

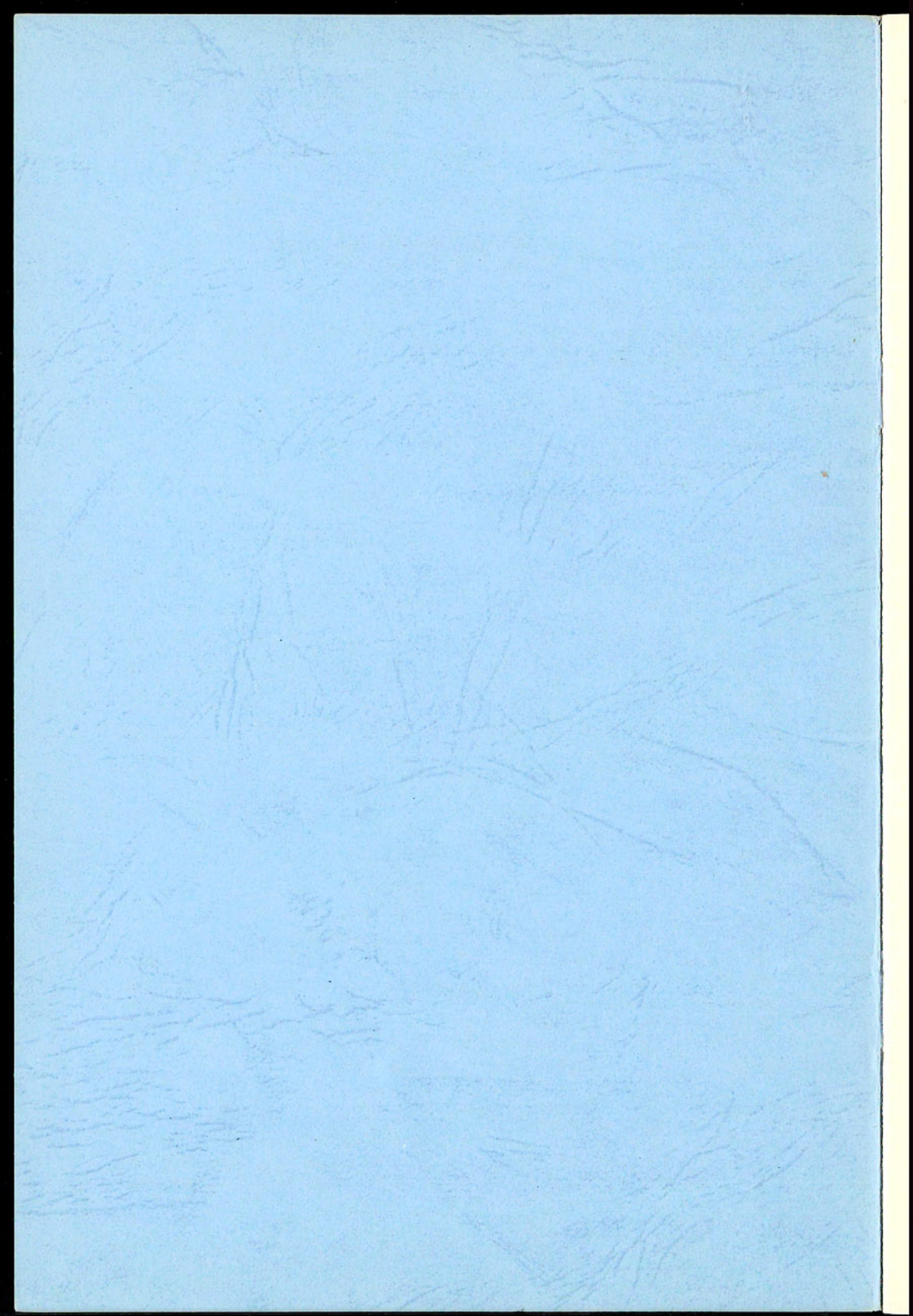
MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY



JUNE, 1973

SIVAN, 5733

Jewish Historical Society of Michigan



MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

"When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come . . ."

—Joshua 4:21

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In Memoriam



BERNARD WHITEMAN
1917 - 1972

Bernard Whiteman was born in Toledo, Ohio, and raised in Detroit, where he attended elementary and secondary schools. He graduated from Wayne State University in 1938.

Whiteman served in the armed forces from 1942 till 1946. At the war's end, he returned to Detroit, and became a certified public accountant.

Always interested in communal service, Whiteman started as a young boy with the Boy Scouts and the B'nai B'rith's A.Z.A. He later joined Tikvah Lodge of B'nai B'rith, and became its president in 1960. Shortly afterwards, he became vice-president of Metropolitan B'nai B'rith Council of Detroit. He helped organize the Oakland-Century Lodge, becoming its second president.

Recently, Bernard Whiteman was honored by the leadership of Israel Bonds.

In addition to being a dedicated member of the Michigan Jewish Historical Society, he was also a member of Perfection Lodge of the Masonic Order.

He was a member of Beth Achim for 22 years and the president of its Men's Club in 1966. He was also a member of the Michigan and American Institute of CPA's.

Following his splendid example, his wife Fredell and his children David, Kenneth, and JoAnne were encouraged to take part in community affairs. His ardent desire to visit Israel was realized shortly before his demise, November 11, 1972.

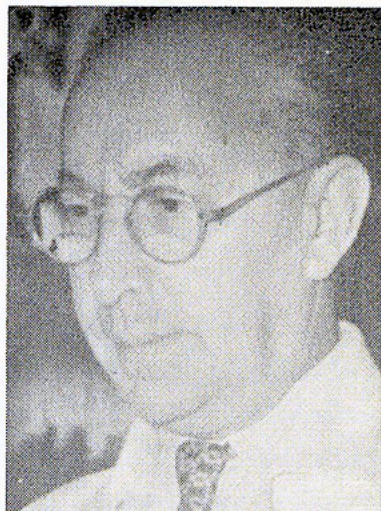
Bernard Whiteman will long be remembered for his warm smile, outgoing personality, and his ability to make friends.

We extend to his family our heartfelt sympathy at his loss, and wish them to know our prayers are with them.

