

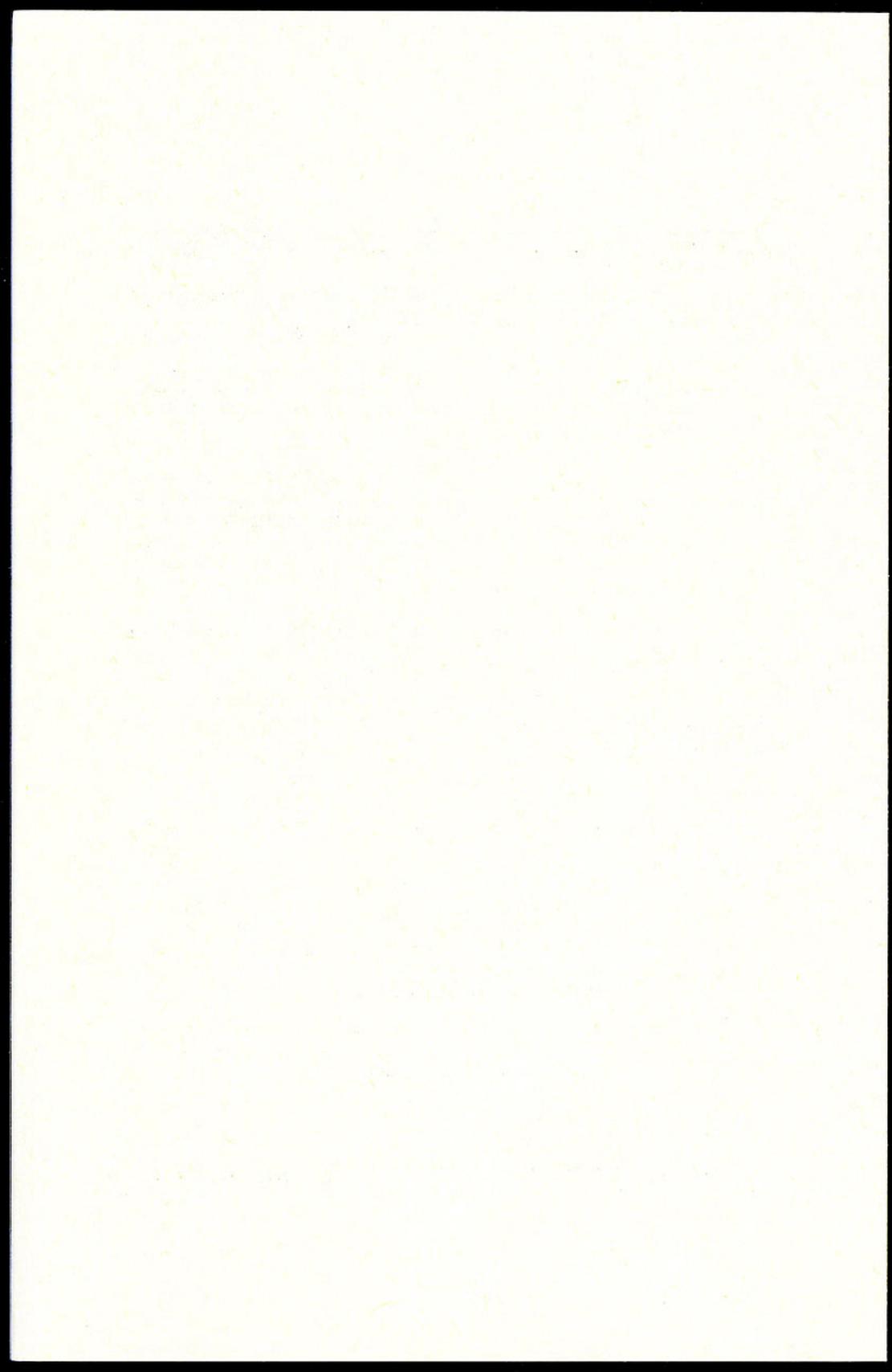
# MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY



JANUARY, 1968

TEVET, 5728

**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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# *Kishinev and Beilis - Some Aspects of a Community's Reaction*

by ALLEN A. WARSEN

The treatment of Jews in Czarist Russia often served as an accurate barometer of the political, social, and economic changes about to occur in that nation. The status of the Jew either foreshadowed impending events or served to divert the public discontent away from bureaucratic corruption, moral decay, and reactionary abuse.

