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צדקה תציל ממות
הקמי

THE HEBREW BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF CHARLESTON, S. C.

FOUNDED 1784

The Oldest Jewish Charitable Society In The United States

An Historical Sketch

By

THOMAS J. TOBIAS

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To My Mother

Hortense Alexander Tobias

(1878-1960)

Whose Charities Were Many

135

THE HEBREW BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF CHARLESTON, S. C.



Seal of the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Charleston, 1784

FOREWORD

The Hebrew Benevolent Society of Charleston, S. C., has the distinction of being the oldest Jewish charitable society still active in the United States.

Founded in 1784 in the wake of the American Revolution, the Society was born five years before the United States of America began its existence as a nation with the inauguration of President George Washington.

The Society is proud of its antiquity but even prouder that it still serves the charitable needs of the Charleston Jewish community after almost two centuries. Membership in the Society reflects the devotion of Charleston Jewry to its charitable purposes.

The Society dates from the time when fewer than 2,500 Jews are estimated to have lived in what is now the United States. Today the Society ranks historically "first" among the host of organizations which serve the welfare needs of the American Jewish community now numbering more than five and a half million.

Unfortunately the complete story of the Society's long and honorable record of service cannot be told. During the Civil War, when Charleston was under siege and bombardment, the Society sent its minute books and other records to Columbia for safekeeping. There, ironically, they were destroyed in the fire which burned South Carolina's capital city after its capture by General William T. Sherman.

I have therefore had to search out ancillary records to tell what we can of the history of the Society up to the Civil War. These sources, in brief, include the Hebrew inscriptions on the seal of the Society, eighteenth and early

nineteenth century wills containing bequests to the Society, and occasional newspaper notices. Accounts of the Society published in *The Occident,* the leading American Jewish periodical of the period, give us our best insight into the Society's activities during the ante-bellum period. Minute books have been consulted for the story of the Society from its reorganization after the Civil War down to the present day.

My thanks go to those who have helped me. I am especially grateful to two who read the manuscript and made many useful suggestions: Rabbi Isadore S. Meyer, Editor, American Jewish Historical Society, and Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, Director, American Jewish Archives.

Rabbi Burton L. Padoll translated the Hebrew on the seal, and Dr. Malcolm H. Stern called my attention to early wills naming the Society. My thanks also to two past presidents of the Society, Walter H. Solomon and Edward Kronsberg, whose interest helped make possible the publication of this history through a subvention from The Saul Alexander Foundation, of which they are both officers, to supplement what the Society allocated.

This volume stands as a companion to the history of our sister charitable society, the Hebrew Orphan Society of Charleston (1801), written by me and published by that Society in 1957.

In conclusion, it is a source of great satisfaction and pride to me that this historical account was researched, written and published during my encumbency as President of this venerable and respected Society.

THOMAS J. TOBIAS

Charleston, S. C.
March, 1965

CONTENTS

PAGE

Founding and Early Years 1

The Ante-Bellum Period 8

Reorganization to 1899 18

Modern Period—Since 1900 27

APPENDICES:

I. Officers of the Society (1827-1965) 39

II. Constitution of 1870 42

III. Membership of the Society, 1870 47

IV. Constitution of 1899 48

V. Membership of the Society, 1899 54

VI. Constitution of 1965 55

VII. Membership of the Society, 1965 60

FOUNDING AND EARLY YEARS

In 1784, the year that the Hebrew Benevolent Society was founded, Charleston was seeking to revive its once-prosperous economy wrecked by the long, devastating years of the American Revolution.

The British siege and naval bombardment had damaged and destroyed much of the city. The harsh military occupation had disrupted business. The former flourishing shipping and commerce and once productive rice and indigo plantations nearby were left prostrate at war's end. Inflation had corroded the value of money. There were many in need.

The response of the Jews of Charleston, a small but active element in the life of the city from early times, was to establish a benevolent society to help the less fortunate among their own people in accordance with the traditional Jewish emphasis on charity.

Attracted by the climate of religious freedom and economic opportunity, Jewish pioneers began to settle in South Carolina as early as 1695. By 1749 they were numerous enough (perhaps a dozen families) to organize a congregation, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, which exists today as one of the oldest Jewish congregations in the United States. In 1764 a communal cemetery was acquired.

As merchants and traders, the Jews of Charleston helped build the city's colonial prosperity. They overwhelmingly favored the patriot cause in the growing conflict with England. When the Revolution came, they took an active part in the fight for independence. More than a score of Charleston's little colony of Jews fought with the patriot

forces. After the Revolution, the Jewish community shared the hard times which affected the entire community. Jewish Revolutionary veterans returned to seek work and re-establish businesses. A number of leading Jews, some banished by the British and some who left rather than take an oath of allegiance during the occupation of the city, returned to begin their lives anew. Some Jews brought to America with the Hessian troops, remained after the British evacuated the city. Two were sutlers with Hessian generals, and two were Polish "taylors". The resumption of trans-Atlantic shipping was once again bringing poor immigrants from Europe, and among them, were Jews.[1]

The first Jewish charity agencies in the New World as in the Old were the synagogues. Charleston's Beth Elohim from its founding was not only the center of the spiritual life of the Jewish community but also the chief dispenser of charity. All in need turned to the synagogue: the indigent sick, the poor immigrant, the widow, the orphan.

Charleston's post-Revolutionary hard times, readjustments, and needy newcomers brought about the establishment of the Benevolent Society, "under the Authority and Jurisdiction of Beth Elohim." At its founding and during its early years, the Society functioned as an arm of the synagogue, as an auxiliary organization which took over certain charitable services in the community.

The establishment of a charitable society by the Jews of Charleston was doubtlessly also influenced by the existence in the city of several mutual-aid and charitable societies originally founded by groups of various national origins.[2]

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[1] Barnett A. Elzas, *The Jews of South Carolina,* (Philadelphia, 1905), Chapters V and VII *passim.*

[2] These included Charleston's St. Andrews Society, founded 1729 by Scots; St. George Society (1733, English); South Carolina Society (1737, French Huguenots) and German Friendly Society (1766).

Since no written records telling of the Society's founding survive, it is fortunate that the Hebrew inscriptions on the original silver seal of the Society provide answers to some important questions, notably the true date of the founding.

The design of the seal is unusual and impressive. It shows the figure of a skeleton representing the Angel of Death with a scythe in the right hand and an hour glass in the outstretched bony fingers of the left hand. (See frontispiece.)

The original name of the Society is engraved on the seal in Hebrew, *Hebra Gemilut Hasadim.* While the literal English translation is "Society for Deeds of Loving Kindness", societies of similar Hebrew name were commonly called Benevolent Society. We find the Society referred to by both its Hebrew and English names in early bequests which are later cited.

The seal also establishes the true date of the Society's founding. There appear the Hebrew words: *Nityasda He Tammuz* (Founded the 5th of the Jewish month of *Tammuz*) and the abbreviation: *Tkmd* (the Hebrew year, 5544). This Hebrew date corresponds to June 25, 1784. Before the finding of the Society's seal in 1903, it was long wrongly believed that the Society had been founded in 1795, an error of eleven years in the Society's true antiquity.

The Biblical motto of the Society also appears on the seal. Under the figure of the Angel of Death is the Hebrew quotation: *"Tsadakah Tatzil Mi-Mavet":* "Charity Delivers from Death" (*Proverbs* 10:2).

Both the design and inscriptions on the seal tell much concerning the original purpose and sphere of activity of the Society.

In the first place, the Charleston Society's original Hebrew name is the same as that borne by earlier *Hebrot,* notably those of the Sephardic congregations of London and Amsterdam, which were organized to minister to the

sick and to bury the dead. Also the meaning of the Hebrew name, "Society for Deeds of Loving Kindness", traditionally refers to acts of personal service, especially such personal service as sitting with the sick, preparation of the dead for burial, and attendance at funeral rites. The skeleton Angel of Death on the seal also symbolizes the Society's services to the dead. Furthermore, the Biblical motto, "Charity Delivers From Death" points to the charitable obligation of attending the sick to save him from death.[3]

An interesting and somewhat amusing sidelight on the early burial function of the Society is the court case of *The State vs. Solomon Moses,* charged with assault in 1801.[4]

Simon M. Hart testified that he "was engaged as a member of the Benevolent Society in burying the dead," when the defendant, Solomon Moses, came to the home of Abraham Torres, where the body of the deceased was being prepared for burial and "insisted upon assisting."

