

# MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY



NOVEMBER, 1965

CHESHVAN, 5726

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN



# MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY

... אשר ישאלון בניכם מחר את אבותם ... (יהושע ד:כא)

"When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come . . ."  
— Joshua 4:21

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## *President's Annual Report*

Presented by DR. IRVING I. EDGAR

on May 19, 1965

It is with deep-felt pleasure that I extend to all of you a hearty welcome to this, our Seventh Annual Meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. Our Society has been in existence barely seven years and we have made much progress in these years. We have accomplished much during the 1964-65 period of my administration. But, needless to say, much of what we have accomplished can be considered as merely the fruition of what was begun in the previous years under the leadership of Allen Warsen, Irving I. Katz, Rabbi Emanuel Applebaum and the other officers of their respective administrations; and much of what has been started in the past year will be productive in the coming years. From this viewpoint, I look forward to a future of promise and fulfillment for our Society.

In the pursuit of my duties as president of our Society, I have always kept before me the purposes for which we are organized: 1) the fostering of the collection, preservation and publication of materials relative to the history of the Jews in Michigan, 2) the encouragement of all projects, celebrations, memorializations and other activities which help spread authentic information concerning Michigan Jewish History, 3) the fostering of all efforts to create a wider interest on the part of Michigan Jews in the growth and development of their respective Jewish communities, and 4) cooperation with National Jewish Historical Societies.

I am happy to report that in the fulfillment of these purposes we have made much progress both in a general way and in concrete accomplishments.

### ARCHIVES

For many years our Society has worked diligently for the establishment of an appropriate central depository for the archival records of the numerous and various Jewish organizations in the State of Michigan. We have negotiated at various times with Wayne State University, American Jewish Archives at Cincinnati, Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation, Yivo, and the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library.

I am pleased to report that we have been successful in arrang-

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

ing to make the famous Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library as the official central depository of the archives of Michigan Jewish history as a separate and special section. But, equally as important as this, we have been successful in piercing the barrier of inertia normally common among organizations about the preservation of their past records; for after a long period of negotiation, the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit in a letter of February 2, 1965, stated:

“Our Executive Committee gave consideration to your request of December 24 and decided through the good offices of your society, Federation would be willing to designate the Burton Collection of the Detroit Public Library as the depository of our records . . . ”

The historic decision was appropriately publicized by the Federation recently in the Detroit Jewish News and the Detroit Free Press. The importance and prestige of both the Burton Historical Collection and of the Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation will certainly make it easier for other Michigan Jewish organizations to follow their lead. At the present time active negotiations are being carried on by our Society with Temple Beth El and Shaarey Zedek congregations to place their achival materials, too, in the Burton Historical Collection Archives.

I can also report to you that the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati sent us duplicate copies of all their catalog cards relative to Michigan Jewish history — close to 80 items.

We have been in communication also with the Yivo Institute for Jewish Research. They, too, have much material on Michigan Jewish history.

We hope to have enough money available to microfilm these important historical source materials and to place them in the Archives of the Burton Historical Collection.

It is evident that as soon as this Michigan-Jewish Section of the Burton Historical Collection Archives is enlarged and properly organized, it can become the focal point for scholars and students interested in research in this area of history.

## Judge Charles C. Simons



by THEODORE LEVIN

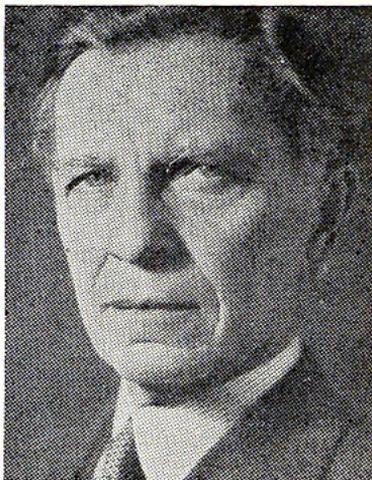
*Chief Judge United States District Court  
Eastern District of Michigan*

An address delivered at the unveiling and dedication of a painting of the late Judge Charles C. Simons in the Courtroom of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Cincinnati, Ohio, on Thursday, June 17, 1965.

May it please the Court, I thank Judge Weick and the other members of the Court for the honor given to me today.<sup>(1)</sup>

Men have always wanted to perpetuate in some way the likeness of their fellow men. We believe that we know more about a man if we know what he looked like. We find such likenesses in the art of Egypt, Greece, Italy and France; and in our own country, in museums, public squares and public buildings. Now we are about to place on the walls of this courtroom the portrait of a great judge who served this Court with distinction, as Chief Judge Weick has pointed out, for 32 years, including six years as its Chief Judge, to join portraits of others of like eminence. But a portrait, even an excellent one, portrays only what the artist conceives to be the personality of his subject, and it is often helpful for the appreciation of a portrait to know something about the life, work and character of its subject.