It is no surprise then that the pogroms of the 1880's accompanied the shift in the government's policy from liberalism to extreme reactionism. Jewish citizens served as handy scapegoats for the assassination of Alexander II by Russian revolutionaries. Similarly the Kishinev pogrom in 1903 was but a prelude to the Russo-Japanese War of 1904; the Mendel Beilis case (1911-1913) anticipated the War of 1914.

The American Jewish community, as well as the public at large, reacted with strong feeling to the Czarist barbarity, as will be illustrated in the documents which follow. In one instance there was an appeal by District Grand Lodge No. 6 to Mishan Lodge in Kalamazoo for financial assistance to aid those suffering from the pogroms. In reading the appeal one is reminded of the intense sympathy held by American Jewry for their brethren in distress, wherever they might have been.

## DISTRICT GRAND LODGE No. 6

Chicago, October 17th, 1884

BRETHREN — Above all others there is one great question to-day, agitating the minds and hearts of all well-thinking Israelites in this our great and prosperous country, and that is, to take care, provide for and secure employment for the mass of RUSSIAN REFUGEEES, who come to our shores, fugitives from religious persecution and fanaticism.

The cry of "Hepp! Hepp!" which it was thought had long been buried by the rapid strides of an enlightened nineteenth Century, has once more been raised, and we are pained to again behold scenes of terror and suffering, sufficient to curdle one's blood and to raise the indignation of civilized mankind.

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But the powers of the government are either unwilling or unable to protect our inoffensive co-religionists from the attacks of the infuriated and murderous mobs, and the unfortunate Jew of Russia has again to flee for his life, and leave behind his home and all of his wordly possessions.

And now they are arriving in this country destitute, without means and without friends. These people, however, are all able-bodied and willing to work, and will soon become thrifty and useful citizens of the Republic.

All what is required, is to see to their immediate wants, provide food and shelter, until employment is procured for them — but even for that — money is wanted, and large amounts of it.

The distribution of these Jewish Refugees throughout the U.S. will be systematically effected from New York, and Chicago, as the centre of the great Northwest, will undoubtedly have to provide for a great number of them—already they are commencing to arrive, and are taken care of by philanthropic Israelites of this city. But immediate steps are necessary to obtain funds, in order to be enabled to shelter these people as they arrive, and to put them on the path for self-sustenance, and we know of no greater charity, no worthier object for our great and beneficent Order to take hold of, than *this*.

We therefore issue this appeal to our Lodges, requesting them earnestly to freely open their Lodge funds and appropriate largely and munificently.

Yes, we go further and ask you, in addition to your appropriations from the Lodge funds, to arrange subscription amidst your members and outsiders. The call is urgent because the case is desperate.

In our opinion, the smallest Lodge in our district ought to make appropriations for no less than twenty-five dollars, and the larger Lodges in proportion.

We suggest, in view of the fact that money is wanted immediately, to forward the Lodge appropriations at once—the volunteer subscriptions can be remitted later.

Send all your contributions to the Secretary of the

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Grand Lodge; the general Committee will attend to the disbursements of the same, a full account of which will appear in the annual report.

District No. 6, has ever been alive to the great questions of the day, and will certainly not be behind in this great case of charity and humanity.

In 1904 the Jewish Publication Society published *Voice of Kishinev*, a volume filled with the public and private statements of individuals, organizations and governmental bodies expressing a united protest against the cruelties permitted by the Russian government. Included among the materials in that publication are resolutions by state and local officials, as well as editorials by the leading journalists of the day. They all expressed shock at the perpetrators of the anti-Semitic violence and a deep compassion for the victims. The Detroit Common Council on May 23, 1903, passed a moving resolution as indicated in the following proceedings:

In Detroit, Mich., a special committee of the Common Council met with the Mayor and the Citizens' Committee, and at a special sessions of the Common Council summoned for May 23, 1903, the following action was taken:

TO THE HONORABLE THE COMMON COUNCIL:

Gentlemen: Your special committee, appointed to consider the communication of His Honor the Mayor, as to the action of the citizens' committee, regarding the persecution of the Jews in South Russia, beg leave to report that the committee took up with the citizens' committee and the Mayor the question of giving expression to our protest against persecution for religion's sake of any people, and knowing it to be unAmerican as well as unjust and unfair, we are united in our recommendation that a formal protest be sent to the Secretary of State of the United States, urging him to take such action as may seem proper to end these persecutions, or at least to intercede with the Russian Government in this regard.

Your committee therefore recommends the adoption of the following preamble and resolutions, and would suggest that they be forwarded to Senator Alger and Congressman Lucking, both of whom are to be in the city of Washington during the early days of the ensuing week. These representa-

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tives and fellow-citizens can avail themselves of the opportunity to present our protests to the Secretary of State in person. The resolutions are appended herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Wm. Gutman,  
David E. Heineman,  
Max C. Koch,  
Allois A. Daniel,  
Wm. Nagel

Accepted.