Hart told Moses that he could not help "unless he had permission from the Society." Whereupon Moses "raised his fist and struck witness (Hart) in the face."

Moses was found guilty and fined "one dollar in consideration of . . . having made amends by order of the Hebrew Congregation." The *Adjunta* [Board of Trustees] of Beth Elohim Congregation had hailed Moses before them, fined him "three Pounds," and required him to beg pardon in the synagogue for what he had done. After paying the fine and making public apology, Moses' rights and privileges as a member of the congregation were restored.

This case, in addition to throwing light on the burial role of the Society, also illustrates the firm disciplinary

[3] After studying the seal, two leading authorities on American and Anglo Jewish history consider the Society originally a sick-care and burial society. Letters to Thomas J. Tobias from Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, Director, American Jewish Archives, Oct. 9, 1961; and from Dr. Cecil Roth, Oxford University, Oxford, England, March 6, 1964.

control which Beth Elohim exercised over its members at that time, and the recognition given by the civil court to the punitive action of the synagogue against Solomon Moses.

While the names of the founders and original members of the Society have been lost, Charleston County Probate Court records show that during its first quarter century the Society was named as a beneficiary in six wills. These first benefactors, all alive when the Society was founded, might well have been among the original members of the Society.

In 1787, three years after the Society was organized, Joseph Myers, shopkeeper, died and left one-fourth of his estate to "the Society of the Jewish Profession called *Gamilod Hasadim*" [sic]. Myers used the Hebrew name the Society bore at its founding.[5]

In 1795, Hart Moses Hart, a young broker, died at the age of 31, and bequeathed "To the Benevolent Society in Charleston Ten Pounds Sterling." [6]

When Abraham Moses, who described himself as a "trader", died in 1796, he provided in his will the following: "I give and Bequeath to the Hebrew Benevolent Society Five Guineas." [7]

Another benefactor was Israel Joseph, merchant and indigo broker, who served as president of Beth Elohim for many years up to his death in 1804. His will provided:

> I give and bequeath to the *Hebra Gamilut Hasadam,* or the Benevolent Society established under the Authority and Jurisdiction of Beth Elohim, or House of God . . . the sum of Ten Pounds Sterling, to be appropriated in such manner as the Members of the said Society shall think most proper for the benefit of the said institution.[8]

[4] Elzas, *Jews of South Carolina,* pp. 154-155.
[5] Will Book, Probate Court, Charleston County, S. C., Vol. 22, p. 191.
[6] *Ibid.,* Vol. 25, pp. 317-318.
[7] *Ibid.,* Vol. 26, pp. 476-477.
[8] *Ibid.,* Vol. 29, pp. 673-678.

The philanthropic-minded Joseph also left "Fifty Pounds Sterling" to Beth Elohim, the interest from which was to go annually "into the Charity Funds of the said congregation." He left the same amount under the same provisions to the "Orphan House of Charleston", extending his generosity to this public institution of the city.

In 1805, Solomon Hart, who had served as *mohel* [circumcisor] for the Charleston Jewish community, died "aged 30 years and seven months", and left a bequest from his small estate. "All my debts to be paid," his will declares, "and the residue of my Estate to go one half to the Hebrew Congregation [Beth Elohim] and the other half to the Benevolent Society." Interestingly, *Mohel* Hart requests in his will that, "My circumcision instruments to be interred with me." [9]

Joseph Solomons, who described himself in his will as "a native of Amsterdam but for thirty years past a resident of Charleston," remembered the Society on his death in 1808 with a bequest ". . . of Ten Pounds Sterling to the Society called *Hebra Gemelet Hasadim.*"[10]

Sampson Simons, English-born, came to South Carolina as a young man, fought as a soldier in the American Revolution, later became a Charleston merchant, and served as president of Beth Elohim. When he died in 1811, he bequeathed, "Unto the Benevolent Society 'Gemlethasclim' the sum of One Hundred Dollars." [11]

We know that the Society was active in 1811, since Sampson Simons bequeathed the Society $100 that year, as we have seen. The 1820 Constitution of Beth Elohim Congregation refers to the Society so that it was still active

[9] *Ibid.*, Vol. 30, p. 863.
[10] *Ibid.*, Vol. 31, pp. 166-167.
[11] *Ibid.*, Vol. 31, p. 455; Barnett A. Elzas, *The Old Jewish Cemeteries of Charleston, S. C.*, (Charleston, S. C., 1903), p. 45.
[12] *Constitution of the Hebrew Congregation, Kahol Kadosh Beth Elohim, Charleston, S. C., 1820,* (Charleston, S. C., 1904, Reprinted by B. A. Elzas), Rule XXI, p. 15.

that year.[12] The next reference is published in the Charleston *Courier* of December 5, 1825, a notice of the "Anniversary Celebration of the *Hebra Gemulut Hasadim* or Hebrew Benevolent Society." Two years later, the *Courier* of December 21, 1827, printed this notice:

> At the third anniversary meeting of the Hebrew Benevolent Society held at Seyle's Room, King Street, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year: M. C. Mordecai, President; L. Levin, Vice-President, and P. Myers, Secretary.

This is the earliest known list of officers of the Society. The President, M. C. Mordecai, was only 23 years old at the time. He was to become one of Charleston's wealthiest ante-bellum merchants and shipowners. He also held many civic offices and was a State Senator.[13]

But the reference in *The Courier* article to "the third anniversary meeting" is puzzling in the light of the Society having been established in 1784. Presumably it refers to the "revival" of the Society in 1824 which was just three years before the meeting referred to in the newspaper. Thus 1824 was incorrectly used as the year the Society began.

Little is known of the so-called "revival" of the Society in 1824. The Preamble of the Report of the Committee on Revising the Constitution in 1870 refers to "the revival of this Society on the 20th October, 1824," and states that its charitable activities were "enlarged" at that time. But nothing further has been found as to what happened in 1824.

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[13] *Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. XIII, pp. 154-155, "Moses Cohen Mordecai."

THE ANTE-BELLUM PERIOD

On December 18, 1830, the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Charleston was incorporated by Act of the General Assembly of South Carolina.[14] The Society thus became a legally-constituted, wholly independent and autonomous charitable society. It was no longer tied to Beth Elohim under whose aegis the Society was founded.

The Society grew in service and standing in the community.

Isaac Barrett, merchant, who died in 1834, took such pride in having served as president of the Society that his tombstone bears the inscription: "Sacred to the Memory of Isaac Barrett, Late President of the Hebrew Benevolent Society of this City . . .".[15]

In 1838, the Society took the unusual step of advertising aid to the indigent sick in the Charleston *Courier*. The newspaper notice said:

> Sick persons requiring aid from this society, can have it to the utmost extent of its funds, by calling on or notifying either of the Committee of Benevolence, L. J. Moses, President.

The names and addresses of the five-man Benevolence Committee were listed: President Moses, S. Valentine, R. Woolf, A. N. Cohen, and A. Harris. Also listed was the name of Dr. Benjamin B. Strobel as "Society physician." It is the first staff physician of the Society that we have knowledge of. Dr. Strobel, who was not Jewish, was a leading Charleston physician of his time. He was a regi-

[14] David J. McCord (ed.), *Statutes of South Carolina*, Vol. 8, p. 369.
[15] Elzas, *Old Jewish Cemeteries*, p. 10.

mental surgeon in the Seminole War in 1836, and a writer and lecturer on medical subjects.[16]

In 1843 Nathaniel Levin wrote an historical sketch of Congregation Beth Elohim which contained the following reference to the Society:

> "The basis of the religious structure which our ancestors had established was charity; that godlike virtue, which blesses the bestower as well as the recipient . . . To extend the sphere of their charity and usefulness, the members of the Congregation formed the [Hebra Gemilut Hasadim] . . . The members of this excellent institution visited and nursed the sick, clothed the naked and buried the dead . . ."[17]

In the absence of minute books for the ante-bellum period, many an excellent picture of the Society during the decade or so before the Civil War is to be found in articles published in the then-leading Jewish periodical, *The Occident*, of Philadelphia.

