

Russian-Born Socialite Knew Widow, Assassin

Descendant of American Revolution Officer
Had Met Both Mrs. Kennedy and Oswald

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WASHINGTON (AP) — A

Russian-born society figure and descendant of an officer of the American Revolution was a friend both of the family of President John F. Kennedy and his assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald.

A series of strange coincidences providing the only known link between the two families before Oswald fired the shot killing Mr. Kennedy in Dallas a year ago was described in testimony before the Warren Commission by George S. De Mohrenschildt. It was disclosed with the commission's release of the transcripts of its hearings.

De Mohrenschildt is a business promoter now living in Haiti where he has a series of business ventures in which he is associated with the government of President Francois Duvalier.

Long Island in 1938

He testified that when he came to the United States in 1938 and worked as a perfume salesman in New York City, he and his brother spent the summer at Belpport, Long Island, where he met Mrs. Jack Bouvier and her daughter.

"We were very close friends," he testified, "We saw each other every day. I met Jackie then, when she was a little girl."

The friendship, he said, has continued through the years—he still corresponds with and occasionally sees Mrs. Kennedy's mother, now Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss.

And, he said, when he and a former wife organized the National Foundation for Cystic Fibrosis in Dallas, "Jacqueline Kennedy was the honorary chairman." The foundation was organized, he said, because of the affliction

of his son, Sergei, who died of cystic fibrosis in 1960.

His first meeting with the Oswalds, he testified, was through mutual acquaintances in a Russian colony in Dallas who told him Lee Oswald, who once lived in Minsk, his birthplace, was living in poverty in the slums of Fort Worth.

He said he visited Oswald and his wife Marina in Fort Worth and later after they

moved to Dallas, where, despite their poverty, they were accepted and aided by wealthier persons with Russian connections.

De Mohrenschildt testified that after the assassination it "was always amazing to me"; that he had known Oswald as "an admirer of President Kennedy."

"I think I once mentioned to him that I met Mrs. Kennedy when she was a child you know, she was a very strong-willed child, very intelligent and very attractive child you see, and a very attractive family, and I thought Kennedy was doing a very good job with regard to the racial problem, you know," he said in testimony

published by the commission.

"... And he (Oswald) also agreed with me, 'Yes, yes, yes; I think it is an excellent President, young, full of energy, full of good ideas.'"

His connection with the American Revolution came out in questions by Albert E. Jenner, Jr., assistant general counsel for the commission, who asked about an American ancestor.

De Mohrenschildt said he does not know the entire story but "we have in the family some Baltic Swede, an ancestor of ours, who was an officer of the independence army . . . took the name of Ross . . . then went back to Europe and died there."