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A MEMOIR

By Dr. Joseph E. Zeltzer



I was born into an Orthodox family in Minsk, Russia on September 15, 1887, and was raised like the other children until reaching the age of seventeen. Then I left for the United States, and came to Rochester, N. Y. I went through the same stages of adjustments most immigrants did during their first years in the new country.

I attended preparatory schools in New York and Chicago, and entered the Michigan Agricultural School in East Lansing, Michigan in 1912. A year later, I enrolled in the School of Veterinary Medicine from which I graduated on June 1, 1917 with the degree of D.V.M.—Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. The same month I moved to Detroit where I applied for a position at the Detroit Board of Health. The Commissioner was Dr. Inches.

At that time, there was no inspection of meat or poultry by the City of Detroit. However, the city did employ one veterinary inspector, a certain Dr. Stetes, whose work was limited to the livestock yards and also with the Medical Milk Commission. That was all. Nor was there an inspection or control of the slaughter of animals or poultry, although the Federal Government did inspect slaughter houses for beef, lamb and hogs, but mainly for interstate commerce.

The slaughter of meat for kosher Jewish consumption was done in several of the city's slaughter houses without any inspection.

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The kosher type slaughter of poultry was in the hands of "shochtim"* carried out mainly in barns next to alleys, and again without inspection or control. These, of course, were in the Jewish neighborhoods, especially on Hastings Street, at that time the main area of the Jewish population. These barns were very unsanitary; and the "shochtim" who performed the slaughter were also unsanitary in their practices, wearing their street clothes and having no sewer systems in their places of slaughter.

The Board of Health of Detroit at the time either could not or would not bother to inspect these slaughter places. Besides, there were no inspectors to do the job.

Dr. Inches, however, recognized the problem, and decided to begin the regulation and inspection of the poultry slaughter houses which, of course, were all Jewish. He was, therefore, looking for an inspector who could talk the Yiddish language. For this reason, I got the job and went to work. I was given a set of regulations by the Detroit Board of Health to impose on these Jewish slaughter houses.

Most of the "shochtim" were fine people and cooperated fully. A few, however, resisted, and I was forced to give these warnings that their permits would be cancelled. This made me at times persona non grata on Hastings Street. Certainly, I was not popular. In a couple of months, however, all these poultry slaughter houses (barns) did comply with the Detroit Board of Health's sanitary regulations; and some of the "shochtim" even thanked me.

Having accomplished this, I was then asked by Dr. Inches to do the same for the non-Jewish beef and hog slaughter houses. But one inspector could not do all the work, and the Board of Health gave up the work of meat inspection altogether at the time.

It is important to note that I WAS THE FIRST AND ONLY JEWISH VETERINARY INSPECTOR EVER HIRED IN THE CITY OF DETROIT WHO COULD SPEAK THE YIDDISH LANGUAGE.

I did not remain with the City of Detroit very long, but accepted a position with the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., stationed in Detroit. I remained in this position for 40 years, having retired in 1957.

*Ritual meat slaughterers

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DR. JAMES W. INCHES, THE INNOVATOR 1860-1951

By Allen A. Warsen

Dr. Inches, who hired Dr. Zeltzer to serve in the Detroit Health Department because he spoke Yiddish and could communicate with the "shochtim," was one of Detroit's foremost health officers. He served from March, 1917 until January, 1919, when he resigned to become police commissioner, an office he held until February 2, 1923.

Dr. Inches' Health Department title was Health Officer. The title Health Commissioner became popular after the First World War. Dr. Henry Vaughan was the first Detroiter referred to as Health Commissioner.

Dr. Inches was an innovator and an efficient health officer. When appointed to head the Health Department, Detroit was in the midst of a most distressing epidemic—scarlet fever was rampant. In order to stem the further spread of the epidemic, Dr. Inches opened a scarlet fever hospital, and initiated a rigid system of quarantine enforcement.

As health officer, he also formulated a code of rules and regulations on the occupancy and maintenance of dwellings. He purchased 650 acres of land about 25 miles northwest of the city for an institution for the care and treatment of people infected with tuberculosis, the Maybury Sanatorium, which is not in existence any longer.

Dr. Inches served under the mayors Oscar Marx, James Couzens, John C. Lodge, and Frank E. Doremus.

As mentioned above, Dr. Inches was an innovator. Employing Dr. Zeltzer because of his knowledge of Yiddish was such an innovation. Dr. Zeltzer's primary role was not so much enforcement as instruction. This duty Dr. Zeltzer fulfilled conscientiously and well. He instructed the "shochtim" in hygiene and sanitation, and instilled in them a respect for cleanliness.

At first, the "shochtim," newly arrived immigrants from Eastern European countries, were suspicious of Dr. Zeltzer. But soon, they started to respect and trust him. They especially appreciated his tactful approach and demeanor.

The above information I secured in the offices of the Detroit Police Commissioner, City Clerk, Health Department and the Burton Historical Collection. I am especially indebted to Miss Mary Peltier, Research Assistant in Health Education, Detroit Department of Health.

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PASSAGES FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ZION COMMONWEALTH, INC.

We, the members and shareholders of the Zion Commonwealth, Inc., have organized and established this Company for the purpose of aiding in the settlement of Jews in Palestine, and of securing for our members and their descendants rights, interests and privileges in lands occupied by the Zion Commonwealth, Inc., to the end that social justice, in harmony with the ideals of the prophets of Israel, may be the cornerstone of the Jewish Commonwealth of Zion.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to keep safely all funds entrusted to its care and to invest and re-invest such funds here and abroad; to authorize and approve such expenditures as may be necessary for propaganda purposes and in the investigation, purchase, occupation and development of land in Palestine (and territory adjacent thereto) and to deliver to each member of the Zion Commonwealth, Inc., who shall have duly paid up all the required installments under any Land Certificate Agreement, a deed certifying that such member is entitled to the use, benefit and advantage of the surface value of a certain piece of cultivated agricultural land (specified in the deed), reserving to the Zion Commonwealth, Inc., the commercial, industrial and mineral interests in said land. No money may be expended out of the Land Certificate Fund unless formally approved in writing by at least three trustees, and after request for such appropriation is first presented by the Board of Directors.