Charles C. Simons was born in 1876 in Detroit, which then had a population of 80 thousand. The United States, then comprising 37 states, had a population of only 45 million.



Judge Charles C. Simons

(1) Judge Theodore Levin has been active in Detroit Jewish Community affairs. He was president of the Jewish Welfare Federation in 1944.

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David W. Simons, the father of Judge Simons, was born in Kalwarya, a small town in what was then Russian Poland. Driven by religious persecution, David W. Simons and his father, the grandfather of Judge Simons, emigrated to America, eventually finding a place for themselves in Detroit, where friends who had also recently emigrated to this country helped them to borrow enough money for a horse and wagon to enable them to go into the business of buying and selling scrap metal. I once heard Judge Simon say, with a twinkle in his eye, that his father had been "a metallurgist from Kalwarya."

The father of the future jurist had little formal schooling. He obtained his education in the public library in his new-found land and soon learned to speak and write the English language. From these humble beginnings he provided for the education of his son, Charles, while himself rising to important positions in business and in banking, and to high appointive and elective offices in the municipal government of Detroit.

Judge Simons had a distinguished scholastic record and earned his undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Michigan. The honorary doctorate from his alma mater was one of three such doctorates bestowed upon him.

His preparation for public service was exceptional. He was the University Orator, and several times represented the University of Michigan in national collegiate debates. He was the youngest Michigan State Senator of his time, and served in the session of 1903-1904. He refused a second term. He also served in the years 1905 and 1906 as a Circuit Court Commissioner in the county in which he lived, and at his death he was the last surviving member of the Constitutional Convention which wrote the Constitution of 1908.

He had a busy law practice, but a great deal of his time was spent without compensation in assisting poor persons who had meritorious cases long before the existence of the Legal Aid Bureau of the Detroit Bar Association.

He was interested in helping newly arrived immigrants adjust to their new environment. Numerous aliens, particularly after World War I, had entered the country illegally without the payment of the head tax. He helped many such people of good character achieve United States citizenship.

He opposed quota restrictions on the admission of persons otherwise eligible, particularly of those who sought to come here to es-

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cape persecution; and until he was appointed to the bench of the United States District Court, he fought the tendencies that culminated in the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1924, which established the national quota system. Significantly, the President and many other socially minded people today are urging the Congress to repeal the measure.<sup>(2)</sup>

Although in later life he departed from the more formal religious observances of his father, he always identified himself with a synagogue. He was, for many years, a member of the Board of Trustees of Temple Beth El of Detroit and of the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati where generations of rabbis and other Jewish scholars have been trained.

He was an admirer of Justice Louis D. Brandeis and, like him, was a believer in the Zionist ideal. His range of communal interests was wide and was reflected in his service to many organizations, including the Detroit Board of Commerce and Sinai Hospital of Detroit.

Until 1923 there was only one Federal judge provided for the Eastern District of Michigan. In that year Congress established an additional judgeship, and Judge Simons was appointed to that position. He came to the bench with a temperament admirably suited for judicial service. He possessed an analytical mind, well trained in law, highly informed on social and economic problems, steeped in the knowledge of history and of constitutional law, fearless, and completely impartial in the discharge of his duties.

I am certain that many of those judges who have served with Judge Simons on this Court remember his oft-repeated statement that a United States District Judge holds more sheer power over the lives and property of litigants than any other member of the judiciary. In one of his public statements he said:

"It is not enough that a judge may know the law or at least know where to find it; it is not enough to create an atmosphere of fairness in the courtroom; it is not enough to apply the technicalities of the law with an eye single to affirmance by a reviewing court. The quality that marks a good judge is discernment that penetrates the obvious and pierces to the essential merit of the case to ascertain the truth and to reach if possible a result that squares with that concept

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(2) It was repealed—Editor.

## JUDGE CHARLES C. SIMONS

of equal justice that lies at the base of civilized society."

His work on the District bench fully exemplified that ideal.

The nine years Judge Simons spent on the District bench were among the busiest years in the history of our court. He was a tireless worker, and until a third judge was added in 1926 he frequently held court six days a week until late into the night. He was greatly pleased when the Federal government adopted the probation system, and often referred to that event as the beginning of a more enlightened era. He generally placed on probation those offenders who seemed at all capable of non-institutional adjustment.

Under his sometimes severe and austere demeanor he was essentially a humble person, but he never lacked courage or independence. I recall a case he tried in his early days on the bench in which it appeared that what purported to be a confession in fact had been obtained by coercion on the part of the government agent, and that the agent had actually assaulted the defendant. Judge Simons not only discarded the confession but, after a hearing, found the agent guilty of contempt of court and sent him to jail.