In 1847, for example, *The Occident* told of a successful benefit ball which the Hebrew Benevolent Society staged to which the city at large was invited.

The article stated:

> This being the first time that the Israelites of this City called for aid among the community they cannot but thus openly express their acknowledgement for the liberal spirit evinced by all denominations, to aid in the cause of charity; and particularly to the St. Andrew's Society, who declined any compensation for the use of their splendid hall. The ball was conducted on strictly temperance principles, and gave general satisfaction to the large and highly respectable assembly of the ladies and gentlemen of the different denominations present on the occasion.

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[16] Charles Reznikoff and U. Z. Engelman, *The Jews of Charleston* (Philadelphia, 1950), p. 302 Note 214.

[17] *The Occident*, Vol. I, (1843), p. 338.

Tickets to the ball were sold for $5.00 each. Receipts totaled $1,250, which would indicate approximately 250 paid admissions. After expenses, the Society netted $850.[18]

That the community at large patronized the ball for the benefit of the Jewish charity is evidence of the high standing of the Jewish community in the general community at that time.

The Society that year had 63 members. Forty-eight were resident members living in the city, and 15 were "country members."

The Reverend Isaac Leeser, Editor of *The Occident,* came from Philadelphia to be present at the anniversary dinner meeting on November 24, 1847. The noted rabbi-editor was much impressed. He praised the Society in these words: "A more complete and benevolent charity, we venture to affirm, does not exist; we may well boast of it, therefore, as an honor to our people . . ."

Leeser published a full account of the meeting he attended in Charleston.[19]

President Samuel Valentine gave a lengthy and somewhat oratorical report of the year's activities, declaring that "a large number of poor and needy have been relieved, the sick nursed and provided for, the naked clothed, and not on a single occasion has any aid been refused to those needing it . . ."

He instanced the Society's benevolence to:

> ". . . a family with five or six children, who, once wealthy, and moving in a respectable circle, became reduced from circumstances beyond their control, and from no fault of theirs. The grateful acknowledgements of the father, the tearful eyes of the mother, the smiling and happy faces of the children raised from

[18] *Ibid.,* Vol. V, (1847), p. 310.
[19] *Ibid.,* Vol. VI, (1848), pp. 41-48.

poverty to comfort, from distress to happiness, must be an ample reward to all of us."

President Valentine also reported that the Society had been active in immigrant aid. "Under the present state of emigration from Europe . . . many of our people . . . seek refuge in this our free and happy country." Many of them were poor and in distress, were unable to speak English, and without friends or acquaintances, he said.

While a few of the immigrants were later found to be "undeserving" and even "imposters", President Valentine said the Society had ". . . promptly responded to every call . . . and acted up to the noble principle—better to relieve five undeserving ones than that one deserving one should be refused."

Dr. Mordecai H. DeLeon, the Society's physician, was thanked by the president for, "his philanthropic spirit in gratuitously attending on the sick under the care of the Society."

After the President's report, elections were held. All officers were re-elected: Mr. Valentine, President; S. Moses, Vice-President; and Nathaniel Levin, Secretary and Treasurer. Trustees elected were Hyam N. Hart, B. Levy, and Moses D. Hyams. Dr. DeLeon continued as Society physician, and D. Schur as messenger.

The business meeting over, the Society and its guests "proceeded to the spacious Hall of the Hebrew Orphan Society, where a sumptuous dinner was provided." A blessing was given and "the work of demolition upon soup, viands, etc., soon commenced; after ample justice was done to the dinner, prayers were again said . . . and the desert and wines introduced . . ."

Ten toasts were drunk by the "assembled company", as follows:

1. Our Anniversary! consecrated to charity. A sentiment which ennobles humanity, and forms the connecting link between man and his Creator.
2. The founders of the Hebrew Benevolent Society! They have erected a monument more enduring than marble.
3. The President of the United States! He stands before the world the chosen constitutional guardian of the liberty of millions.
4. Religious liberty! The ruler who would wound its spirit, or violate its privileges, is false to humanity, his country and his God.
5. The memory of Arari—the Martyr of Damascus! His death under the torture of the tyrant, affords an example of virtue, piety, and fortitude, upon which the world may dwell with admiration.[20]
6. Our Palmetto Banner and our Palmetto Regiment! The former still floats in the breeze unsullied by defeat, and the invincible daring of the latter has shown to the world that Carolina chivalry has not degenerated.[21]
7. Sir Moses Montefiore! The pride of Israel, and a model for mankind. His character exhibits the heroism of Brennus, beautifully blended with the benevolence of Howard.[22]
8. The Governor of the State of South Carolina! His official mantle covers a heart devoted to the honour of his native State.
9. The memory of Grace Aguilar, the gifted poetess, the pious teacher, and the friend and advocate of our people . . .[23]

[20] This is the so-called "Damascus Affair" of 1840 when Jews there were falsely accused of ritual murder, producing a world-wide reaction.

[21] At this toast "the cheering was most deafening." The country was at war with Mexico. South Carolina's Palmetto Regiment had four Jewish volunteers: Jacob Valentine, 18, youngest soldier in the regiment; Orlando Levy, D. Polock and J. L. Polock, all related to members of the Society.

[22] Brennus was a Gaulish leader and invader of Italy c. 300 B.C.E., Howard was John Howard, English philanthropist and prison reformer.

[23] This talented Anglo-Jewish writer died in 1845.

10. Woman! What can *man* say of her, when God deemed Paradise unfinished until she smiled amidst its bowers!

After the toasts were downed, President Valentine told the gathering of two needy Jewish families, numbering eleven persons in all, who had that day arrived in the city, shipwrecked on the way from Havre to New Orleans. Several had suffered smallpox. A collection was raised on the spot to send the families to relatives in New Orleans.

The rest of the evening was given to conviviality. As the account in *The Occident* concluded:

> The merry laugh, the joyous sentiment, the sparkling wit . . . set the table in a roar and drew forth the most rapturous applause . . . Many volunteer toasts were offered during the evening which passed off in the most cheerful and enlivening manner, and at a late hour the company separated, each one highly delighted with the festivities of the occasion.

In 1850 the death of South Carolina's political idol, John C. Calhoun, saw the most elaborate funeral in Charleston's history. The Hebrew Benevolent Society and the Hebrew Orphan Society were assigned places in the long funeral procession and representatives of the two societies accompanied the dead statesman's body to its final resting place.[24]

The Society was remembered in the will of Abraham Ottolengui, an active member who died in 1850 and left the Society $100.[25]

At the 1854 anniversary dinner-meeting of the Society Samuel Valentine, president for sixteen years, was presented with a handsome inscribed silver service in recognition of his long leadership and ". . . bright example . . .

[24] J. P. Thomas (ed.) *The Carolina Tribute to Calhoun* (Columbia, S. C., 1857), pp. 78-79.

[25] Will Books, Vol. 45, pp. 796-797.

in deeds of active charity and disinterested benevolence." He was especially commended for his personal visits and aid to the indigent victims of the yellow fever epidemic that year.[26] Valentine was to continue as president of the Society for 25 years, a longer term than any officer ever served.

Seventy were present for the meeting and the banquet which followed. Toasts were drunk "in bumpers of generous champagne" to guests present at the dinner, including State Senator M. C. Mordecai, a former president of the Society.

The epidemic of 1854 was followed by a proposal to establish a Jewish Hospital in Charleston "in order that a proper asylum may be afforded to the sick and needy Israelite at all times, but more particularly during the prevalence of the epidemics of our inhospitable climate." [27] However, the hospital was never established.