Not less than one year after the maturity of the land certificates of the Agudah Rishonah,* and after there shall be upon the lands of the Zion Commonwealth not less than ten residents of over twenty years of age, there shall be established, by the Board of Directors, a Governing Council, to be known as the Board of Shoftim, consisting of thirteen persons, selected by the settlers upon the Zion Commonwealth lands. The Chairman of the Board of Shoftim shall be known as the Nasi, and he shall hold office for five years; and the remaining

*First Association

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twelve members shall be divided into four groups of three persons each, each group to hold office respectively for one, two, three and four years. At the conclusion of the term of office of each member of the Board of Shoftim, including the Nasi, other officers shall be chosen for a period of five years by the duly qualified electors of the lands of the Zion Commonwealth. Each voter on the Zion Commonwealth lands shall, except in the year when the Nasi is chosen, be entitled to vote for only two members of the Board of Shoftim out of the three to be selected .

The Nasi shall be the chief executive of the community, or communities, organized upon Zion Commonwealth lands, and shall have the power to present measures for action by the Board of Shoftim. No taxes shall be levied or expenses incurred, except upon the vote of a majority of the Board of Shoftim, including the affirmative vote of the Nasi. Any proposed rule or regulation of the Board of Shoftim, including bills for the appropriation of money and the levying of taxes, which meets with the disapproval of the Nasi, may be passed over by his veto, by the affirmative vote of nine members of the Board of Shoftim. (Shoftim—Judges; Nasi—President, A.W.)

Editor's Remarks:

The complete text of the Zion Commonwealth, Inc. Constitution was contributed to the Jewish Archives by Sen. Charles S. Blondy.

The Constitution was registered by Hyman Blondy on October 6th, 1919. The witnesses were Bernard A. Rosenblatt, President, and Syhan Rohsin, Treasurer.

Hyman Blondy of Blessed Memory was the father of Senator Charles Blondy. He was born in Poltowski, about fifty miles from Kiev, in the Ukraine U.S.S.R.

He came to New York in 1901 with his wife Goldie. They lived for a while in Stanford, Connecticut and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Hyman Blondy was a tailor by trade. He heard that Henry Ford was paying \$5.00 per day so he moved his wife and five (5) children to Detroit.

He worked at the Ford Motor Company by day and in his tailor shop at night.

The family first lived on Wilkins street, then on Division near Hastings and later on Theodore. The next move was to Michigan Avenue near 29th Street. Here he attended the El Moshe Synagogue. His Detroit cousins were Meyer, Nate and Charles Agree, Morris Canvasser, the Gorelicks, Caplans and the Rosens.

He attended meetings at the Isaac Agree Aid Society on Rosedale in Detroit. In later years the meetings were held at the Detroit Hotel on Woodward Avenue.

The Isaac Agree Memorial Society now maintains the Downtown Synagogue.

Hyman Blondy spent his last days at the Jewish Home for the Aged before his death in 1946. He was buried in Detroit's Hebrew Memorial Society's Cemetery—Chesed Shel Emmes.

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THE YIDDISH DIRECTORY

In 1907 a Yiddish directory of the adult Jewish population was published in Detroit. As far as we know, this is the only directory ever published in Yiddish. It consists of 80 some pages. Each page is divided into two columns. In addition to the last and given names, it includes their addresses and occupations.

The columns and not the pages are numbered. Vis-a-vis each column-number there is a Hebrew letter, as the names are arranged according to the Hebrew alphabet.

The directory with its many advertisements is a true reflection of the economic life of Detroit's Jews of the first decade of this century, and is an excellent mirror of the neighborhoods where they resided and carried on their businesses.

27	אסקא, סטודענט, 588 ענטוויין סט.	ב'ומבערג
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	לינא, בוך קיפער, בדט, 160 אלפרעד סט.	
	סוימאן ס. קלערק, 160 אלפרעד סט.	
	הערריס, קלערק, 224 עליוואבעט סט. א.	
	דשוליס, קאלעקטאָר, 150 אלפרעד סט.	
	מייער, קלערק, 252 ריווארד סט.	ב'ומענפערל
	סעמיול, שניידער, 252 ריווארד סט.	
	סידני י. ריעל עסטייט, 101 דרוטע סט.	
	דיוויד, פרעז. אמ. לובק, 99 אלפרעד	ב'ומענמחאל
	העררי ס. פייפער סטאק, 1075 דשעפערסאן	
	סעמיול, בוך קיפער, 90 אלפרעד סט.	
	עדוין ה. 581 ענטוויין סט.	
	העררי ס. 66 אלעקזאנדריין עוו.	
	אברהם י. פראָדוס 140 פיטשער סט.	ב'ומנאָרדען
	דשויקאב, בוטשער, 346 ענטוויין סט.	
	טשאַרלס, בוטשער, 346 ענטוויין סט.	
	מעקס, בוטשער, 346 ענטוויין סט.	
	יעטא, קלערק, 346 ענטוויין סט.	
	פיליפ, טיטשער, 140 פיטשער סט.	
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	דארא, טיטשער, 115 עדלייד סט.	ב'וכהארטער
	רעוו. היימען, 115 עדלייד סט.	
	מיריאן, טיטשער, 115 עדלייד סט.	
	לינא, טיטשער, 115 עדלייד סט.	

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29	אדאָלף א. סילבסמאן, 214 דשאַן קאספאָ	בוכבינדער
	קארל קלערק, 187 פארט סט. א.	
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	הערר, קעפטיקער, 163 עליוואבעט סט.	בלאטניקא
	טיטהען, קעפטיקער, 163 עליוואבעט סט.	
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	העלען קלערק, 554 רייאפּעל סט.	בלאך
	מאָריס פרייט טיקער, 554 רייאפּעל סט.	
	מאָריס אפטישען, 110 לענאָס אפארט.	בלעק
	וואלטער ל. דענסט, 140 ווינדער סט.	
	הענרי ב. 406 וואדווארד עט.	בוטנעל
	פּרעדריק לאַיער, 406 וואדווארד עט.	
	ליאָ ס. לאַיער, 658 דשאַן אר סט.	
	מאָריס לאַיער, 397 וואדווארד עט.	
	מאָריס קלערק, 406 וואדווארד עט.	
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	אלפרעד פ. האַניס, 300 מערדוק עט.	ברייטענבאָך
	העלען טיטשער, 99 עליוואבעט סט.	
	העלען א. טיטשער, 99 עליוואבעט סט.	
	לאַיען, פ. אנענס, 99 עליוואבעט סט.	
	לואיס ס. טיטשער, 99 עליוואבעט סט.	
	טייער ב. לאַיער, 99 עליוואבעט סט.	
	מעמטי, קלערק, 99 עליוואבעט סט.	