The following is the preamble and resolutions:

In pursuance of the resolutions of the citizens' meeting, submitted to this body by His Honor the Mayor, and having reference to the persecution of the Jews in South Russia, it is unanimously

Resolved, By the Common Council of the city of Detroit, That the massacres of the Jews in South Russia fill the civilized world with a sense of horror and detestation, and the sufferings of that people under the fearful cruelties inflicted upon them, because of their religious faith, arouse the deepest sympathy and pity of the American people.

Resolved, That we denounce these atrocities and the perpetrators and abettors thereof, as wholly outside the pale of Christian civilization.

Resolved, That on behalf of the united people of Detroit we solemnly protest against the persecution of these people, and appeal to the Government of Russia to suppress such outrages and to visit upon the perpetrators the punishment they so richly deserve.

Resolved, That we urge upon the State Department at Washington that the protest of the American people be laid before the Government of Russia, to the end that Government may be fully advised of the attitude of the American people in this most serious matter.

Resolved, That these resolutions be certified by the City Clerk with the city seal, and signed by the Mayor, the special committee of this body and the special citizens' committee, and forwarded to Senator Alger and Congressman Lucking, with the respectful request that they present the resolutions in person to the Secretary of State of the United States.

Unanimously adopted.

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*The Evening News* (now the *Detroit News*) on May 23, 1903, printed the following editorial:

A WEAK CZAR AND A STRONG ANTI-SEMITIC  
MINISTER

The present is hardly a time for a reasonable consideration of the attitude of Russia toward the Jews. Every utterance is proof that human passions are too turbulent as yet to consider all its aspects dispassionately.

Hebrews all over the world are justly indignant over the recent massacre at Kishineff, Russia. All they can say in execration of a government which allows such horrors as have been committed is entirely justifiable. There is no question but there is a fanatical religious element which is struggling to make the state religion the universal faith, to oppress all other religionists but those of the Greek orthodox church. This element has for its head one of the ablest, most ruthless and intolerant of all the Russian ministers, the procurator of the holy synod, K. P. Pobyedonostseff. He and his policy belong to an age that is past. He seems to entertain the fatuous belief that an absolute despotism, in which the civil ruler is made the nominal head of a hierarchy, can dominate by force over spiritual as well as temporal affairs. That many will die for their faith makes little difference to a man of this type. He would harass heretics without compunction, and would stop at little in his determination to coerce Jews, Lutherans, Roman Catholics and other religious sects other than the Greek church.

The Czar appears to be a man of kind heart and actuated by altruistic motives. A natural question is: Why does he not carry into effect his good intentions? He could order the governor of Kishineff, the local military authorities and all the leaders in the outrages off to the Siberian mines, or to the island of Saghalien, for life. Why does he not do it? That would be a reasonable question if the present Czar had the characteristics of Peter the Great and perhaps one or two other Czars, who ruled as well as reigned. The present Czar is a man of delicate constitution. He is the victim of a nervous disease which robs him of the stamina that is needed by any man who would be a real autocrat. He grew up in an atmosphere of terror. His grandfather, the emancipator of 20,000,000 serfs, was blown to pieces by an explosive bomb

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when the present Czar was a lad of 12 years. His father was under constant menace of death and had hundreds of hair-breadth escapes. In some respects the Czar resembles Louis XVI, a weak, amiable, well-meaning scion of more rugged stock, who has fallen heir to problems not of his own creation, and which he may not be able to solve. It is easy to see how such a monarch may be dominated by an ecclesiastic of great energy. Nicholas associated with Pobyedonostseff, might be like Louis XIII with Richelieu and Mazarin. The fact that he is a man of religious tendencies and of high ideals would make him peculiarly susceptible to clerical persuasion that is eager to crush the Lutherans in Finland and Jews everywhere.