Four years later, during the summer of 1858, Charleston experienced another even more severe epidemic of yellow fever, the periodic scourge of Southern seaports. Thousands were sick, hundreds died.

The Society threw all its resources into aiding the indigent sick, and, indeed, all who needed help in the stricken city. Rooms which the Society leased in the Hebrew Orphan Society building in Broad Street were converted into wards for the care of the ill.

The Society cared for 46 persons—38 adults and eight children, during the epidemic. Of these, 30 died and only 16 recovered.

During the year of the epidemic the Society expended $2,830, several times more than its normal expenditures. Of this amount, $2,302 was spent directly on helping

[26] *The Occident,* Vol. XIII (1855), pp. 38-44.
[27] *Ibid.,* pp. 44-45.

yellow fever victims. To meet the unusual demand, the Society secured "voluntary subscriptions" totaling $1,868, and sold securities in its endowment fund worth $769.61. This enabled the Society to respond to every call made upon its "bounty."

Vice-President Jacob Ottolengui directed activities of the Society during the epidemic in the absence from the city of President Valentine because of bad health. In his report for the year, President Valentine said: "The arduous task of visiting the sick daily, providing for their wants while living and even paying the last duties to them when dead have been attended to with a zeal and kindness of heart characteristic of that gentleman" [Mr. Ottolengui].[28]

While many Jews of Charleston were afflicted, and the Society's resources were strained, there was no shadow over the traditional festivities at the annual dinner meeting on December 22, 1858. *The Occident* devoted eighteen pages to the meeting![29]

Members and their guests dined at "a table spread and amply supplied with all the good things of life", and "full justice" was done to "the demolition of both viands and wines."

As at previous banquets, ten regular toasts and several volunteer toasts were drunk during the evening.

A protest was voiced at the meeting over the Edgar Mortara incident earlier that year in which Papal police forcibly seized a young Jewish boy from the home of his parents in Bologna on allegations of the child's nurse that he had been christened and should be raised a Catholic. The incident provoked world-wide protests.

David Ottolengui, who spoke on the Mortara abduction, declared it "a despotic and inhuman action" of a fanatical

[28] *The Occident*, Vol. XVI (1859), pp. 571-572; Reznikoff, *Jews of Charleston*, p. 156.
[29] *The Occident*, Vol. XVI (1859), pp. 571-589 *passim*.

ecclesiastical ruler [The Pope]. He said: "Let the civilized world rise to a man and send forth their united indignation . . ." Ottolengui called on "the potent force of public opinion" to right the wrong done to the Mortaras.[30]

While the usual toast to the State of South Carolina was given at the annual dinner in 1858, the usual toast to the President of the United States was omitted. Sectional feeling was running high in Charleston. The secession of South Carolina was only two years away and loyalty to the national government was at an all-time low in Charleston!

But the shadow of events to come was not apparent. "Song, sentiment and joyous hilarity prevailed until a late hour," *The Occident* reported.

During the summer of 1858, Charleston experienced a severe yellow fever epidemic which touched many homes and took many lives. The epidemic gave rise to an outstanding instance of the kind of fine Christian-Jewish relations existing in ante-bellum Charleston.

The Society gave special recognition to Mrs. Elizabeth Bonnell and her father, John Drummond, for "unobtrusive, but signally useful charity bestowed upon a poor Jewish family heavily visited by the [yellow] fever . . ." Resolutions were passed expressing the Society's gratitude for Mrs. Bonnell's services in caring for the young children of the poor Jewish family when "disease and death entered their domicile" and for her father's help to the widow and her children. Mrs. Bonnell was presented with a handsome inscribed copy of the "Bagster Bible" and her father with a special letter of thanks from the Society.[31]

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[30] See Bertram W. Korn, *The American Reaction to the Mortara Case, 1858-1859* (Cincinnati, 1957), pp. 44-45. Korn is critical of Charleston Jewry's failure to petition the federal government to make official protest in the case.

[31] *The Occident*, Vol. XVI (1859), pp. 543-546.

The Society was approaching the end of its great antebellum period of activity. The 1858 annual dinner meeting was the last of the elaborate annual anniversary celebrations of which we have any account. Only two years later South Carolina seceded from the Union. On April 12, 1861, the firing on Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor lighted the fuse of Civil War. Like most Charleston organizations, the Society suspended its meetings during the four years of seige and bombardment. The care of the homeless and the needy became largely a public responsibility during the war.

REORGANIZATION TO 1899

The close of the Civil War found Charleston prostrate. The long naval blockade and siege with frequent bombardments and devastating fires from exploding shells destroyed much in the city during the war years. Business life was completely disrupted; the economy was at a standstill. Federal troops occupied the town.

Charleston's Jewish community had suffered much in the war. Of some 180 Charleston Jews who served in the Confederate forces, about 25 lost their lives, and many more were wounded.[32] Members of the Society and their kinsmen were among those who served, received wounds and died in action.

The post-war disruption and depression called for organized aid for the destitute.

On October 7, 1866, the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Charleston was revived and reorganized, and resumed its historic charitable mission at a time of great need in the Jewish community. The Society had 56 members when it was reorganized. Officers elected were Abraham Falk, President; D. Jacobs, Vice-President; and S. M. Levin, Secretary and Treasurer. At that time the Society met monthly.[33]

Fire continued to be the nemesis of the Society. All of the pre-Civil War records had been destroyed in the fire which burned Columbia after its capture. Again, a year after the reorganization of the Society, a fire in the office of Secretary S. M. Levin destroyed minutes and other

[32] Reznikoff, *Jews of Charleston*, p. 158.

[33] Minutes, December 18, 1868.

records from the reorganization meeting on October 7, 1866 to October 20, 1867, all meetings that first year.[34]

At the first anniversary meeting of the Society after its reorganization, the lavish annual banquet of ante-bellum days was not given in order to conserve limited resources for much-needed charitable purposes.

The Society more than doubled its membership from 56 to 119 only 15 months after its reorganization. But its financial affairs were not as healthy as its membership. Times were bad and a number of members were in arrears. An appeal was made for prompt payment so that the Society could "carry out its benevolent purposes."

The Society expended $641.25 in charity and expenses during its first year of activity after the war. Receipts were $675.75, leaving $16.50 in cash in hand. In his report, Secretary-Treasurer Levin said: "Since the reorganization of the Society, many an unfortunate, stricken with poverty and disease, has been relieved from his burden of sorrow and cheered in his gloomy condition by the timely intercession of this institution."

Abraham Falk, reelected President, was to continue in that office for seven more years. David Jacobs was reelected Vice-President, and Nathaniel Levin replaced S. M. Levin as Secretary and Treasurer since the latter left the city for Richmond.[35]

In 1868, with poverty and need prevailing in the Jewish community and appeals for aid running far beyond the resources of the Society, it was decided to make an appeal among co-religionists in the large cities of the East. Charles H. Moise, president of Beth Elohim at that time and a leading member of the Society, travelled to New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, where he was able to raise $1,191

[34] *Ibid.*
[35] *Ibid.*

in contributions, which, less expenses netted the Society $967 for its charity fund.[36]

A scattering of other contributions came from other places, such as $25.00 from the Ladies Benevolent Society of Norfolk.

While in New York, Mr. Moise had seen Solomon N. Carvalho, the artist, a native of Charleston and son of a former *hazan* of Beth Elohim, who painted a portrait of Mr. Moise to give to the Society to be sold or raffled for the benefit of the poor. On receipt of the portrait, the Society presented it to Mr. Moise in thanks for his work in raising funds for the needy.[37]

Pages in the minute book of the Society were inscribed to the memory of two who died in 1868. One was the Rev. Isaac Leeser, the Philadelphia rabbi, scholar, and editor; The other was Samuel Valentine, (born 1796 in Breslau), who served for a quarter century as president of the Society. ("His Manhood and Old Age were Devoted to Active Deeds of Benevolence and Charity.")

