

HARRER-KOECK

Updated 2021 June 13

Louis Harrer was a Barge Captain. He was born in Linz, Austria on April 13, 1881 and immigrated to New York in March 1907 at age 26. He enlisted in the US armed forces and fought in World War I, earning himself naturalization citizenship in 1918.¹ Once a citizen, he applied for a U.S. Passport in 1919 so he could go to Czechoslovakia to visit his elderly mother.² He renewed his passport in 1920 so he could bring his elderly mother to America. He was a Barge Captain at that time, living at 2137 Clinton Ave, Bronx, NY³, and was married to **Lena Koeck**, also a native of Austria, and daughter of **Adolph Koeck** and **Lena Schaman**⁸.

In 1921 Louis and Lena had a baby boy who lived only eight days, and died in Manhattan, New York being then buried in City Cemetery. At that time Louis and Lena were living in Long Island, New York at 200 Richmond Turnpike.⁴

By 1940 Louis and Lena were living on a barge on **Boller Avenue**, Baychester, Bronx, New York. Louis was still a Barge Captain.⁵ The barge was at the end of Boller Avenue on Given's Creek. The boathouse was eventually given a house number of **2342 Boller Avenue**.⁶ Louis was barging coal.

By the mid 1940s Louis's barge was permanently moored, and he was renting out boats. His boat livery business was right next to the Hutchinson River Parkway.⁷

¹ "United States Index to Naturalizations of World War I Soldiers, 1918," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XPZG-72F> : 4 December 2014), Louis Harrer, 1918; from "Index to Naturalizations of World War I Soldiers, 1918," database, Fold3.com (<http://www.fold3.com> : n.d.); citing court number 3539, NARA microfilm publication M1952 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 2.

² "United States Passport Applications, 1795-1925," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/QKDN-GPJT> : 16 March 2018), Louis Harrer, 1919; citing Passport Application, New York, United States, source certificate #120646, Passport Applications, January 2, 1906 - March 31, 1925, 927, NARA microfilm publications M1490 and M1372 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

³ "New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island), 1892-1924", database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/J6X8-W3B> : 31 January 2018), Louis Harrer, 1920.

⁴ "New York, New York City Municipal Deaths, 1795-1949," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/2W12-PG3> : 10 February 2018), Louis Harrer in entry for Harrer, 01 Nov 1921; citing Death, Manhattan, New York, New York, United States, New York Municipal Archives, New York; FHL microfilm 2,027,763.

⁵ "United States Census, 1940," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/KQM8-FY4> : accessed 3 May 2018), Louis Harrer, Assembly District 6, Bronx, New York City, Bronx, New York, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 3-788, sheet 5A, line 12, family 52, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, NARA digital publication T627. Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, RG 29. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012, roll 2480.

⁶ "United States World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/F3N5-227> : 8 November 2017), Louis Harrer, 1942; citing NARA microfilm publication M1936, M1937, M1939, M1951, M1962, M1964, M1986, M2090, and M2097 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

⁷ Telephone conversation June 2021 with Joseph Mileski, a neighborhood child.

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On April 10, 1943 **Lena (Koeck) Harrer**, age 61, died in the Bronx, New York⁸. She was buried in St. Michael's Cemetery in Astoria, Queens, New York. She had still been living at the boathouse at 2342 Boller Avenue. After Lena's death, **Louis Harrer** moved from Boller Avenue, Baychester, Bronx to Manhattan, New York, where he died on August 21, 1960 at age 79.⁹ His burial site is unknown.

⁸ "New York, New York City Municipal Deaths, 1795-1949," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/2WPW-3YV> : 10 February 2018), Louis Harrer in entry for Lena Harrer, 10 Apr 1943; citing Death, Bronx, New York, New York, United States, New York Municipal Archives, New York; FHL microfilm 2,195,857.

⁹ "New York State Health Department, Genealogical Research Death Index, 1957-1963," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/2CHN-QT8> : 11 February 2018), Louis Harrer, 21 Aug 1960; citing Death, New York, Manhattan, New York, file #59585, New York State Department of Health-Vital Records Section, Albany.