Very recently *The Fixer*, a novel by Bernard Malamud, and *Blood Accusation*, an historical narrative by Maurice Samuel, have appeared. Both books relate the incredible story of Mendel Beiliss, a man persecuted by the government of Nicholas II on the charge of a ritual murder involving a Christian boy whose blood was alleged to have been used in the baking of Passover matzos. The accusation represented an attempt by the Czar and his entourage to libel Jewry, and provoked a wave of protests throughout the civilized world. In the United States religious leaders of all denominations beseeched the Czar to put an end to the hideous spectacle. Their appeal, like all others, was ignored by the Russian regime. Nevertheless Mendel Beiliss was found not guilty by a jury who would not believe the fantastic fabrication of truth. The acquittal inspired the *Detroit Free Press* to write on November 11, 1913, this editorial:

BEILISS FREED

Many will think they see a recognition and acknowledgement of world sentiment in the acquittal at Kiev of Mendel Beiliss, the Jew, accused of ritual murder and yesterday exonerated by a jury of his native city. But there is little to indicate that the jury was influenced by anything except the evidence and the pleas of the attorney for the defense. Beiliss had powerful and able advocates who were convinced of his innocence and put up a stubborn contest. They thoroughly confounded many of the government witnesses, and in one or two instances forced direct repudiation of testimony inimical to their client.

The acquittal may fairly be considered an indication that Russian justice is not the altogether hideous thing sometimes portrayed, and that there are times when fair play is

# **Michigan Jewish Historical Society**

**January 1968, Vol. 8 #1**

**Missing Pages**

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## *The Ninth Annual Meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan*

The ninth Annual Meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan was held on June 21, 1967 in the Explorers Room of the Detroit Public Library. It was a luncheon meeting and was well attended.

The meeting was especially significant because it marked the formal association of the Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation with the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library, the latter having become the official archival depository of the Jewish Welfare Federation's past records.

James Babcock, chief of the Burton Historical Collection, duly received the many microfilms of the past minutes of the Federation and the numerous boxes of uncataloged materials.

Mr. Babcock expressed the hope that the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan would be successful in getting all the Jewish organizations in Michigan to deposit their old records so that the Burton Historical Collection would truly be the Jewish research center in the State of Michigan.

Following the treasurer's report, the president, Dr. Irving I. Edgar, gave an extensive summary of Society affairs, indicating much progress and outlining projects for the future.

Allen Warsen presented special framed citations of appreciation to the Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation, its President Hyman Saf-ran, the Executive Director, William Avrunin, and Assistant Executive Director, Sam Cohen.

The election of officers and board members was held, following which the guest speaker, Leonard Simons, President of the Detroit Historical Commission, addressed the Society on "Reminiscences of Local History."

The meeting was then adjourned, at which time a tour was conducted of the extensive archives in the Burton Historical Collection.

Mrs. Irving I. Edgar, *Secretary*

## A NOTE OF THANKS

The Board of Directors of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan expresses its thanks and appreciation to Mr. Leonard N. Simons and to the Leonard N. Simons Fund for providing the financial means which made possible the Society's recent membership drive.

\* \* \*

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO PARTICIPATE IN BURTON ARCHIVES

We are pleased to announce that the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit has agreed to deposit its historical records in the archives of the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Main Library. By so doing it has contributed to the growth of Michigan Jewry's research center.

We invite all Jewish institutions, synagogues, organizations and individuals to place their records and documents in the Burton archives, where they will be safely and carefully maintained. For further information call Mr. Allen A. Warsen (LI. 3-5262) or the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library (321-1000).

\* \* \*

## RABBINICAL RECORDS ADDED TO ARCHIVES

Rabbi Herbert S. Rutman of Temple Israel, Minneapolis, has turned over to the Minnesota Historical Society three volumes of minutes and other records of the Minnesota Rabbinical Association.

These materials, dating from 1959 to 1966, are an important contribution to the Jewish Community Archives of Greater Minneapolis, a collection which is sponsored jointly by the Minneapolis Historical Society and the Minneapolis Federation for Jewish Service.

# *President's Annual Report*

*Presented by*

IRVING I. EDGAR, M.D.

June 21, 1967

Ladies and Gentlemen:

First of all, let me express my deep-felt pleasure in extending to all of you a most hearty welcome to this, the eighth annual meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan.

I cannot think of a more appropriate place to have such a meeting than in this Explorers Room of our beautiful Detroit Public Library.

For this I want to give special thanks and appreciation to Mr. James Babcock, Chief of the Burton Historical Collection, for his cooperation in arranging for this meeting. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Babcock has kindly arranged also a short tour for us to see the Burton Historical Collection Archives.

Our Society came into being out of a need of the Michigan Jewish Community for a more direct identification with its past in this State; and is evidence of our growing maturity as Jewish Americans in Michigan.

We must never forget that history is the memory of a people, a nation, a group. And just as our own individual memories are vital to each individual's existence, so is the memory (the history, if you will) of our Jewish people, in the United States, in Michigan, vital to our continued existence and well-being. Yes, indeed, our past is prologue to the present and to the future. The Jewish people have been sinking their roots deep in this soil of America and in the State of Michigan.