On December 3, 1929, the leading editorial in the Detroit News was entitled, "Judge Simons Spoke for the Nation." The editorial referred to his disposition of a petition for a writ of habeus corpus which, if I may be pardoned the personal reference, I had brought on behalf of an alien at the request of a social welfare agency. The alien had been taken into custody in New York with many other persons in January of 1920 in a raid directed by the incumbent Attorney General, who often referred to the so-called "Red Terror" which he believed to be a powerful political movement about to take over the Government of the United States. The petitioner admittedly belonged to the Socialist Party, but the Attorney General's agents confused this affiliation with the Communist Party. Felix Frankfurter represented the petitioner and other persons similarly charged. Because we then had no diplomatic relations with Russia, the deportations were not then carried out. Since the petitioner could not be held in jail indefinitely, he was released.

Nine years later, in 1929, without any further hearing, the petitioner was rearrested and prepared for deportation. He was saved only by the issuance of a writ ordered by Judge Simons a mere three hours before he was to have been put on a train for Halifax, from which port his deportation was to have been carried out. We had no official court reporters at that time, but I

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shall never forget Judge Simons' vivid words of denunciation of this attempted deportation without due process of law. His words were carried throughout the country and significantly contributed to the adoption of the humane and fair procedures on the part of immigration and naturalization officers which are employed today. To quote from the editorial, "Rarely in the history of this country has a decision been handed down by a United States Court so significant and so necessary as that by Judge Charles C. Simons last Monday." The editorial concluded with the words, "It takes good sense and courage as well as law to make a good judge. Judge Simons spoke for the nation, and his voice was the voice of justice as the people would have it."

He always considered it a high privilege to preside over naturalization proceedings and to authorize the administering of the oath. The expressions on the faces of aliens taking the Oath of Allegiance always inspired him.

His opinions are found in many of the volumes from 287 to 300 of the Federal Reporter and from Volume 1 to 327 of the Federal Reporter Second Series. I refrain from commenting on them since there are on this bench Judges who have worked side by side with him and participated with him in a large number of the decisions in these cases.

One case, however, illustrates his strongly held view that elemental justice must never be made the mere pawn of procedure or form.

The case of *Jones v. Commonwealth of Kentucky*, found at 87 Federal 2d 335, involved a defendant who was convicted of murder and sentenced to death by a Kentucky court. His conviction was challenged on the ground that it rested upon testimony later discovered to be perjured. Petitions for a new trial, appeal, habeas corpus and coram nobis were filed with the Kentucky courts. Newly discovered evidence was presented for consideration but the Kentucky court would not consider it, basing its denial of the writs solely on jurisdictional grounds. It was public information that the governor conceived himself bound by a pledge not to exercise the pardoning power. Judge Simons wrote as follows:

"The judicial processes of the state have here been vainly invoked . . . Considerations of delicacy and propriety need no longer deter amelioration. The appellant is not to be sacrificed on the altar of a formal legalism too literally applied when those who from the beginning sought his life in effect confess error, when impairment of constitutional rights may be perceived,

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and the door to clemency is closed.

"The order dismissing the writ is set aside, and the cause is remanded to the District Court with instructions to discharge the appellant from custody, without prejudice to the right of the commonwealth to take such other proceedings according to law as are consistent herewith."

In preparing these remarks, I was curious to know what subsequently happened to Jones. Inquiry addressed to the Attorney General of Kentucky brought the reply that he was never brought to trial again and that the prosecution was terminated by an order of dismissal.

I ask your indulgence to refer to another case.

Thirteen years ago I sat in Louisville while the resident judge was ill. Although I had disposed of my assignments on Friday afternoon, I was then asked by the United States Attorney to try a criminal case involving a man who had been in jail for several weeks.

On the following morning the trial was held. The United States Attorney directed a question to the defendant which I believed to be prejudicial to a fair trial. I attempted to remove the prejudice in my charge to the jury. The defendant was promptly convicted.

The defendant's court-appointed lawyer then filed a motion for a new trial. The motion troubled me and I sought the counsel of Judge Simons. I first asked him if he would disqualify himself if the case reached the Court of Appeals, and then I told him my problem. After listening to me for a few minutes and looking over the briefs, he unhesitatingly advised me to deny the motion for a new trial and, agreeing with him, I denied the motion. But when the case came up on appeal Judge Simons apparently failed to recognize the title. He sat in the case and, with two of his colleagues, reversed my decision.

Upon Judge Simons' return to Detroit he very good-humoredly said to me, "Judge Levin (he always called me "Judge" whenever we discussed court matters — on all other occasions he called me "Ted"), I am sorry that I did not recognize the title of that case before I sat, but I am now glad that I had the opportunity to set both of us right on the law."

