second honeymoon to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary, Meta was suddenly taken ill with pneumonia. She died a few days later, on February 22, 1925, at the age of 52.

For a couple of years after Meta’s death, Simon continued to drive from Mt. Vernon to his Manhattan business each day. But the house in the country no longer gave him the pleasure it once had, and he moved back to New York. There he shared an apartment near the Hudson River with his sister, Ray Davidov, who had been widowed more than twenty years earlier. To make the load easier, his brother’s two sons joined him in the store. He still enjoyed going for drives, but he was content to let someone else handle the wheel. A niece and her daughter, of whom he was especially fond, visited him often, and he took great interest in the young girl’s school and camp activities.

Simon Finck died on October 29, 1950, at the age of 83. Until his last days the S. Finck Company was still the center of his life, and Simon Finck was its guiding force. His will provided a life income to his sister, Ray Davidov, until her death in 1957, at which time his estate came to the New York Community Trust. The income from his Fund is used to benefit the community he loved.

Simon Finck
1867-1950
Office buildings that were rapidly changing the face of New York. His company provided office floor coverings and draperies for many of the major corporations in the city.

A new invention helped the company to grow. It was the straight-line inlaying machine for the manufacture of linoleum. Invented by the Englishman, Frederick Walton, in 1863, linoleum had become a major industry by 1900. America's first plant had been established at "Linoleumville" on Staten Island in 1872. Straight-line inlaid linoleum, which featured squares and other geometric designs integrated into a continuous smooth surface, combined the formality of appearance with the ease of installation needed for offices and large rooms. Coming just after the turn of the century as Simon and Meta Fink were getting their business on its feet, this product made a major contribution to their success — success which rode the wave of New York's growth and culminated in the explosive building boom of the 1920's.

While Simon attracted customers and supervised the installations, Meta, who was an excellent seamstress, tailored the long, heavy draperies that were to hang in the windows of the banks and other institutions that were their clients.

As the business grew, the S. Finck Company moved to larger quarters in lower Manhattan. Now Simon added carpets to his range of products. He imported the finest carpets from Europe for the luxurious executive offices of his clients. He was one of the first in the industry to advocate extensive use of carpeting in business establishments. The telephone company and a number of radio stations, recognizing the acoustical properties of carpet, were among his early carpeting customers. By the mid 1920s, the S. Finck Company was a prosperous concern with thirty employees. In 1924, Simon acquired the business of a similar company when he bought the Dreadnought Flooring Co., Inc.

As in all families, there were sadness and disappointments for the Fincks. A child named Dorothy died soon after her birth in 1903. Not long afterward, a second child did not survive birth. As much to recover from her own grief as to aid the business, Meta continued to work with her husband. However, as Harlem became increasingly crowded, the Fincks decided to move out of the city. They bought a house in Mt. Vernon, New York. Meta enjoyed her new surroundings and soon became active in her church there. But Simon had to give up one of his greatest pleasures — taking his brother Moses's children for rides in Central Park in a cart drawn by a pair of goats.

The Finck Home at 121 North Terrace Avenue, Mt. Vernon, New York, with Simon's first car, a Dodge, about 1923.
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