The columns reproduced here contain names of well known Detroiters. Can you identify them? Would you like us to publish more listings? Let us know.

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A FRIEND OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

While researching the history of Michigan Jewry, I found this biographical sketch of a friend of our people who was also an expert of Palestinian flora. The sketch is from Albert Marquis' The Book of Detroiters, 1908. A.W.

HENRY GILLMAN, scientist, author; born, Kinsale, Ireland, Nov. 16, 1833; son of Edward and Eleanor Mandeville (Hackett) Gillman; descended from Adam Winthrop, lord of the manor of Groton, Suffolk, father of John Winthrop, governor of Massachusetts, 1630; academic education; came with his parents to Detroit, 1850; was 1st assistant U. S. Geodetic Survey of Great Lakes, in charge of a topog. and hydrographical party, 1851-69; asst. supt. construction 10th and 11th lighthouse districts on Northern Lakes, 1870-6; married, 1858, Mary Julia, daughter of Hiram Reeve Johnson, of Detroit. Superintendent and librarian Detroit Public Library, 1880-85; U. S. consul, Jerusalem, 1886-91; took such a stand against expulsion of Jews from Palestine by Turks that his position was upheld by several European powers and exclusion laws were modified. Known for his researches in archeology and botany and his procurement and publication of photograph fac-similes of texts of early Christian MSS. Fellow American Association for the Advancement of Science; member British Association, American Oriental Society, etc.; member-at-large for America, 1876, to Congress of Americanists, at Luxemburg. Author: *Marked for Life* (poems), 1863; *The Wild Flowers and Gardens of Jerusalem and Palestine*, 1894; *Hassan—a Fellah* (a Romance of Palestine), 1898; *Vericourt Westthrop and Issue*, 1903; also many scientific and other papers.

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CENTURY-OLD SYNAGOGUE SAVED THROUGH TEAMWORK OF MADISON AND PRIVATE GROUP*

Now and then, we will inform our readers of efforts Jewish communities are making to preserve historic documents, buildings, and to commemorate personalities and sites.

The article which follows tells the story of the restoration of an historic synagogue at Madison, Wisconsin.—Editor.

This is the story of the Gates of Heaven, an old synagogue spared from destruction largely through the efforts of a group of concerned Madisonians. For those who are interested in the problems of preserving historic structures, it illustrates how much time and effort may be necessary, and it offers hope for success.

Dr. and Mrs. Norton Stoler heard that the Gates of Heaven, a century-old synagogue a block from the state capitol on West Washington Avenue, faced destruction to make way for an office building. Just a month before they had been disappointed when efforts to save Mapleside, an old stone farmhouse, failed and the structure was razed to make room for a hamburger stand. This time, they decided, they would try to do something.

Mrs. Stoler began research on the structure and discovered that it was designed by August Kutzbock, an important local architect in the 1850's and early 1860's who designed Madison's first city hall

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and homes for many prominent people, including Governor Leonard Farwell and Mayor W. T. Leitch. The synagogue's design is a form of German Romanesque architecture called Rundbogenstil. The facade, however, is reminiscent of Spanish mission architecture.

The one-story, 28-by-54-foot structure is made of sandstone and buff brick. The interior, which originally could seat about 125, has been altered extensively and it is not definitely known what it originally looked like. The building cost \$4,000 to build in 1863, but would cost about \$65,000 to duplicate today.

Although still known as a synagogue, the building served that purpose for only sixteen years. It was the first synagogue in Wisconsin and was built by Madison's first Jewish congregation, formed in 1856 by seventeen families who had come directly from Bohemia. The congregation never had more than twenty families and decreased to five persons in 1879.

The Stolars organized a nonprofit group called Gates of Heaven, Incorporated, to raise funds to save the synagogue and restore it. The Fiore Coal and Oil Company, owner of the building, donated the rent from Kastenmeier. The Madison Capital Community Citizens and the Taychopera Foundation, a group dedicated to saving historic landmarks, also contributed.



Courtesy The Capital Times

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THE JEWISH POPULATION OF DETROIT IN 1904

This is an extract from J. Oliver Corwood's study "AN ETHNOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF DETROIT" August 21, 1904, Burton scrapbook v. 10 of the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library.

It is difficult to say how many foreign born Jews there are in Detroit, and the number might be estimated at between 3,000 and 5,000. There are also about 5,000 Negroes, and the districts of the Orthodox Jews and of the colored people are in several places identical. In a general way the district where the Jews live may be bounded on the west by Woodward avenue, on the north by Alfred street, on the east by Rivard, and on the south by Elizabeth. In the blocks closely adjoining Woodward Avenue live the wealthier class of Jews, and for two blocks east of the avenue, and as far north as Forest avenue, many of these people are found, though not in sufficient numbers to entitle that part of the city to be called a Jewish district.

The orthodox Jew settlement is along Hastings street, and for a block on either side of it from Elizabeth to Brewster. Here are hundreds of Jew shops and stalls, and near the market on Russell street the Jewish commission merchant can be seen in all his glory. Little black-eyed, curly-haired girls and boys can be seen playing along Hastings from morning until night, and in the cooler hours of the day scores of Jewish mothers line the steps of their shops, gossiping and watching them. The Jew likes to be his own master, and most of them are. Along Hastings they cater to the trade of the Italians, Negroes and many Poles, and when they leave that district in the morning to go to work scores of them have packs or go to down-town stalls and stores. Many of the wealthiest and most successful of Detroit's merchants are Jews, but these either live on the west side or on the east side in the neighborhood of Woodward. Certain parts of both Michigan and Gratiot avenues are also given up to Jew shops and stores.