Judge Simons knew many law students well and taught law at Wayne State University for some years. While always thoughtful and considerate of his law clerks, he instilled them with a disciplined approach to the law. He brooked no carelessness, whether it was in research or in the failure to use precise and accurate language. I have

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known many of his law clerks, one of whom is an outstanding state judge today and many others are leaders of the bar. The catholicity of his literary tastes and interests were well known to them and they were influenced by his style, which was fluent, clear, and displayed an unusual aptness for the well-chosen but unlabored word. A gracious humor embroidered his expressions, whether uttered in connection with judicial opinions involving momentous issues or in writings on other themes with which he occupied some of his extra-judicial hours.

He always saw in the law and the educative process of legal interpretation the means of directing to nobler ends the forces of society and of government.

His wife, Lillian, a school teacher and social worker, died in 1962 after a devoted relationship of 54 years. He aged quickly from then on and died February 2, 1964, at the age of 88 years. With the exception of a provision for an elderly relative, he and his wife directed that their entire estate, which was substantial, be used for charitable purposes.

Judge Simons lived a span of years given to few men. Before his eyes his native city was transformed from a country town to a metropolis. He saw the face of our nation and of the world change radically, indeed more so than during any other period of 88 years. Suppressed ethnic groups emerged as nations. He witnessed the coming of the automobile, of the airplane, of radio and television, and finally of automation. It was a long and fruitful life.

This has been a moving assignment for me. I knew Judge Simons and his father for nearly 50 years, and I felt the warmth of their personalities long before I became a lawyer or even dreamed of becoming a judge. The portrait which is now to be unveiled was presented to him by the Detroit Bar Association on the occasion of his appointment to this bench. He refused to permit it to be displayed in the courthouse where he served while he was still alive.

With the gracious consent of my colleagues, it has adorned the wall of my courtroom since I first entered upon my duties as a judge. As I daily looked upon this portrait I saw in it the realization of opportunities which Charles C. Simons and all of us have found in this land and I am certain it will inspire many others in the years to come. Those who look upon it will see the likeness of a great and humane judge.

## *When Grandfather Julius Came to Michigan*

by DEVERA STOCKER

"I would never permit my children to jump logs." These words from my father were my introduction to Michigan history. They recalled his youth when there was an active lumber business in the rivers. My father and his teen-aged friends "jumped logs" for the sport of it as they floated down the Boardman River to the saw mills in Traverse City. Youth wanted to 'live dangerously' in those days too.

Grandfather Julius Steinberg came to Traverse City in 1868 at the age of twenty-one. He came from Suwalk, Russia (Russian Poland). Remaining behind, until he could send for them, were his young wife, Mary, and their infant son, Jacob, my father. His departure had been hurried as military conscription into the Czar's army threatened his plan to come to the New World. Leaving was a problem. He solved it by escaping disguised in women's clothes. His brother accompanied him to the border; overcame the border police officer, thus making the escape possible. Under the corrupt government of the Czar, police officers did not report their failures.<sup>(1)</sup> At a safe distance on the other side Julius shed the women's clothes and went to an inn. His troubles were not over. The innkeeper asked to see his passport. Nothing daunted, Julius showed him a luach (Hebrew calendar). The innkeeper, like most people in those days, could not read. He left with the luach to get confirmation that it was a passport. Meanwhile, a Jewish man in the inn helpfully showed Julius out the back door. Julius made his way to England where he worked to earn his passage money to America and learned a little English.

We do not know what brought Grandfather Julius to Traverse City, a settlement that was not yet a village.<sup>(2)</sup> The main industry was lumbering though agriculture was beginning to make progress. He made his living as a peddler, carrying his stock of wares to the

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(1) This brother was an active revolutionary. He was an officer in one of the armies of rebellion against the Czar and was later exiled to Siberia. As was customary, he divorced his wife before he left, thus leaving her free to remarry. Legend has it that he got away from Siberia and went to Palestine.

Editor's Note: Devera Steinberg Stocker A.B., M.S.W., grew up in Traverse City, Michigan. She received her education at the University of Michigan. In 1922 she married Dr. Harry Stocker, a physician. Following the death of her husband in 1953, she became actively engaged in social work.

## WHEN GRANDFATHER JULIUS CAME TO MICHIGAN

farmers. Peddlers were welcome in those days. This was the way the early settlers secured and replenished their needs. Grandfather Julius had a lively sense of humor. One of his hurdles he told us was learning the English language. In the early days of his struggle he learned that 'please' was a nice word. He used it, therefore, at every opportunity even adding it to his greetings — "hello, please" and "goodbye, please." As a child I could imagine grandfather Julius trudging through the snow with his pack, very tired, but greet the farmer with a cheerful "hello, please." He preceded his jokes with a little laugh, a delightful characteristic which gave him our attention in anticipation of what was to follow.