Jacob R. Marcus, the noted American Jewish historian and director of the American Jewish Archives, remarked in 1960 that though much had been accomplished in general American Jewish historical research, "what has been particularly lacking . . . is local research, town, state and regional histories;" and he expressed the hope that our Society would help fill this lack in this Jewish community.

It is for this fundamental purpose that the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan was organized officially on Sunday, June 1,

### *President's Annual Report*

1959, though the seeds of its beginning were present for many years in the mind of our' Honorary President, Allen Warsen.

Our Society is barely eight years old and we have made much progress in these years. We have accomplished much in the past three years of my administration. But so much of what has been accomplished thus far can really be considered 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.

Indeed, much of what has been started in the past year will bear fruit 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 the past three years, I have always kept in my awareness the purposes specifically for which we were organized: 1) the fostering of the collection, preservation, and publication of materials relevant 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) the cooperation with other Jewish Historical Societies in America, as well as with all society groups.

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

### ARCHIVES

For many years, as most of you know, our Society has worked diligently for the establishment of an appropriate central depository for the achival records of the numerous and various Jewish organizations in the State of Michigan. We had negotiated at various times with Wayne State University, Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation, Yivo, and the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library.

As you already know, two years ago, in my administration, we had been successful in arranging to make the famous Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library the official central

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depository of the Archives of Michigan Jewish history, perhaps as a separate and special section. But, equally as important as this, we had been successful in piercing the barrier of inertia so common among Jewish organizations about the preservation of their records—for the Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation, in February, 1965, officially and “through the good offices of (our) society” did “designate the Burton Collection of the Detroit Public Library as the depository of (their) records” . . .

This historical decision, as you remember, was appropriately publicized by the Federation in the Detroit Jewish News and Detroit Free Press.

The importance and prestige of both the Burton Historical Collection and the Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation (which probably has the largest and most significant historical source material of the Detroit Jewish community) should certainly make it easier for other Michigan Jewish organizations to follow their lead.

The Jewish Welfare Federation has microfilmed all of its minute books and those of the United Jewish Charities and others, and, within the past few days, together with much other uncataloged historical source materials, has deposited this material in the Burton Historical Collection Archives.

Today we formally have recognized the importance of this contribution, and we have drawn up resolutions of citation to the Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation, its president, Hyman Safran, its executive director, William Avrunin, and its assistant executive director, Sam Cohen, for their part in this accomplishment. Later Allen Waršen will read and present these resolutions.

I can also report to you that the American Jewish Archives at Cincinnati, Ohio, have made available to us duplicate copies of all their catalog cards relative to Michigan Jewish history—close to 80 items. These have been deposited at the Burton Historical Collection Archives. We are also planning to negotiate with the American Jewish Historical Society and Yivo and other organizations to deposit whatever materials they have relating to Michigan Jewish history in these Burton Archives.

I can also report to you that one of our members, Mrs. Irving I. Edgar, has been doing invaluable voluntary work at the Burton Historical Collection, among which is the proper clipping and stamping of items in the weekly Detroit Jewish News relevant to Michigan Jewish history. At this time, in the name of our Society, I

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want to thank Mrs. Edgar for this work, which is still continuing.

It must be evident to you that as this Michigan-Jewish section of the Burton Historical Collection Archives becomes enlarged and properly organized, it can become the focal point for scholars and students interested in research in this area of American Jewish history.

#### MICHIGAN JEWISH HISTORY MAGAZINE

Our magazine, *Michigan Jewish History*, is in its 7th year of existence; and you have received the various issues in the past few years. The first few volumes have been bound in book form and are available at the Detroit Public Library.

Our magazine has been sent to many libraries and institutions here and in other countries. It has received much favorable notice and wide acclaim in historical circles throughout the country.

I want to thank Allen Warsen and the other members of the Editorial Committee for their help in editing the magazine.

#### STATE HISTORICAL COMMEMORATIONS

Again, as most of you know, our Society was instrumental in having the Michigan State Historical Commission erect a large, appropriate historical marker on the grounds of the restored Fort Michilimacinauw at Mackinaw City to commemorate the first Jewish settler in Michigan: Ezekiel Solomon. This is the first such historical marker in the State of Michigan, and thousands of people from all over the country have seen it.

We have also petitioned the Detroit Board of Education to name a school after the first Jewish settler of Detroit: Chapman Abraham.

In fact, during the past year of my administration, we have done the research necessary to verify the site of the first synagogue in Michigan, which happens to be Temple Beth El.