In a way the Hastings street Jew district is also the Negro district, only that the Negroes live mostly in the cross streets, a block or two on either side of the main Jewish street. But south of Gratiot, the Negroes become more numerous, and the Jews less so.

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SIGMUND ROTHSCHILD*

Everywhere in our land are found men who have worked their own way from humble beginnings to leadership in the commerce, the great productive industries, the management of financial affairs, and the controlling of the veins and arteries of the traffic and exchanges of the country. It is one of the glories of our nation that this is so. It should be the strong incentive to the youth of the country that such results are possible of accomplishment.

Prominent among the self-made men who have honored Michigan through their labors and worthy lives is the subject of this brief memoir, whose sudden death occurred in the apartments of his son Harry, in the Hotel Savoy, New York city, on the 15th of July, 1907. His had been a busy and eventful career, and he was the founder and last of the first-generation members of the great Detroit leaf-tobacco house of Rothschild & Brother. Shortly before his death he had returned from a sojourn of five months at Amsterdam, Holland, one of the great tobacco marts of the European continent and one in which his concern had a branch establishment. While making an automobile trip in New York he was attacked with an acute disease of the heart and forthwith consulted a physician. The next morning his son found him lying dead in his bed,—a summary and deeply lamented termination of a life of signal usefulness and honor. He was one of the most substantial capitalists of Detroit at the time of his demise and left a record of splendid business enterprise in two continents, though he prided himself, as well he might, on being essentially and emphatically an American citizen. He, indeed, stood as a stalwart type of what our republic recognizes as the best and most prolific in citizenship, and his loyalty to the land of his adoption was ever of the most insistent and inviolable order.

Mr. Rothschild was born near the historic old city of Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, likewise the home of the famous European family of the same name, as well as of the loved poet, Goethe. He was born in 1838, and thus he had attained to the psalmist's span of three score years and ten at the time when he was called from the scene of earthly endeavors.

Concerning the career of Mr. Rothschild the following estimate appeared at the time of his death in one of the Detroit daily papers: "In early life he was apprenticed to the dry-goods trade, and traveled

*Reprinted from COMPENDIUM OF HISTORY OF DETROIT, 1909, pp. 517-518, (no author). The COMPENDIUM consists of 700 pages and many biographies. The only biography of a Jew that I could identify was that of Sigmunt Rothschild. A.W.

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as a salesman for one year. In 1854 he emigrated to New York, where he spent a year in learning the trade of cigar-making. Before the close of the same year which marked his arrival in the New World he came to Detroit, where he soon assumed charge of the cigar stand

in the old National hotel, later the Russell House. Within a short time he gave evidence of his self-reliance and initiative power by establishing the wholesale tobacco house, taking his brother Feist as partner. In 1865 the two were joined by a third brother, Kaufman S., who died in 1905. The death of Feist Rothschild took place in 1890.

"Sigmund Rothschild attended especially to the foreign business of the concern, which established a house in Amsterdam and another in Havana, Cuba. He was a man of keen insight and had a judgment of future developments that was almost prophetic. He was a splendid organizer, and when occasion demanded was a fighter feared by his opponents. He established a wide business acquaintance in England, Holland, Germany, and Cuba, and was one of the largest and most daring buyers of leaf tobacco in the world. In this branch of the business he conceived the system of buying tobacco directly from the farmers in Cuba. Several times he stayed in the field when other dealers had been driven out by yellow fever, and proved a benefactor to the farmers who had their products piled up and spoiling.

"He was a tireless traveler, as much at home on the train or steamer as in his own home. He was broad-minded in his business relations and was generous to worthy charities. He was a member and former officer of Temple Beth El, Detroit. His home was at 37 Montcalm street east, and the same has long been known as a center of gracious hospitality."

Mr. Rothschild's connection with affairs immediately attendant upon the historic explosion of the battle-ship "Maine" should not be permitted to pass unnoticed in this all too brief tribute to his memory, for at the time he showed in a most significant way how strong was his humanitarian spirit, charity and sympathy. Early in 1898 he went to Cuba to protect as far as possible his plantation interests against the event of any possible war. Weiler, the notorious Spanish officer, had issued orders to the effect that no cameras were to be taken on to the island, but with characteristic daring Mr. Rothschild had carried one along. He arrived in the port of Havana on the night of the 15th of February and was sitting on the deck of his steamer looking at the battle-ship "Maine," and viewing with gratification the Stars and Stripes of his homeland, when there occurred the great explosion whose result was the ultimate wiping off of Spanish power on the western hemisphere. Mr. Rothschild was one of the first citizens of the United States to render aid to the injured men of the lost ship, working arduously all night in attending those who were brought to

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the vessel on which he was a passenger, supplying funds to secure necessary facilities and comforts for the unfortunate men and even donating his own extra clothing to meet the requirements of the case. In the morning he secured the first photographs taken of the wreck, and later he received letters of thanks from many of the naval officers and other officials who wished to manifest their appreciation of his benefactions and tender and sympathetic ministrations. In his photographs he was able to bring home priceless mementoes of the wreck.

Mr. Rothschild was essentially a business man, and his strong character was moulded in the school of experience and broad association with business affairs. The concern of which he was the founder and which is still continued under the control of the family, is one of the largest in the country and therefore one of Detroit's valued industries. He was a man of alert and powerful mentality, and his personality was one which gained and retained to him inviolable confidence and esteem. His local interests were not hedged in by his purely personal affairs, business or social, and he was ever ready to lend his aid and influence in the promotion of enterprises or undertakings projected for the general good of the community. He was conspicuously identified with the organization and upbuilding of the Detroit Board of Commerce, in which he was one of the original officers, and he gave no little time and energy to this body, which has done much in advancing the greater industrial Detroit. His political support was given to the Republican party and he ever showed a deep interest in all that touched the well being of the city in which it was his to gain so noteworthy a success through his own efforts. He had various capitalistic interests of importance in addition to those represented in his tobacco business. He controlled valuable mining properties in the Klondike, was a stockholder in various corporations, including financial institutions, and in the '70s he was concerned with the development of Michigan pine lands, having been prominently identified with the lumbering industry for a number of years. He was a strong man, a worthy citizen, and he filled a large and secure place in the business world.