He made progress, soon graduating to carrying his wares by horse and wagon and later setting up a dry goods store in a permanent location. Meanwhile he had sent for his wife and son. They arrived in this country approximately in September of 1871. On October 8th, 1871 he returned to Traverse City from Chicago where he had left his wife and child for a visit with their "landsleit" friends, the Bernsteins. From the boat he could see the flames of the now famous Chicago fire. One of his daughters, Ella, married Meyer Bernstein, son of his good friends.

Together Julius and Mary established the store and raised their seven children: Jacob ("Jake"), Kate, Alec, Ella, Irene, Birde and Leon. A newspaper advertisement, approximately 1890's, gives us an idea of the merchandise carried: "The Reliable Dry Goods, Carpet & Clothing House of Julius Steinberg, Ladies and Gents' Furnishing Goods, Hats & Caps, Trunks & Valises." The store remained under the family name for more than fifty years. With time it became Julius Steinberg and Sons, later Steinberg Bros., when Jake and Alec took over, and finally the J. H. Steinberg Store until Jake's death in 1922.

In 1891 Grandfather Julius built Steinberg's Grand Opera House. From the newspaper description: "The opening of Steinberg's Grand Opera House Tuesday evening was one of the greatest successes and most brilliant social events that Traverse City has ever known, and Mr. Steinberg is kept busy receiving congratulations upon his enterprise in erecting so fine a building and securing for the opening night so eminent a tragedian as Walker Whiteside." A detailed description followed.<sup>(3)</sup> For many years stock companies played there until the advent of the cinema. It became one of the important

(2) Traverse City was incorporated as a village in 1881 and as a city in 1895. The first settlers came to Traverse City in 1847-9 following a Mr. Boardman who set up a saw mill in 1847.

(3) GRAND TRAVERSE HEAROLD, December 13, 1894.

## WHEN GRANDFATHER JULIUS CAME TO MICHIGAN

theatrical centers in Northern Michigan. Among the later famous names who played there were Walker Whiteside, May Robeson, Eva Tanguay, Mack Sennett, Wm. S. Hart, and Fred Stone.<sup>(4)</sup>

With the coming of the cinema, movies were shown for a short time. This was terminated in 1915 when a law was passed in Michigan forbidding the showing of movies in second floor theaters because of fire hazard. Again, nothing daunted, Julius built a movie theater, The Lyric, next door to the store.<sup>(5)</sup> The store, the Grand Opera House above, and my grandparent's home were connected buildings known as The Steinberg Block. The location was on Front Street, still the center of the business district in Traverse City. At the back flowed the Boardman River, but logs no longer floated on it. The lumbering business had long since declined.

When grandfather Julius was asked to run for mayor of Traverse City, he is said to have declined with the explanation that "A politician has both friends and enemies, a businessman can afford to have only friends."

Grandfather Julius was an energetic man, short and of sturdy build. Even in later life when I knew him, he was full of energy and interest in what was going on in the world. He was interested in government and politics, and was ready to enjoy a political argument at the drop of a hat. From my earliest recollection we enjoyed arguments on politics in our family. As I look back this kind of fun was introduced by my grandfather Julius. He was a Republican, and he reflected the early settler's philosophy of rugged individualism. By the time his grandchildren came along times had changed, the West was settled, and Woodrow Wilson was striving to replace rugged individualism with ways for people to get along together in a more crowded society. We had many an exciting argument about minimum wages and about local option (whether the county should be wet or dry). My father and grandfather taking the businessman's view and my brother and I the moral issue.

Grandfather Julius lived to the age of seventy-six. He died in Detroit in 1923 following a short illness.

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*I wish to express appreciation to Lillian Rogan Thiel of Traverse City for her helpfulness.*

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(4) A program booklet for the evening of August 27th, 1902 in the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library.

(5) The Lyric, under a new name, still serves movie goers in Traverse City. It was remodeled and the name changed to State Theater in approximately 1950.

# *Occupations and Organizational Affiliations of Detroit Jews Prior to 1920*

by ALLEN A. WARSEN

Clarence M. Burton, founder of the Burton Abstract & Title Company and donor of the Burton Historical Collection, was the author of the five volume history THE CITY OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN, 1701-1922.\* The first two volumes record Detroit's past from prehistoric times to the year 1922. The last three volumes are biographical containing brief sketches of the most outstanding Detroiters, among whom are a considerable number of Jewish men.

This study is concerned with the biographies of the latter group.

The first biography of a Jew appearing in Burton's history is that of Morrey N. Mendelsohn. He was born in Detroit on November 22, 1888, graduated from the local College of Law, was a Mason and a member of B'nai B'rith.

Many of the Jewish men described in the book were thirty-second degree Masons, members of the Perfection Lodge of Michigan Sovereign Consistory and of Moslem Temple of the Mystic Shrine. Others were members of the Elks and Knights of Pythias.