At the annual meeting of the Society, December 16, 1868, it was reported that "an unusual amount of distress and destitution prevailed among a portion of our coreligionists during the past year, and that the Society from its limited means could only partially relieve this suffering . . ."

That year the Society had 112 members but many found themselves unable to pay their dues because of bad business conditions. The Treasurer reported arrears amounting to $701.50. Total assets of the Society came to only $1,448, including funds raised by Mr. Moise in the East.

The Society bade farewell to Dr. Columbus Davega, the Society's physician who had treated the indigent sick without charge for many years. (Born in Charleston, a

[36] Minutes, May 20, 1868.
[37] Minutes, June 23, 1868.

graduate of the Medical College of South Carolina, Dr. Davega had served in the Crimean War with the Russian Army at the siege of Sebastopol in 1854. He also served as surgeon of the Confederate Army's 23rd Regiment and operated a "floating hospital" at Charleston.) Dr. Davega resigned as he was leaving to live in New York. The Benevolent Society joined with the Hebrew Orphan Society to present the doctor with an inscribed silver service and "an ebony gold headed cane" in appreciation of his long "devotion to the cause of Charity and suffering humanity." A Jew, Dr. Davega was elected an honorary member of the Society. Dr. John L. Ancrum was elected to succeed Dr. Davega.[38]

In 1870, the Society adopted a revised Constitution, the earliest Constitution of the Society which has survived. No printed copy has been found but fortunately it was recorded in its entirety in the minutes.[39] Because of its historical significance, the 1870 Constitution is reprinted as an appendix in this volume.

The Preamble of the Report of the Committee on Revision of the Constitution in 1870 eloquently declares: "The object of this Society is Benevolence. In that one emphatic, grateful word are comprehended all the tender offices of Charity." [40]

The preamble further states that the original motive for establishing the Society "was the relief of the invalid emigrant who landed on our shores and who might fall a victim to a climate less hospitable than ourselves"; this original objective had been expanded over the years so "that we acknowledge no limit to our benevolence, save in the means of executing our charitable intents . . ."

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[38] Minutes, January 12, 1869.

[39] Minutes, December 25, 1870.

[40] Appendix, *Constitution and By Laws of the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Charleston* (Charleston, 1900).

The 1870 Constitution provided that the membership of the Society meet quarterly instead of monthly as was the previous practice; only the officers and trustees would continue to meet each month. The anniversary meeting was set for the third Wednesday of December (which was changed to the "third Sunday of December" in 1876). Dues were continued at $6.00 a year, with members paying extra for the annual dinner.[41]

A feature of decorum which seems strange today is the provision in the Constitution: "Any member addressing the President must rise from his chair under a penalty of fifty cents."

During the difficult post-Civil War years, there was talk from time to time of merging the Benevolent Society and the Orphan Society into one consolidated charitable society. In 1871 the Benevolent Society appointed a committee to propose a "union" of the two societies. But what appeared to be a logical idea of both practical and economic advantage to both societies was rejected by the Orphan Society. The two societies continued as separate organizations, retaining their independent identities to today.[42]

In 1874, Abraham Falk declined renomination as President after serving for seven years. The Society then elected Maier Triest, (b. 1831), a Confederate veteran who fought in several engagements and was wounded at the battle of Atlanta. He was the first of four successive generations of his family to serve as president of the Society.[43]

President Triest found that membership was falling off. He blamed this on "the reluctance of our people to contribute to the Society when their benevolence was almost daily taxed by subscribing small sums to indigent strangers

[41] Minutes, December 25, 1870.
[42] Minutes, December 10, 1871.
[43] Minutes, December 16, 1874.

who are continually passing through the city." He asked the Jews of Charleston to refer all such requests for aid to the Society for investigation and handling. This was the only way, he felt, to handle "house to house begging." [44]

The Society aided 22 "indigent strangers" in 1875. It reported only one abuse of its "bounty", where a ticket to Macon, Georgia, was cashed in by the recipient.

But the problem of the itinerant Jewish beggar seems to have been nation-wide at that time. At the invitation of other communities facing the same problem of "professional beggars," the Society joined with the United Hebrew Relief Association of St. Louis in forming a "united association" to deal with the situation.[45]

But President Triest's "cure" for the Society's declining membership did not work. Charleston was experiencing poor economic conditions. Reconstruction had laid a heavy hand on city and state. There were further resignations, and many members were in arrears in their dues. This considerably restricted the Society's charitable activities. Indeed, the Society had to borrow $200 to carry on its charitable activities in 1877. Membership that year had shrunk to forty.

The Society decided on four steps to secure more members and increase its charity funds. Rabbi David Levy, of Beth Elohim, was requested to deliver a sermon on charity to promote interest in the Society. A special committee of officers was appointed to seek members by personal solicitation. The Richardson Dramatic Association was asked to stage a benefit performance of "The Honeymoon," a drama they were playing then. The committee was directed to plan a Purim ball for the benefit of the Society.[46]

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[44] Minutes, December 15, 1875.
[45] Minutes, September 17, 1876.
[46] Minutes, October 14, 1877.

The sermon was given. The benefit performance of "The Honeymoon" was "a failure" and the Society found itself out of pocket $32.00 in expenses. The Purim ball was never held for an unrecorded reason. Several new members were secured but further resignations left no net increase.[47]

The full force of Reconstruction hard times was being felt. Charity demands were heavy. The Society disbursed $783.31 in 1877, including the $200 borrowed, but was compelled to turn away many requests for aid. Such persons were referred to those Jews in the community who were not mmbers to "collect from them whatever they felt disposed to give to charity." The Society was unable for the first time to fulfill its historic function of aid to the needy because of lack of support in the community due to depression conditions.[48]

The Society's membership rolls reached an all-time low of only twenty-five in 1878. But a strenuous drive for new members was a success. Membership more than doubled in one year and numbered sixty by the anniversary meeting in 1879. Finances were also in better shape. The $200 loan was repaid and a cash balance of $521.93 remained after charity disbursements. The tide had turned.[49]

Early in 1882, Jewish refugees from the Russian pogroms began to arrive through the port of Charleston. The Society threw its full resources into helping these unfortunates. The Society had expended in excess of its income that year but was soon relieved of this heavy responsibility by the newly-organized Russian Emigrant Aid Society.[50]

That same year Dr. Ancrum, the Society's physician, resigned because of ill health after gratuitously treating the

[47] Minutes, December 16, 1877.
[48] *Ibid.*
[49] Minutes, December 21, 1879.
[50] Minutes, December 17, 1882.

Jewish indigent sick for 14 years. Dr. Ancrum's long services to the indigent Jewish sick without remuneration is another notable instance of Charleston' fine Christian-Jewish relations. Resolutions of appreciation were passed, and a chest of silver presented to him "as a slight but merited tribute from Jewish friends to the toil and self sacrifice of a Christian philanthropist." Thanking the Society, Dr. Ancrum wrote ". . . it [the silver service] will ever be a new incentive to turn a deaf ear to distinctions of class, race or religion when the suffering voice of humanity cries out . . ." [51]

In 1885, the Society became a member of the newly organized Associated Jewish Charities of the United States, with headquarters at St. Louis, one of the early efforts to coordinate Jewish charitable activities throughout the country.[52]

On August 31, 1886, Charleston suffered a disastrous earthquake which caused widespread destruction, loss of life and injuries, and left many homeless and in want. Because so many came "knocking at the door" for aid, the Society was compelled to call on sister Jewish charitable associations of the nation for assistance in caring for Jews of Charleston who had suffered in the earthquake. Donations totaling $4,034.68 were received from almost a hundred organizations and individuals throughout the country, enabling the Society to supplement its help to victims of the earthquake.[53]

Sometimes, if rarely, the Society was reimbursed for money given the needy. In 1888, the Society received a letter of thanks signed, "A Stranger," returning the cost of a rail ticket to New York advanced to the writer when he

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[51] *Ibid.*

[52] Minutes, December 13, 1885.