It was above the store of Silberman and Hersch, tobacconists and founding members of this first congregation. It was at 220 Jefferson Avenue. That block, we know, does not exist any more; but having determined its exact site, we have been in touch with the city Historiographer. Upon his advice, we are soon to get in touch with the Michigan Historical Commission and the Detroit Historical Commission to petition for an appropriate historical marker commemorating the site of this first synagogue in the State of Michigan.

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Our Society will continue to foster other appropriate commemorations within the area of Michigan Jewish history.

#### PARTICIPATION IN THE ANNUAL JEWISH COMMUNITY BOOK FAIR

For the past few years, our Society has participated actively in the Annual Jewish Community Book Fair held at the Jewish Community Center.

In November, 1965, we arranged a symposium on "Forty Years of the Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation," with the participation of Mrs. Samuel Chapin, Irving I. Katz, and Allen Warsen. In addition, we had an exhibit of materials and documents relative to Michigan Jewish history during the period of this Book Fair.

In 1966, this past year, we had an exhibit of pictures of Jewish groups dating as far back as the turn of the century. It attracted considerable attention and comment.

#### A PORTABLE EXHIBITOR

I also want to report to you that for the past three years we have had a portable exhibitor that we can set up at appropriate times and places to foster interest in Michigan Jewish history and the work of our Society.

As a matter of fact, on April 25 to 27, 1966, we set up this exhibitor at Temple Beth El on the occasion of the Convention of the Michigan Federation of Temple Sisterhoods.

At this Convention, also, we included in the packet of materials to the delegates a copy of our magazine and other items explaining our Society and urging awareness of its purposes so that these delegates, returning to their respective Jewish communities in the State, would add to our archives, to our membership, and perhaps contribute articles of historical interest to our magazine.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Sadie Padover for making and contributing our bulletin board exhibitor to the Society. I also want to thank Mrs. Marshall Miller for arranging our participation in the mentioned way at the Convention of the Michigan Federation of Temple Sisterhoods.

I also want to report to you that, as President of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, I have had opportunities to speak before

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various groups about our Society, including the staff of the Detroit Historical Museum, some classes of the United Hebrew Schools, and more recently the Metropolitan Council of B'nai B'rith.

MEMBERSHIP

I am pleased to report to you that our paid membership roll now numbers about 150.

I want to remind you that since 1961 our Society has had a tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service of the United States Government.

At the present time, we are affiliated with the American Jewish Historical Society, the Association of American State and Local History Societies, and with the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit.

In conclusion, I want to express my deep appreciation to you, the officers and Board of Directors of our Society, and to all those members who have helped in building our Society.

I hope that the new administration to be elected today will continue to carry on the progress of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan with increased success in every area of endeavor.

\* \* \*

The editors of *Michigan Jewish History* would welcome for publication memoirs, reminiscences, histories of synagogues, organizations and institutions, book reviews, biographies, autobiographies and photographs.

## Advertisements in the 1907 Detroit Yiddish Directory

This was the only directory ever to be published in Yiddish. An original copy is in the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati. For the reproductions we are indebted to Mr. Irving I. Katz, former president of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan.

### GOOD NEWS!

We wish to inform the Detroit Jewish public that we have built a gorgeous Russian and Turkish Steambath with all the latest improvements, newest machines, and steam from heated stones.

Hot and cold baths at any time, and a kosher Mikveh (ritual bath) for all the daughters of Israel, which is always open.

185 Alfred St. corner Antoine  
Louis Schlusel, Proprietor

### א בשורה טובה!

סיר סאכען בעקאנען דעם דערפארטער אידעשען  
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קאָנעט  
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THE GRADUATE  
RUSSIAN MIDWIFE

Miss Fanny Tchernoff is well known to everyone in Detroit for her noble care of rich and poor alike. Any woman may consult with her free of charge. Office: 284 Alfred St.

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**284 אלפרעד סטריט**

**ברויט פילאזאפיע**  
ברויט איז קראפט, ברויט איז לעבען.  
אבער דאָס נעווענס זיך אויב איהר עסס דעם ריכטיגען ברויט  
און ריכטיגען ברויט קרעם איהר ביי  
**י. פייגענסאן**  
498 ענטוויין סטריט.  
מיי ברויט איז טום דרינקעניש, נום אויסגעקאמפן  
און נום אויסגעבאקען.  
מייך בעקערי איז ליכטיג ציכטיג און ריין  
סיינע פאָספעניקס, ביינעל, כאַנס און קייקס ווינען  
דיא נעסמאקסע  
**דיא שבת'דיגע חלהת איז א אויסנאהם**

# טהעע ענד קאפּע



דער איינציגער ריכטיגער פּלאַטץ  
פיר אמתע נומע טהעע אונד  
קאפּע איז נור  
...בייא...  
...בייא...