The first biography of a Jewish businessman described by Burton is that of J. J. Hamburg who settled in Detroit in 1912. Hamburg, a Republican and a member of the Board of Commerce, organized the Smith-Scott Welding Company.

Incidentally, almost all persons whose biographies were recorded, were members of the Board of Commerce.

A lawyer whose life is briefly described in the biographical section of the book is Leo Martin Butzel, born in Detroit in 1874. He was a founder of the First National Company and associate of the law firm "Stevenson, Carpenter, Butzel & Backus." He was also a director of the Wayne County Home Savings Bank, the Security Trust Company, the Detroit Sulphite Pulp & Paper Company, the Industrial Morris Bank, and the Michigan Smelting and Refining Company. His associations with all these business, manufacturing and other concerns are proof of his high social standing in the community. He is still active in Detroit communal life.

A financier held in high regard was Nathan M. Gross. Born in 1890 in Aurora, Illinois, he came to Detroit in 1916. Here he found-

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\*Published by the Detroit-Chicago S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922.

## AFFILIATIONS OF DETROIT JEWS PRIOR TO 1920

ed the Federal Bond and Mortgage Company and was affiliated with Temple Beth El. It should be noted that while the vast majority of the gentiles' biographies include religious affiliations, very few Jewish biographies do.

A prominent businessman was Charles A. Finsterwald. He was born in Detroit on September 20, 1867, the year the United States acquired Alaska from Russia. He was the founder of the well known C. A. Finsterwald Co. and its president. At that time the company dealt mainly in domestic and imported rugs. He was a Republican and an enthusiast of outdoor sports and physical culture.

Not all Jews were politically affiliated; quite a number were independent. The gentiles were predominantly Republican interspersed with a few Democrats and a Socialist.

Also a member of Temple Beth El was Walter M. Fuchs. Born in Leipzig, Germany in 1882, he studied at the gymnasium and University of Charlottenburg. He came to America at the age of twenty-two and to Detroit in 1904. Here he became president of the Costimeter Company and manager of the Multi-Color Company which was the first to sensitize blue print paper, the first to handle the blue line process, and the first to introduce the raven print process in this city. He, too, was a Republican and vice-president of the United Jewish Charities.

Henry Mazer, born in Russia in 1870, came to this country in 1882, as a result of the Czarist pogroms. He came to Detroit in 1898, where he became a cigar manufacturer, producing such brands as the Dime Bank, Miss Detroit, Villa Vista, and Humo.

Henry Mazer, like some other Jews, in the absence of a Jewish Community Center, was a member of the Young Men's Christian Association.

During the period before 1920, many professional Jews were lawyers. One lawyer was William Friedman born in Detroit in 1880. Besides being a director of the United Jewish Charities, he belonged to B'nai B'rith. In later years he served as a judge and was president of the Jewish Welfare Federation.

Another lawyer was Maurice Dreifuss, born in Susquehanna, Pennsylvania in 1887. In addition to being president of B'nai B'rith for a term, he was active in patriotic work. During World War I, he was connected with all the patriotic drives, and was among the first one-hundred-percent men in the first draft.

Maurice A. Engass, a jeweler, was born in Detroit in 1889. He was the son of Adolph who came to the United States at the age of thirteen, making the trip all by himself, and who later founded the Adolph Jewelry Company.

## AFFILIATIONS OF DETROIT JEWS PRIOR TO 1920

Maurice A. Engass, attended the Detroit primary schools and graduated from Central High School. For a brief period he even attended the University of Michigan. Preferring business, he joined his father's firm specializing in rare and precious stones.

Maurice was a member of the executive committee of the Retail Merchants Bureau of the Detroit Board of Commerce, the Ashlan Lodge, the University of Michigan Club, the Phoenix Club, and the Redford Country Club. It seems that membership in the Redford Country Club in those days served as a status and prestige symbol. Mr. Maurice A. Engass is a brother of our late esteemed member, Mr. Clarence H. Engass. Mr. Engass is still active in our community and has been for over a half a century a member of Congregation Beth El.

It should be obvious by now that Mr. Burton did not record the biographies chronologically or alphabetically. Otherwise, Mack Fleishman's life story would have been one of the first to be described by the author of DETROIT, MICHIGAN. Born in New York on May 25, 1852, Mack was brought to Detroit at the age of five. After graduating from high school, Fleishman became interested in live stock, being one of the founders of the Sullivan Packing Company. As many another Detroit resident, Fleishman was a Republican, a member of the Phoenix Club and B'nai B'rith.

Albert Kahn born on March 21, 1869 was by profession an architect. He designed such structures as the Burrough Adding Machine plant, the Packard, Ford, Hudson, Chalmers, and Lozier Motor Car plants, the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News buildings, the Detroit Athletic Club building, and others.