[53] Minutes, December 12, 1886.

found himself stranded in Charleston five years before "broken in health and funds." [54]

In 1888, President G. M. Pollitzer reported charitable outlays and other expenses were about double income that year. Of 74 members, 24 were in arrears. He called on delinquent members to pay their dues which amount to "the small pittance of 50¢ per month or say 1½¢ per day".

A breakdown of charitable expenditures that year, which amounted to $970.10, shows that about half went for "Pensions to residents." The balance went for fuel, medical and hospital bills and nurses for the indigent ill, as well as $36.52 for "matzos" for the poor at Passover, also transportation and board for "strangers", and a "testimonial gift" to Dr. J. L. Dawson for his gratuitous services as Society physician during the year.[55]

The Society contributed $50.00 to aid the Jewish sufferers in the Johnstown (Pa.) flood of 1889.

Montague Triest was elected President at the annual meeting of the Society in December, 1896, the third generation of his family to serve in that office.

The last year of the century saw the Society adopt a new Constitution drafted "to conform to present demands on the Society". It was the first complete revision since the Constitution of 1870 prepared after the Civil War reorganization of the Society. This 1899 Constitution, published as a pamphlet in 1900, is reprinted as an appendix in this volume as being of historical interest. Only one copy survives, carried in the minute book of the Society.[56]

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[54] Minutes, December 23, 1888.

[55] *Ibid.*

[56] Minutes, December 17, 1899.

MODERN PERIOD—SINCE 1900

In 1900, the Society staged its first Purim ball which was to become for many years an annual social event in the Jewish community of Charleston as well as a means for raising money for the charitable activities of the Society.

Faced with inadequate income from dues, I. M. Pearlstine, Chairman of the Committee on Benevolence, proposed that the Society sponsor a Purim ball.[57] The Society netted $377.00 from its first ball, an amount greater than the $268.00 collected that year from dues.

The small membership (only 45 in 1901), and the shrinkage in assets (only $1,200 in 1901) was blamed by President Montague Triest on "the apathy of our Jewish co-religionists" and the general lack of vitality and progress in the life of the city.[58]

The new century was bringing new and more professional approaches to the dispensing of charity. The Society numbered among the first to affiliate with the National Conference of Jewish Charities and sent a representative to its first conference in Chicago in 1900. In 1902, the Society made its first donation to the Jewish Orphan Home in Atlanta, which had been organized to take care of orphans on a regional basis. Annual donations to the Home became a regular part of the Society's benevolence budget.

In 1903, the members learned that their Society was more venerable than they had thought. At the annual meeting on December 20, Dr. Barnett A. Elzas, then Rabbi of

[57] *Ibid.*
[58] *Ibid.*

Beth Elohim and soon to publish his noted history of South Carolina Jewry, reported he had "accidentally discovered the original silver seal of the Society", in the possession of Mrs. J. H. Loeb, the widow of a former Secretary of the Society from 1871 to 1878. Dr. Elzas further told the members that the Hebrew inscription on the seal gave the date of the founding of the Society as 1784 instead of 1795, which the records of the Society had long reflected as the date when it was founded. The Society was eleven years older than it thought! Surprisingly, no member had known of the existence of the seal, nor was there any record of its existence.[60]

To make sure, the Society instructed Dr. Elzas to investigate further and "establish beyond the shadow of a doubt" that the existing Benevolent Society was the same as the Society named on the seal as having been founded in 1784. At the annual meeting the following year, Dr. Elzas reported he had verified his findings. Whereupon the Society voted to call its next annual meeting in 1905 the 121st anniversary meeting of the Society instead of the 110th.[61]

Since then the Society has followed what was established as the true date of its founding, 1784, which further confers on the Society the distinction of being the oldest still active Jewish charity organization in the country.[62]

Unfortunately, the silver seal which Dr. Elzas found and which was placed for safe keeping in the Society's safety deposit box in a Charleston bank in 1904 has again mysteriously disappeared. When the author of this historical sketch sought to examine the seal in 1965, it could not be found in the Society's bank box nor anywhere else.

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[59] Minutes, December 23, 1902.

[60] Minutes, December 20, 1903.

[61] Minutes, December 18, 1904.

[62] Letter from Dr. Jacob R. Marcus to Thomas J. Tobias, April 20, 1959.

No present members of the Society recall ever seeing the seal.

But fortunately, Dr. Elzas had a facsimile engraving made of the seal which he included in his history, *The Jews of South Carolina.* The illustration of the seal used in this book is reproduced from Dr. Elzas' history.[63] Perhaps the wheel of chance will again restore to the Society this unique and venerable relic of American Jewish history.

Aid to the needy stranger passing through the city had become an increasing problem. In 1905, the Society made an arrangement with the Strangers Aid Society of Charleston, an agency set up to handle this charitable activity in the community. All applications for relief from Jewish transients were referred to Strangers Aid for checking and necessary action. The Society at first contributed $50.00, an amount increased as the need grew.[64]

In 1905, the Society, in conjunction with the Charleston Lodge of B'nai B'rith worked through the Industrial Removal Office in New York to attract Jewish immigrants pouring into the country at that time to come to South Carolina to work as farmers instead of adding to the congestion in New York. But the effort was reported a "complete failure." [65]

Nevertheless, the Society appointed a special committee to help immigrants arriving through the port of Charleston.

Recalling the contributions sent from all parts of the country after the Charleston earthquake of 1886, the Society sent $50.00 to aid Jewish sufferers in the San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

When I. M. Pearlstine, Chairman of the Benevolence Committee for seventeen years, died in 1911, the Society constituted itself as a special guard of honor at his funeral

[63] Elzas, *Jews of South Carolina,* p. 282.
[64] Minutes, December 17, 1905.
[65] *Ibid.*

in tribute to his long years of service "in the noble cause of the poor and needy."

Mr. Pearlstine was succeeded as Benevolence Committee Chairman by Jacob Turtletaub, who served for 15 years, and then was succeeded by his son, Max, who directed benevolent activities for the next 23 years until his death. He also served as chairman of a similar committee of the Hebrew Orphan Society.

In 1912, the Society began making loans without interest to "worthy applicants". It was an ancient form of Jewish charity: to help the needy help themselves. Such loans became an important part of the work of the Society.[66]

After fifteen years as President, Montague Triest stepped down in 1912. The Society presented him with an inscribed silver pitcher in appreciation of his many years of leadership.

For the first time in its long history the Society paid special tribute to a woman. When Mrs. Rosa Blank, president for almost twenty years of the Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Society of Charleston, died in 1915, the Society assembled at her home and accompanied her body to Beth Elohim synagogue for funeral services. Resolutions passed included a "tribute of respect" to Mrs. Blank for her many "deeds of kindness and acts of love." [67]

Subsequently, the Society created "The Rosa Blank Memorial Fund" with money set aside from its general fund. Either income or principal or both of this fund was to be used for the charitable work of the Society. It began with $1,700 to which private gifts totaling $150 were made.[68]

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[66] Minutes, December 17, 1912.
[67] Minutes, December 15, 1915.
[68] Minutes, December 16, 1917 and December 21, 1919.

By 1915, the Society's new venture into loans to "worthy applicants" totaled $1,085 and in 1916, $1,690. Loans without interest were made in amounts from $50 to $220, repayable on a weekly or monthly basis. President M. M. Israel considered the loans "our best charity [since] the individual is made to feel that he does not receive charity from the Society but simply is assisted to become self-supporting."

In 1917, a former recipient of aid from the Society returned as much as he could of the money given him by bequeathing to the Society $241.00 from his small estate.

During World War I, the Society carried on its regular charitable activities in the local community. It also gave to Red Cross drives and bought Liberty bonds with available investment funds. The Society also contributed to the relief of Jewish war sufferers in Europe during and after the war.[69]

In 1921 the Society agreed to administer a trust fund in memory of First Lieut. Samuel D. Turtletaub, killed in action in France in 1918, the first Charleston Jew to die in World War I. The fund was made up of $476 left over from $1,751 raised in the community for a monument which was erected to Lieut. Turtletaub, and a contribution of $100 from the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Columbia, S. C. Income from the fund was to be devoted to aiding needy youth in their education.[70]

In 1924, the Society received a bequest of $200 from the estate of a former member, J. S. Pinkussohn.