In 1860 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Rothschild to Miss Bertha Leser, who survives him, as do also their three sons,—Frederick, who has charge of his father's mining interests in the Klondike; Louis, who is actively identified with the management of the Detroit tobacco house of which his father was the founder; and Harry S., who represents the concern in New York city.

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ON REVIEWING HISTORY TEXTBOOKS

By Richard H. Lobenthal

Director of the Anti-Defamation League's Michigan Regional Office

On June 23, 1966, Public Act 127 became Michigan law. That law provided that whenever authorities of any school in the state select or approve textbooks, "such authorities shall give special attention to the degree to which the textbook fairly includes recognition of the achievements and accomplishments of the ethnic and racial groups . . . and shall select those textbooks which fairly include such achievements and accomplishments. The superintendent of public instruction shall cause to be made an annual random survey of textbooks in use in the state . . ."

Thus was born the first textbook advisory committee of the state, with official sanction of public law.

The first committee consisted of five persons, including the Director of the Anti-Defamation League's Michigan Regional Office. Twelve books representative of those used in elementary and secondary social studies classes were meticulously examined, and all were found lacking in some measure, either by virtue of distorted portrayal of history as it actually was, or by virtue of inadequately representing the "achievement and accomplishment of ethnic and racial groups," or more significantly, by virtue of language and "tonal qualities" which conveyed negative imagery about minority groups. More importantly, the final report of the committee contained what turned out to be one of the best guidelines for selection of textbooks in the country.

Evaluation of textbooks for appropriate representation and presentation of minority groups is not new. Civil rights groups, National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, Anti-Defama-

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tion League of B'nai B'rith, and others, have been doing this for some time. What was new about this Michigan committee, was that it was the first such statewide review done by the Department of Public Instruction (now called Department of Education) under state law.

In the intervening years, a review of "Early Elementary-Level Social Studies Textbooks" was released, and, in February, 1973, a major "study of elementary and secondary social studies textbooks," titled only "the textbooks report (1973)," was released. This latter was a major update of the original 1966 study.

Twenty-five books, rather than twelve, were examined, and rather than a five-person committee, forty-six persons reviewed the texts, each text being reviewed three times, and rated. Of particular interest to the Jewish community is the inclusion of the local Director of the American Jewish Committee, the local Director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and a Wayne State University professor who was formerly the Director of the American Jewish Congress's local office.

Essentially, a Detroit Free Press article headlined, "Texts Get Low Rating in Probe by Experts" summarizes the story. Some improvement was noted, to be sure. In 1966, our report stated that not one of the reviewed books adequately reflected "the multiracial, multiethnic and pluralistic nature of our society." The latest report showed 31% of the books getting a good rating, and the rest, either fair or poor.

Jews, while often mentioned in contemporary context (as contrasted to an earlier ADL study which found Jews to be portrayed more in the past than present) were treated in ways which were found significantly wanting. Excerpts from reviews which handled this concern include: "The volume is particularly sensitive to blacks . . . (but) is not nearly as sensitive to other ethnic groups;" "The entire Jewish contribution to American history is condensed in a very general two-page section;" ". . . the Arab-Israel conflict is treated in

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such a way as to offend both the Israelis and the Arabs;" "Minorities are basically confined to one chapter . . ." "The difficult concept of a pluralistic society which is crucial to understanding America and her minorities, is not even discussed;" "Totally unsatisfactory text in its treatment of ethnic minorities;" "Minority groups, it is subtly suggested, presented a variety of problems for white Americans to either solve or to tolerate;" "Cannot be construed as representing America's pluralism."

The above excerpts relate to negative reviews. As mentioned earlier, 31% received good reviews. The implications are clear: while textbooks are improving, the improvement, to date, is very, very slow, and very slight. Much more needs to be done. It appears that textbook publishers or authors are beginning to adhere to the form of new styles, but not to the content; and that the desired sophistication necessary to produce a textbook which will adequately reflect multi-ethnic and multi-racial pluralism is still a long way off.



Dear Editor:

I was impressed with the articles "Data on Dutch Jewry in America" in the last issues of MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY. In this instance it was the Dutch archives at Calvin College in Grand Rapids that yielded names of Jewish settlers. It seems quite probable archives of nationals from other European countries would also hold unexpected possibilities in this direction. The articles suggest a valuable and perhaps extensive new source for finding records of early Jewish settlers.

Good wishes.

Devera Stocker

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

DATA ON DUTCH JEWRY IN AMERICA

(Continued from the previous three issues.)

Religion: Israelite

Province: North Holland (Continued)

Municipality	Name	Occupation	Age
Amsterdam	Snoek, Boas	Diamond Cutter	40
Amsterdam	Ostheim, Betje	None	28
Amsterdam	Schornsheim, Meyer Simon	Cigar Manufacturer	28
Amsterdam	Nekelsburg, Meyer Moses	Cigar Manufacturer	32
Den Helder	Korper, Levi	Laborer	31
Amsterdam	Oostheim, David	Merchant	45
Amsterdam	Trompetter, Isaac Philip	Servant	39
Amsterdam	Wind, Isaac	Diamond Cutter	40
Amsterdam	Beritelje, Derifje Simon	None	47
Amsterdam	Sinkel, Levi Jacob	Porter; Dock Hand	30
Amsterdam	Pinheiro, Isaac	Teacher	32
Amsterdam	Naaijer, Petrus	Tailor	33
Amsterdam	Walvisch, Abraham	Merchant	22
Amsterdam	Soep, Abraham	Porter; Dock Hand	28
Amsterdam	Paijs, Marianne	None	16
Amsterdam	Schilt, Moses Isaac	Goldsmith	18
Amsterdam	De Haan, Solomon Aaron	Merchant	35
Amsterdam	Fischer, Gotlieb	Cabinet Maker	30
Amsterdam	Wint, Levi Solomon	Diamond Cutter	20
Amsterdam	Linnekamp, Jacob	Shoemaker	26
Amsterdam	Buitenkant, David Isaac	Merchant	45
Amsterdam	Mahieu, Jan Hendrek	Smith	38
Amsterdam	Scholten, Peter Arnold	None	43
Amsterdam	Hond, Jacob Solomon	Diamond Cutter	42
Amsterdam	Veltheim, Roosje	None	25
Amsterdam	Van Ulm, Betje	None	32
Amsterdam	De Jong, Isaac, Isaac Hennck	None	17
Amsterdam	Kalker, Leentje	None	58
Amsterdam	Alemans, Roosje	None	39

