and Arnold Ferber of Mexico, and Julius Latz in Posen, 5000 marks. Opposite this plate is seen another plate inscribed in Polish: To the praised memory of our cordial benefactor, the deceased Miguel Latz, Los Angeles, California.

This institution is self-supporting from the funds left by philanthropists. The vicissitudes of time did not affect it. About eighty aged men and women are kept there, with all conveniences. As to form and spaciousness there is no equal to it in all Poland, amongst our better Jews. The townspeople also come to religious services at the Lecture House, besides the old inmates. Services are held three times a day. Two or three of them learn daily a Talmudic lesson, but the voice of Torah is no longer heard like in former days. The heart of the Jewish youth is not for Talmud, not even for scripture. Times have changed in this respect, and not for the better.

I hereby submit birth records of the children of R. Solomon. It is found in Government archives in file bearing name Acta von Solomon Benjamin Latz. Acta L., 17N; C. X. VII 57.

The community presented this certificate to the heirs of the deceased and verified by its seal and signatures of the heads of the community. The Municipality signed also. His first wife and his second wife are also mentioned.