Mrs. Henry Hirschmann, the widow of a long-time member, made a gift of $1,000 to the Society in 1925 to establish a fund in her late husband's memory. Income was to be

[69] Minutes of annual meetings 1918 through 1921.
[70] Minutes, December 18, 1921.

used to aid the blind or for other charitable purposes should no blind person apply for help.[71]

The 150th annual meeting of the Society occurred in 1934 in the midst of the Great Depression. It was no time for a celebration. "The past year, as have the four previous ones, found more of our people in distraught circumstances," President Max Turtletaub told the meeting. The Society did what it could to meet the situation. But the problem of the jobless and the needy had reached national emergency proportions. Only the Federal Government could take care of the millions out of work and needing help during the economic crisis of the Depression.

The election of Maier Triest as President that same year marked the fourth generation of his family to hold that office. The minutes record that "Mr. Triest spoke with much feeling upon taking the chair." [72] He served for three terms.

In 1935, President Triest told of an unnamed Jewish medical student to whom the Society had made a loan without interest which had made it possible for him to complete his studies at the state Medical College. Having graduated and established himself as a physician in an upstate town, he had begun to repay the loan. The entire amount was repaid within a few years.[73]

In 1943, the Society passed resolutions protesting the British White Paper opposing the creation of the State of Israel. A copy of the resolutions was sent to South Carolina's Congressmen and Senators.

With the end of World War II, the Society saw a sharp increase in membership. Forty new members were taken

[71] Minutes, December 20, 1925.
[72] Minutes, December 16, 1934.
[73] Minutes. December 15, 1935.

into the Society at the annual meeting held December 16, 1945. This brought total membership to 132.

In 1946, the Society received three bequests.[74] Two came from sisters, Mrs. Hortense A. Cohen, who left $3,509, and her sister, Mrs. Zipporah M. Solomons, who bequeathed $3,000 to the Society. The two sisters were daughters of Solomon Sampson Solomon (1825-1904), who served as Vice-President of the Society, 1882-1887.

The third bequest was from Joseph Goldman, who had been president of the Society, 1931-1932, and left $100. Two years later, the Society set up the Joseph Goldman Memorial Fund with $1,000 transferred from the general funds of the Society. This was earmarked for interest-free loans.

In 1949 when Max Turtletaub died after almost a quarter century as Chairman of the Benevolence Committee, the Society memorialized him by transferring $1,000 from its general fund to the loan fund originally set up in the name of Joseph Goldman. It was renamed the Joseph Goldman-Max Turtletaub Memorial Fund.

This interest-free loan fund became known as the Memorial Loan Fund and was expanded from time to time to include persons memorialized by the Society. In 1952, the Society transferred another $1,000 to the fund in memory of the late Arthur V. Williams (d. 1951), past president and active in the Society for many years.

In 1963, the Society received $2,367 from the estate of a former member, Samuel Samet, "to lend the same to the poor and needy without interest charges." This bequest was added to the Memorial Loan Fund, whose object was the same as Mr. Samet's will specified. Mr. Samet's name was added to those memorialized by the fund.[75]

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[74] Minutes, December 15, 1946.

[75] See Minutes for annual meetings, 1946-1949, 1952, and 1963, for references to various amounts placed in loan fund.

The Society had received $2,000 from the estate of a former member, Melvin Hornik, in 1950.

On March 23, 1950, Mrs. Julius Brown, who had served as the last president of the Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Society of Charleston, "Israel's Hope," presented to the Society a check for $7,526. The money represented the assets of the Ladies Society which had not been active for some years. It was the largest donation in the history of the Society and was used to establish "The Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Society Memorial Fund", the income to be used for the charitable activities of the Society.[76]

A complete change in the Society's traditional method of dispensing charity to accord with modern social welfare practices was inaugurated in 1951. The Society joined hands with its sister society, the Hebrew Orphan Society and the local Jewish Welfare Fund to organize on May 14, 1951, the Charleston Jewish Social Service. Retaining their individual identities, the three welfare groups agreed to channel their appropriations for charitable work through this central organization, thus avoiding duplication of effort, and coordinating all welfare activities. Nathan Shulman, director of the Jewish Community Center and a trained welfare worker, was named Executive Director to administer the new agency.[77]

The Jewish Social Service screens and allocates to indigent individuals and families, youth assistance cases, the aged, and the transient needy; it evaluates applications for aid, maintains case records, allocates funds locally as well as to such regional agencies as Atlanta's Jewish Children's

[76] Minutes, December 17, 1950 and December 16, 1951. Little is known of the history of the Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Society. A minute book (1869-1915), turned over to this Society, shows that the founder of the Ladies Society was Miss Sally Lopez (1806-1902) (See minutes, May 8, 1894 and February 13, 1902). When it was founded is not known. Miss Lopez was also the founder and first superintendent of the Sunday school of Charleston's Beth Elohim synagogue in 1838, second oldest in the U. S.

[77] Minutes, December 16, 1951.

Service and Jewish Home for the Aged. Representatives of the Society participate in charity decisions, and the Society receives an annual report of cases handled and money expenditures. The names of all beneficiaries are kept confidential.

From its inception, the Charleston Jewish Social Service has been successful in achieving greater efficiency and broadened services in the administration of benevolent activities in the community.

In 1954, the Society received from the estate of Saul Alexander of Summerville, a former member, $5,000 to be held in trust as the Saul Alexander Hanukah Fund, the income to be divided equally each year among the Sisterhoods of Charleston's Jewish congregations to be used for Hanukah parties for the children.[78]

In 1957, the Society decided to discontinue its traditional annual Purim Ball. Since the inauguration of the balls in 1900, they had become through the years an increasingly popular social event as well as an important source of income for the Society's charitable work. The Purim Balls became the largest masquerade balls held in the city and many non-Jews attended them.[79]

By 1919 the Society derived almost a third of its income from the balls. That year, for instance, out of total receipts amounting to $1,414, the Purim Ball brought in a net of $517. They reached a peak of popularity in 1921 when $705 was raised, which was more than half the income of the Society that year, including membership dues. From that time on revenue from the balls gradually declined.

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[78] Minutes, December 19, 1954.

[79] Purim "gifts to the poor" is as old as the festival itself. Masquerade balls at Purim for charitable purposes originated among the Jews of Italy probably in imitation of the masked Mardi Gras carnivals. Many of the larger cities of this country had such balls during the last half of the 19th century and the early years of this century. See Philip Goodman, *The Purim Anthology*, (Philadelphia, 1949), pp. 38-92.

Some years brought in more than others but the trend was down. But the Purim Balls had become an institution and it was not easy to end them. The Society continued to sponsor them until the income dwindled to nothing. In 1956 the Society's net income from the ball came to only $41.17. The following year receipts barely covered expenses. It was time to call quits. After more than half a century, the Purim Balls were ended in 1957.[80]

In 1959, the 175th anniversary of the Society was celebrated with a formal dinner at the Francis Marion Hotel. More than 150 attended the occasion, including distinguished leaders of the city and state as guests of the Society.[81]

The address was delivered by Rep. Solomon Blatt of Barnwell, Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives for more than twenty years. He was introduced by Governor Ernest F. Hollings.

Blatt, a Jew, reviewed the history and participation of Jews in the life of Charleston and South Carolina from early times. He spoke of their contributions. He praised the climate of opportunity which allowed him, the son of a Russian Jewish immigrant, to achieve high political honors in the state.

Past President Edward Kronsberg served as General Chairman of the celebration which was reminiscent of the colorful ante-bellum dinners of the Society. Toasts were drunk to the United States, the State of South Carolina, and the Hebrew Benevolent Society. Resolutions congratulating the Society on its 175th anniversary were passed by the General Assembly of South Carolina.