It is worth pointing out that Albert Kahn, the architect of the Detroit Athletic Club, was not a member of that organization, though he was invited to join. He refused to join it because he felt repulsed by its racial and religious policies.

Another Jew who for the same reasons refused to join the Detroit Athletic Club was Fred Butzel. To him a lengthy article will be devoted in a forthcoming issue of MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY.

Bernard Friedlander was a Jewish physician who came to Michigan before World War I, where he practiced first at Sebawing and later in Detroit. Born in Tuckum, Courland, Latvia in 1870, he studied in Germany and in the U.S. His medical degree he received from the University of Maryland in 1898.

Not only was he a practicing physician, but he also was concerned with medical theory. His published works included "Nephropexy", "Tuberculosis and Pregnancy" and "Syphilis in the Appendix."

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Dr. Friedlander was a member of Phi Delta Epsilon Fraternity, the Highland Park, Wayne County, Michigan, and American Medical Societies, the Association for the Study of Internal Secretions, and the La Societe de Docteurs — all prestige professional organizations.

A surgeon, who, was a member of various medical associations was Dr. Moses Benmosche. He was born in London, England in 1882. To America he came with his parents in 1894. His father, Herman, a cantor, was born in Cairo Egypt.

Moses Benmosche received his education in the schools of Virginia. There, too, he obtained his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia in 1904. Soon after graduation he became professor of microscopy in the University of Virginia.

To Detroit he came in 1914 where he became a staff member of the Deaconess Hospital. He was married to Miss Guttwoch of London, England.

Dr. Benmosche was a member of the Virginia, New Hampshire, Michigan, and American Medical Societies. He was also a Royal Arch Mason.

Arthur A. Frank, a member of Temple Beth El, was the president of the Detroit-Alaska Knitting Mills. Born in Oakland County, the son of Isadore, he studied in the schools of the State of Michigan including the University of Michigan.

The concern he headed manufactured woolen and worsted hosiery, mittens and heavy socks for lumbermen. The company's trade extended from coast to coast across the northern part of the country.

Arthur Frank was a mason of high degree, a member of the Michigan Sovereign Consistory, the Moslem Temple, the Detroit Yacht Club, the Redford Country, Phoenix and Kiwanis Clubs. He resided in Highland Park.

An original stockholder of the Eastern Market was Abraham J. Bloomgarden. Born in Detroit in 1862, the son of Jacob and Leah who came to this country from Poland in the late 1850's.

Abraham Bloomgarden was the founder of the wholesale produce firm of A. J. Bloomgarden & Sons, vice-president of the H. J. Hunt Show Case Company which manufactured commercial show cases.

He was a prominent member of the Elks Lodge, Knights of Pythias and a Master Mason. It should be noted that Abraham J. Bloomgarden's photograph was the only one (as far as the author of this study could detect) of a Jewish man whose biographical sketch appeared in Clarence M. Burton's THE CITY OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN, 1701 - 1922.

# Early Jewish Physicians of Michigan \*

by

IRVING I. EDGAR, M.D.

## DR. EUGENE J. KAUFFMANN

There is a very little biographical data available on Dr. Eugene J. Kauffmann. Yet he was the first Jewish physician to have graduated the Michigan College of Medicine and to have practiced in Detroit for any appreciable length of time. It is true that Dr. Henry Newland was in Detroit in 1863, and that Dr. Frederick L. Hirschman graduated the Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery in 1873, but these practiced Medicine in Detroit hardly at all, or, at most, for only a few months.<sup>(1)</sup>

We do know this: that Dr. Kauffmann graduated from the Michigan College of Medicine in 1881 for *The Announcement of the Michigan College of Medicine* for the session of 1881-1882 lists Dr. Eugene J. Kauffmann as a matriculate with Dr. D. C. Farrand as his preceptor, and as having graduated in 1881. *The Announcement and Catalogue of the Detroit College of Medicine* of 1885-1886 also lists Dr. Eugene J. Kauffmann as a graduate of the Michigan College of Medicine which had amalgamated with the Detroit Medical College in 1885 to become the Detroit College of Medicine. In this *Announcement* it is apparent that he attended the College from 1877 to 1881 when he graduated.