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

Family Components

Wife	Children	Reasons for Emigrating	Destination	Year
0	1	Better Livelihood	New York	1852
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1852
1	1	Better Livelihood	New York	1853
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1853
1	0	Better Livelihood	North America	1853
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
1	2	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
1	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
1	3	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
1	4	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	1	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
1	2	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
1	1	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
1	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
1	3	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
1	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
1	1	Better Livelihood	New York	1854

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

Religion: Israelite		Province: North Holland (Continued)	
Municipality	Name	Occupation	Age
Amsterdam	Reith, Lodewich	Baker	30
Amsterdam	Zeelander, Hartog Samuel	None	16
Amsterdam	Kroon, Joseph Isaac	None	34
Amsterdam	Van Der Nut, Aaron	Unknown	35
Amsterdam	Wafelman, Bernard	Unknown	17
Amsterdam	Spier, Lazarus	Unknown	39
Zype	Van Dam, Moses	Merchant	27
Amsterdam	Matras, Jacques	None	25
Amsterdam	Snijders, Moses	None	31
Amsterdam	Snijders, Heintje	None	45
Amsterdam	Schaapa, Moritz Alexander	Tailor	25
Amsterdam	De Haar, Solomon Isaac	Merchant	31
Amsterdam	De Haar, Benjamin Isaac	Merchant	23
Amsterdam	Dressen, David Benjamin	Merchant	27
Amsterdam	Hamburg, Marcus Jacob	Merchant	26
Amsterdam	Speelman, Grietje	None	21
Amsterdam	Pais, Abraham Benjamin	Merchant	21
Amsterdam	Druif, Solomon Michael	Cigar Manufacture:	19
Amsterdam	Van Baalen, Hartog Israel	Merchant	46
Amsterdam	Groen, Hartog Jacob	Merchant	35
Amsterdam	Winhout, Rebecca Naatje	None	34
Amsterdam	Blitz, Solomon	Cigar Manufacture:	23
Amsterdam	Posno, Machiel Barend	Diamond Cutter	30
Amsterdam	Posno, Andries Barend	Diamond Cutter	25
Amsterdam	Vissel, Maurits	Unknown	23
Amsterdam	Lioni, Lodewijk	Unknown	24
Amsterdam	Lum, Eliazar Martin	Merchant	Unknown
Amsterdam	Van Veen, Levi	None	34
Amsterdam	Wind, Levi Solomon	Merchant	25

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

Family Components

Wife	Children	Reasons for Emigrating	Destination	Year
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Better Livelihood	North America	1854
0	0	Family Reasons	New York	1855
0	0	Family Reasons	New York	1855
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1855
1	2	Better Livelihood	North America	1855
0	0	Family Reasons	New York	1856
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1856
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1856
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1856
1	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1857
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1857
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1857
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1857
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1857
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1857
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1857
1	8	Better Livelihood	New York	1857
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1857
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1857
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1857
0	0	Unknown	Louisville	1857
0	0	Unknown	Louisville	1857
0	0	Unknown	New York	1858
0	0	Unknown	New York	1858
1	2	Lack of Work	New York	1859
1	6	Better Livelihood	New York	1859
1	0	Family Reasons	Philadelphia	1859

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

Religion: Israelite		Province: North Holland (Continued)	
Municipality	Name	Occupation	Age
Amsterdam	Nerden, Eliazar	Watch Maker	50
Amsterdam	Frichie, Andries Meyer	Shoemaker	38
Enkhuizen	Van Rooyen, P. B.	Hawker, Peddler	29
Amsterdam	Hitzel, G. H.	Merchant	23
Amsterdam	Oesterman	Merchant	21
Haarlem	Driedenten, S.	Merchant	23
Amsterdam	Spinoza	Merchant	Blank
Amsterdam	Gabij, R. A.	Merchant	Blank
Amsterdam	Runs, Sophia	None	12
Amsterdam	Runs, Sarah	None	18
Amsterdam	De Vries, L.	Blank	44
Amsterdam	Appel, B.	Blank	16
Amsterdam	Trompet, J.	Merchant	28
Amsterdam	Spons, De Beer, Meijer M. C.	Blank	54
Amsterdam	Spits, G.	Merchant	22
Helder	Korper, Wolf David	Merchant	23
Amsterdam	Meseritz, Jonathan	Shoemaker	34
Amsterdam	Coppel, Bertha	None	30
Amsterdam	De Goede, Abraham	None	23
Amsterdam	Heimans, J.	Cigar Manufacturer	22
Amsterdam	Heine, J.	Tailor	40
Amsterdam	Van Aalst, M.	Merchant-Retailer	31
Amsterdam	De Vos, Elias	Cigar Manufacturer	23
Amsterdam	Polak, A. A.	None	Blank
Amsterdam	De Leeuw, M.	Merchant	38 (?)
Amsterdam	Van Prang, Saartje (?)	None	Blank
Amsterdam	Felder, Peter	None	Blank
Questionable	Van De Velde, Albert	None	19
Amsterdam	Premsehaar, Mathilde	None	15