**ס. ראבינאוויץ**

392 הייסמינגס סטריט

דארט קרינט איהר עס.

ביין לאנגיאַהרניגע פּראַקטיקע אין דיזענס לייזן, נאך פון יי-  
ראב און טייגע צאָהלרליכע קאַסטיסערס היער, איז דיא סעסטע  
נאַראנטי פיר צופורעדרענהייט.

עס איז קיין זאך צו פערקויפן קאפּע אדער טהעע, דאָס  
קען יעדער נאָסערי סאָן, אָדער יענער איינער וואָס פּאַהרט  
סיס א וועגעלע. דיא הויפּט זאך איז צו וויסען דעם לייזן, אינד  
פערשטען דעם אידעשען געשטאַק, וואָס דער איד גלייבט, און  
דאָס קען נור

**S. RABINOWITZ**

392 Hastings Street

## TEA AND COFFEE

The only right place to get tea and coffee is at S. Rabinowitz. Any grocer, even a push cart vender, can sell coffee and tea. The important thing is to know quality and that special yiddish flavor.

S. Rabinowitz,

392 Hastings St.

Horseshoing can be done by any blacksmith. But not any blacksmith can really satisfy. Only Sol Wolfson is long known as the best horse-shoer in Detroit and doesn't have to praise his own work.

When your horse injures his foot and develops blood-poisoning, don't take it to a doctor, but bring it to me and the horse will be cured.

New wagons made to order. All work guaranteed. 402 St. Antoine St., cor. High

Editor's Note: These translations from the Yiddish are free and general in nature, and not strictly literal.

## פערד סמידען

קען יעדער סמיד, אבער ניט יעדער סמיד קען אייך  
צופרידען שטעלען.

דארום דארפסט איהר זעהען צו סמידען איינער פערד אין א  
זיכער און רולייכעבל פלייס.

## סאל וואלפסאן

איז שוין לאנג בעקאנט אלס דער בעסטער הארן-שווער  
אין דערטראָם און ברודן זיינע ארכיים ניט לויבען.  
ווען איינער פערד פערשטעכט וך א פוס און קרינט בלוט  
פערניפסונג כריכט איהר ניט געהן צו א דאָקטאָר, כריינט  
איהם צו סיד און איינער פערד וועט זיין געהילט.

נייע וועגען ווערען געמאכט צו אָרדער  
אלע ארכיים נאראנסירט.

402 ענטוויין סט. קארנער האַי סט.

# *The Story of Grand Rapids*

A NARRATIVE OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Z. Z. LYDENS, Editor

Contributing Editor: Mrs. Samuel Horowitz  
Ethnic Groups (The Jewish Community)

KREGEL Publications, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1966)

The Grand Rapids Historical Commission is to be commended for producing a volume which surveys the exciting story of Grand Rapids in a very readable and informative manner. Four years in preparation, and the result of much cooperative effort, the book contains a number of references to the Jewish contribution in the development of an extremely creative city.

The reader is informed that the first Jewish settlers were two young Bavarian cousins, Julius and Joseph Houseman, who arrived at Grand Rapids in 1852. Their famous clothing store retailed the lumberjack work shirts made in their own factory. Joseph was so successful in mediating disputes between the community and nearby Indians that the Chippewa tribe gave him the name "Little Joe Blackskin." Julius served not only as mayor of Grand Rapids, but was the first and only Jew to be a member from Michigan of the U.S. Congress (1883-1885).

We learn that the first Jewish organization in the city was a burial society, the first interment being that of a young French trader, Jacob Levy, who had made his way to Grand Rapids and died of consumption. In the Jewish section of another local cemetery lies the remains of Dr. Alexander A. Walter (1854-1910), whose marker reveals that he was the Surgeon General of Russia.

The first synagogue in Grand Rapids was Emanuel (Reform), dating from 1857. When the new congregational building was erected in 1881, we are told:

"The Grand Rapids Eagle rhapsodized about the synagogue of 'our Israelitish fellow citizens' and the dedication exercises, testifying to 'rare happiness;' noting the presence of 'our most prominent citizens,' going on with reference to the Tablets of the Law and with a description of the pulpit and the Ark 'finished in black walnut and butternut,' and describing the 'exceeding chaste gas chandeliers,' and the carpets of crimson and black."