He first appears in the 1883 *Detroit City Directory* (J. A. Weeks & Co.) under the listing of Physicians (p. 1194), and as practicing at 84 Lafayette Avenue. He is also listed (p. 600) as "Kauffman, Eugene J.; physician, 84 Lafayette Ave." The 1884 *City Directory* lists him as "Kauffmann, Eugene J., physician and surgeon, 32 Lafayette Ave., h(ome) 579 Cass." (p. 69). In this same directory he is also listed under *Physicians* (p. 1394). The 1885 *Detroit City Directory* likewise lists him under the heading of *Physicians* (p. 1316) and also in its regular pages as "Kauffmann, Eugene J., physician, 32 Lafayette Ave., h(ome) 579 Cass Ave." His name does not appear on any later *Detroit City Directories*. However, *Polk's Michigan State Gazetteer* of 1885 does list him under the heading of *Physicians* (p. 1876) as "Kauffmann, Eugene J., allo(path), 32 Lafay-

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\*This is the 5th in a series. See Edgar, Irving I., "A History of Early Jewish Physicians of Michigan"; *Michigan Jewish History*, I:1, 13-24; II:2, 18-19; III:2, 6-11; III:3, 31-35.

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ette Ave." and again in its general pages (p. 56). No subsequent *Michigan State Gazetteer* lists him in its pages. Nor do any of the volumes of the *Medical and Surgical Directory of the United States*, published by R. I. Polk and Co., list him in their pages. We lose track completely of our Dr. Eugene J. Kauffmann. We have been able to find no other trace of him. We know that he was a member of the Phoenix Social Club of Detroit in 1884.<sup>(2)</sup> This club was the outstanding Jewish Social Club in Detroit for many years, and was organized mainly by Temple Beth El members.

A search by the American Medical Association in its extensive medical biographical source material disclosed that "The only information available on Eugene J. Kauffmann, M.D., is that he received his M.D. degree from the Michigan College of Medicine in 1881." <sup>(3)</sup>

We know then that Dr. Eugene J. Kauffmann must have been born about 1859 or 1860; that he attended the Michigan College of Medicine from 1879 to 1881, in which year he graduated. His preceptor (sponsor, guide, teacher, counsellor) was the prominent Dr. D. O. Farrand who played a large part in the early development of Harper Hospital<sup>(4)</sup> and of the Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery. We also know that he practiced Medicine and Surgery in Detroit, first at 84 Lafayette Ave., and then at 32 Lafayette Ave., his last listing in any directory being in 1885 (*Michigan State Gazetteer*).

It is entirely plausible to assume that Dr. Eugene J. Kauffmann may have died at a very early age, perhaps in 1886 or 1887, and that this accounts for his disappearance from all the available records after 1885.

However, we can deduce certain other information from data we have about his family, one of the early Jewish families in Detroit. The father of Dr. Eugene J. Kauffmann must have been Isadore Kauffmann, for both are listed as living at 579 Cass Ave., in the particular Detroit City Directories.<sup>(5)</sup> As early as 1863, there is a reference to Mrs. Isadore Kauffman, the mother of Dr. Eugene J. Kauffmann in the *Temple Beth El Story* (p. 76) by Irving I. Katz. She appears on the first page of the minutes of the "Ladies Society for the Support of Hebrew Widows and Orphans in the State of Michigan." This Society was organized by the women of Temple Beth El. In the same work (p. 80), there is a photostatic copy of a page of the book of accounts for Temple Beth El, 1867, listing I. Kauff-

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mann as owing \$161.00. Earlier than this (1853-54) we find Isadore Kauffmann, the father of Dr. Eugene J. Kauffmann, advertising his "Clothing Emporium" in the Detroit City Directory.<sup>(6)</sup>

The Kauffmann family then must have been members of Temple Beth El in its earliest years, perhaps even among the original organizers of the congregation, as far back as 1850. It is probable that Dr. Eugene J. Kauffmann obtained his earliest education in the Beth El Day School. Most certainly his religious education must have been received at Beth El.

The Kauffmann family, as already indicated, were in the clothing business from the very beginning, in different partnerships and at different locations, as is apparent from the Detroit city directories for the years that they were in business. However, the family disappears from Detroit and certainly from membership at Temple Beth El. The last listing is in the 1892 *Detroit City Directory* (p. 650) where it mentions merely "Kauffmann, Isadore (father of Dr. Eugene J. Kauffmann) removed to Chicago, Illinois."

### REFERENCES

- (1) Edgar, Irving I., "A History of Some Early Jewish Physicians In Michigan", *Michigan Jewish History*, Vol. 1, No. 1, March 1960, pp. 13-23.
- (2) This membership listing is in the Archives of Temple Beth El, Detroit, Michigan.
- (3) From a communication in possession of the author, dated April 27, 1961.
- (4) Woodward, Frank B. and Mason, Philip P., *Harper of Detroit*, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, 1964.
- (5) *Detroit City Directory 1885*, J. A. Weeks & Co. (p. 69): Kauffmann & Wolff h(ome); also, "Kaufmann & Wolff, Isadore Kauffmann, William Wolff, Wholesale Clothiers, 122 Jefferson Avenue.
- (6) Katz, Irving I., *The Beth El Story*, Wayne University Press, Detroit, 1955, p. 68.