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

Family Components

Wife	Children	Reasons for Emigrating	Destination	Year
1	1	Not Given	New York	1860
1	0	Better Livelihood	Capetown, S. Africa	1861
0	0	Better Livelihood	North America	1865
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1866
0	0	Family Reasons	New Orleans	1866
0	0	Better Livelihood	America	1866
1	2	Better Livelihood	New York	1867
1	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1867
0	0	Family Reasons	New York	1867
0	0	Family Reasons	New York	1867
0	0	Family Reasons	New York	1869
0	0	Family Reasons	New York	1869
Mother		Family Reasons	St. Louis	1870
0	0	Family Reasons	California	1870
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1870
0	0	Better Livelihood	North America	1870
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1871
0	0	Family Reasons	New York	1871
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1871
0	0	Business	New York	1871
0	0	Family Reasons	New York	1871
0	0	Family Reasons	Quebec	1871
0	0	Business	New York	1871
1	3	Better Livelihood	New York	1871
0	0	Family Reasons	New York	1871
1	0	Family Reasons	Boston	1871
1	0	Family Reasons	New York	1871
1	0	Family Reasons	New York	1871
0	0	Family Reasons	New York	1871

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

Religion: Israelite		Province: North Holland (Continued)	
Municipality	Name	Occupation	Age
Amsterdam	Brilleman, Marianne	None	16
Amsterdam	Hammburg, Joseph Samuel	Merchant	36
Amsterdam	De Vries, W.	None	11
Amsterdam	Schaap, Wijman	Merchant	31
Amsterdam	Spits, J.	Diamond Cutter	24
Amsterdam	Israels, S. P.	Druggist	41
Amsterdam	Naarden, S.	Workman	65
Amsterdam	Hissing, H.	None	36
Amsterdam	Van Moppes, J.	Merchant	36
Amsterdam	Schwab, Clara	Blank	40
Amsterdam	Appel, Jacob	Servant	17
Amsterdam	Hamelburg, M. M.	Blank	Blank
Amsterdam	Oosterman, S.	Blank	17
Amsterdam	Pam, Isaac Moses	Merchant	28
Amsterdam	Klerk, Tjake	Merchant	Blank
Amsterdam	Weinthal, Frederics	Merchant	68
Amsterdam	Cohenn, Hartog	Merchant	26
Amsterdam	Treydo, M.	Merchant	45
Amsterdam	Wamburger, T. F.	Merchant	Blank
Amsterdam	Wamburger, Jas.	Merchant	Blank
Amsterdam	Sluiter, D.	Blank	16
Amsterdam	De Haan, H. J.	Merchant	30
Amsterdam	Franschman, S.	Merchant	30
Amsterdam	Pinedo, (J. ?) A.	Blank	Blank
Amsterdam	Schaffer, Mejuffr	Cabinetmaker; Worker	Blank
Enkhuizen	De Groot, Moses Benjamin	Blank	35

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

Family Components

Wife	Children	Reasons for Emigrating	Destination	Year
0	0	Family Reason	New York	1871
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1871
0	0	Education	New York	1871
1	3	Better Livelihood	New York	1871
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1871
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1871
1	4	Better Livelihood	New York	1871
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1871
1	6	Better Livelihood	New York	1871
1	4	Blank	New York	1872
0	0	Family Reason	New York	1872
0	8	Family Reason	Boston	1872
0	0	Family Reason	New York	1872
1	1	Better Livelihood	New York	1872
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1872
1	0	Family Reason	New York	1872
0	0	Business Reason	Boston	1872
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1872
0	0	Business Reason	Boston	1872
0	0	Business Reason	Boston	1872
0	0	Family Reason	New York	1872
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1872
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1872
0	0	Business Reason	New York	1872
0	0	Better Position	New York	1872
1	2	Better Livelihood	New York	1872
1	3	Better Livelihood	New York	1871

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

Religion: Israelite		Province: North Holland (Continued)	
Municipality	Name	Occupation	Age
Amsterdam	De Jong, T. A.	Merchant	22
Amsterdam	Ouerido, S.	Blank	29
Amsterdam	Stokvis, W.	Teacher	24
Amsterdam	Halberstadt, M. L.	None	18
Amsterdam	Meijer, Gorbitz	None	18
Haarlem	Drielsma, Adam	Merchant	40
Amsterdam	Fak, B.	Merchant	21
Amsterdam	Cohen, Louis Herman	Merchant	35
Deventer	Bromet, Isaac	Merchant	43
Deventer	Cohen, Sophia	None	57
Steenwijk	De Leeuw, Simon	Butcher	17
Kampen	Stibbe, V. J.	Upholstery Dye	30
Deventer	Weinberg, Hartog	None	16
Enschede	Serphos, Solomon	None	15
Amersfoort	Ten Coorn, Ephraim	Inspector	33
Utrecht	Markus, Levi Marcus	None	32
Amersfoort	Schaap, Joseph Levi	Store Clerk	27
's Gravenhage	Levijstein, Rosine	Servant Girl	22
's Gravenhage	d'Ancona, Moses	Merchant	24
's Gravenhage	Poons, Solomon	Merchant	35
's Gravenhage	d'Ancona, Baruch	Merchant	50

MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

Family Components

Wife	Children	Reasons for Emigrating	Destination	Year
0	0	Better Livelihood	Boston	1873
2	2	Better Livelihood	Boston	1873
0	0	Teaching Position	Philadelphia	1873
0	0	Family Reason	Memphis	1873
0	0	Family Reason	New York	1873
2	3	New Position	Suriname	1873
0	0	Blank	North America	1874
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1877
		<i>Province: Overisel</i>		
1	1	Better Livelihood	New York	1852
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1852
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1852
1	2	Better Livelihood	New York	1865
0	0	Better Livelihood	Maryland	1868
0	0	Better Livelihood	North America	1871
		<i>Province: Utrecht</i>		
0	0	Business Reason	New York	1850
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1854
0	0	Unknown	North America	1871
0	0	Better Livelihood	Port Elisabeth	1875
		<i>Province: Zeeland</i>	None for this 30 year period	
		<i>Province: Zuid Holland—(South Holland)</i>		
0	0	Family Reason	North America	1849
0	0	Better Livelihood	New York	1850
0	0	Better Livelihood	North America	1852
1	4	Better Livelihood	North America	1853

THE END

FROM OUR HISTORY ALBUM

The Adas Shalom Kindergarten, 1946



Seated at left is Sara Naomi Warsen (1906-1950), the kindergarten teacher.

Standing in the center is Judge Ira G. Kaufman, then Adas Shalom President, and Allen A Warsen, school director.