*The Story of Grand Rapids* is a dramatic panorama of a city which has held a vital place in the annals of Michigan. Those portions of the book relating to the Jewish citizenry remind us of the significant and proud contribution made by the Jews in enriching their community.

J. D. HYAMS

## *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes*

(Vol. 4, No. 4)

*The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes* of November, 1966, is a particularly important and significant issue of this publication of the Jewish Historical Association of Rhode Island.

The front cover has a beautiful color reproduction of a painting of a young lady, Sara Green Frank, 1860-1912;" and it is accompanied in the inner pages by an article of that same heading which interestingly traces "one Jewish family for more than 150 years, one hundred years of which were part of Rhode Island history."

It also identifies "six great grandparents of a Providence (R.I.) resident who survived into the second half of the 20th century;" and it shows how this Sara Green Frank was a bridge between the past and the present.

The back cover of the *Notes* contains a photographic copy of the "Northeast corner of Westminster and Eddy Streets (Providence, R.I.) in 1869," preserved in the collection of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.

The article relative to this photograph allows for historical associations of Rhode Island-Jewish interest, which the author summarizes as follows: "Thus the little store pictured here was the start of the careers of two distinguished Jews of Rhode Island—one in business and one in law."

A third article in these *Notes* is titled, "United Association of Spermaceti Chandlers," with a reproduction of The Articles of Association drawn up in 1763 and having the signatures of such early Rhode Island Jewish historical personalities as Aaron Lopez, Moses Lopez, Naphtali Hart, Jacob Rod Rivera and Isaac Stile, all of Newport, R.I. at the time.

"This valuable and interesting document is an outstanding example of the treasured items enumerated in the extensive bibliography which comprises the major part of this issue of the *Notes*," which takes us to this most comprehensive and extensive bibliography. It is entitled, "An Annotated Bibliography of Materials Relating to the History of the Jews of Rhode Island Located in Rhode Island Depositories (1678-1966)."

It was compiled and edited by Freda Egnal, who was a graduate student in the Department of History at Brown University at the time (1962). It was sponsored by the Rhode Island Jewish Historical

*Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes*

Association "as the most useful method of stimulating historical research in the history of the Jews of Rhode Island."

This bibliography contains over a thousand items and covers pp. 305-506 of the *Notes*. It is divided into the following general headings with appropriate sub-headings :

- A. Bibliography of 427 Items Devoted Wholly to Rhode Island Jewry.
- B. A Bibliography of all Items (355) Which Contain Material Relevant to Rhode Island Jewry but Which are not Devoted Wholly to it.
- C. A Bibliography Under Important Subject Headings Regarding the History of the Jews in Rhode Island.
- D. A Bibliography of References to the Jews in Rhode Island Taken from the American Jewish Yearbook 1890-1965.
- E. A List of all Manuscripts in Rhode Island Relating to Organizations, Institutions, Synagogues, and Families Which are of Significance to the History of the Jews in Rhode Island.

This bibliography is a monumental work in its field. The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association deserves unstinted commendation for having sponsored and printed this most valuable and complete bibliography.

It sets an example for other Jewish historical associations to emulate, as a best means for stimulating research and writing of American Jewish history in the various localities of America.

IRVING I. EDGAR, M.D.

## *Jewish Historical Society of Michigan*

The Jewish Historical Society of Michigan was organized on June 1, 1959, for the following main purposes:

1. To promote the study and research of Michigan Jewish history by encouraging all efforts to create a wider interest on the part of Michigan Jews in the growth and development of their many respective communities.

2. To foster the collection, preservation and publication of materials on the history of the Jews of Michigan, to which purposes the society publishes *Michigan Jewish History*, a semi-annual journal, and has established the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library as a permanent archive-depository for Michigan Jewish historical source material.

3. To encourage all projects, celebrations and other activities which tend to spread authentic information concerning Michigan Jewish history, such as the erection by the Society in conjunction with the Michigan Historical Commission, of the historical marker commemorating Michigan's first Jewish settler, at the restored Fort Michilimackinac.

4. To cooperate with national Jewish historical societies as well as with other state and regional Jewish historical groups.

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Membership is open to all who have an interest in Michigan Jewish history and in supporting the goals of the organization. Income of the Society is derived entirely from the annual dues and is used for publishing the journal and related projects.

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Members of the Society are invited and encouraged to submit articles, pictures, or reminiscences for future issues of the journal. Such items need not be lengthy, but should relate to the Detroit or Michigan historical scene. Material can be sent to the Editor, 21721 Parklawn Avenue, Oak Park, Michigan 48237.