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[80] For Purim ball references see minutes of annual meetings for 1918, 1919, 1921, 1956 and 1957.

[81] Minutes, December 20, 1959.

Two years later, in 1961, the Society held another anniversary dinner in April. E. J. Evans, Mayor of Winston-Salem, spoke on his trip to Israel and the Soviet Union.[82]

Irving M. Engel, prominent New York attorney, past president of the American Jewish Committee and internationally known Jewish leader in the field of human rights, was the speaker at the 178th anniversary dinner in 1962. He called for an understanding attitude toward "the revolution of rising expectations" in the world today. There were some 175 members and guests present for the dinner.[83]

In 1963, the Society received from the estate of the late Samuel Cohen a bequest of $1,000 which was placed in the general fund of the Society. Mr. Cohen had been a loyal member for many years.[84]

This historical sketch comes to a close with the 180th annual meeting held December 20, 1964, at the Bicentennial Tabernacle of Beth Elohim Congregation. A luncheon followed the meeting.

President Thomas J. Tobias, who presided, called for "new vigor in the affairs of the Society in carrying out its historic charitable mission in the community" through expanding membership, adopting the proposed new Constitution, increasing income by raising dues, and programming on a regular basis special events, such as Society dinners.

Assets of the Society at its 180th annual meeting were reported as totaling $45,475. Membership stood at 152.

President Tobias announced that the history of the Society he had written would be published in 1965, and would include a list of all paid-up members. He called for special efforts to increase membership.

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[82] Minutes, December 17, 1961.
[83] Minutes, December 16, 1962.
[84] Minutes, December 15, 1963.

A first reading and discussion was held on the new Constitution drafted to express present-day practices of the Society. Several minor changes were voted and the Constitution laid over for final reading and vote on adoption at a special meeting.

The Finance Committee recommended an increase of minimum annual dues from $6.00 to $10.00, which increase was also included as a provision of the new Constitution, the first increase in dues in more than a century.

The Society also voted that the Board of Officers should arrange at least every two years some special event, such as a dinner with a prominent speaker.

ADDENDA

At a special meeting of the Society held on February 10, 1965, at the Bicentennial Tabernacle of Beth Elohim, the new Constitution of the Society was given its second reading and was unanimously adopted.

So that each member of the Society will have a copy of the new 1965 Constitution, it has been printed as an appendix in this volume along with a roster of current members.

APPENDIX I

Officers of The Society

This list was compiled from three sources. The few names prior to the Civil War were obtained from newspapers and other publications. The names published as an appendix to the 1899 Constitution of the Society have been used for the period from 1868 to 1900. Names since 1900 have been obtained from the minute books of the Society.

Presidents

1827-1828	M. C. Mordecai	1918-1922	M. H. Nathan
1834	Isaac Barrett	1923-1924	Louis M. Shimel
1835	Nathan Hart	1925-1926	Isadore Blank
1838	L. J. Moses	1927-1928	Arthur V. Williams
1839-1863	Samuel Valentine	1929-1930	Sam Rittenberg
1868-1874	Abraham Falk	1931-1932	Joseph Goldman
1875-1876	Maier Triest	1933-1934	Max Turteltaub
1877-1878	Benjamin Mantoue	1935-1937	Maier Triest
1879	J. L. Moses	1938	Dr. Leon Banov, Sr.
1880	E. J. Lewith	1939-1940	Hyman Rephan
1881	L. H. Cohen	1941-1942	Harry J. Sholk
1882-1885	Joseph Triest	1943-1944	Edward Kronsberg
1886-1887	G. Strauss	1945-1946	Leon Steinberg
1888	G. M. Pollitzer	1947-1948	Isadore Lesser
1889-1890	L. L. Cohen	1949-1950	George C. Birlant
1891	E. Moore	1951-1953	Walter H. Solomon
1892	G. M. Pollitzer	1954-1955	Edwin S. Pearlstine
1893-1894	Ralph Elias	1956-1957	Henry Yaschik
1895-1896	G. M. Pollitzer	1958-1959	Samuel H. Jacobs
1897-1912	Montague Triest	1960-1961	Milton A. Pearlstine
1913-1915	Isadore Pinkussohn	1962-1963	Milton A. Banov
1916-1917	Melvin M. Israel	1964-	Thomas J. Tobias

Vice-Presidents

1827-1828	L. Levin	1916-1917	M. H. Nathan
1840	Samuel Sampson	1918-1921	J. M. Visanska
1843	Moses D. Hyams	1922	L. M. Shimel
1847-1848	Solomon Moses	1923-1924	I. Blank
1854	Isaac S. Cohen	1925-1926	L. Wetherhorn
1859	Jacob Ottolengui	1927-1928	Sam Rittenberg
1868-1870	David Jacobs	1929-1930	Joseph Goldman
1871-1876	B. F. Moise	1931-1932	Max Turteltaub
1877-1878	J. L. Moses	1933-1934	Maier Triest
1879-1880	Philip Wineman	1935-1937	Dr. Leon Banov, Sr.
1881	Ralph Elias	1938	Hyman Rephan
1882-1887	S. S. Solomons	1939-1940	Harry J. Sholk
1888	J. S. Pinkussohn	1941-1942	Edward Kronsberg
1889	Philip Wineman	1943-1944	Leon Steinberg
1890-1891	G. M. Pollitzer	1945-1946	I. Lesser
1892	Ralph Elias	1947-1948	George C. Birlant
1893-1896	L. L. Cohen	1949-1953	Edwin S. Pearlstine
1897-1905	J. S. Pinkussohn	1954-1955	Henry Yaschik
1906-1908	G. M. Pollitzer	1956-1957	Samuel H. Jacobs
1909	A. C. Furchgott	1958-1959	Milton A. Pearlstine
1910	Isadore Pinkussohn	1960-1961	Milton A. Banov
1911-1915	Melvin M. Israel	1962-	Edgar Hirschmann

Secretary and Treasurer

1827-1828	Philip Myers, Secretary S. Solomons, Treasurer	1889-1901	W. W. Jackson
		1902-1915	M. H. Nathan
		1916-1918	A. J. Hoffman
		1919-1922	Lee C. Israel
1840	J. Bensadon	1923-1927	M. H. Nathan
1843-1863	Nathaniel Levin	1928-1933	Maier Triest
1868-1869	Nathaniel Levin	1934-1937	Hyman Rephan
1870	N. H. Valentine	1938-1945	Max Turteltaub
1871-1878	J. H. Loeb	1946-1950	Walter H. Solomon
1879-1881	Joseph Triest	1951-1961	Edgar Hirschmann
1882-1885	Maier Triest	1962-	Henry H. Freudenberg
1886-1888	J. L. Jacobi		

Benevolence Committee Chairmen

1868-1869	L. Weiskopf	1888-1890	E. Moore
1870	B. D. Schur	1891	Lewis Elias
1871-1873	M. Israel	1892	Benjamin Mantoue
1874	Dr. G. Prince	1893-1910	I. M. Pearlstine
1875-1878	Abraham Falk	1911-1926	Jacob Turtletaub
1879-1881	Benjamin Mantoue	1927-1949	Max Turtletaub
1882	Ralph Elias	1950	Hyman Rephan
1883-1885	G. Strauss	1951-1961	Isadore Leeser
1886-1887	J. S. Pinkussohn	1962-	Leon Steinberg

APPENDIX II

Constitution of 1870

ARTICLE I

This Society shall be known by the name of the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Charleston.

ARTICLE II

Section 1. The officers shall be a President, Vice-President, three Trustees, Secretary and Treasurer.

Sec. 2. The officers shall meet on every third Sunday of each month, (Jewish holidays excepted) for the transaction of such business as may be lawfully brought before them.

Sec. 3. Four officers shall compose quorum at the regular monthly meeting, and they shall have the right to decide on the expenditure of any sum not exceeding fifty dollars.

Sec. 4. The members of the Society shall have the privilege to be present during the proceedings of the board.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The anniversary shall be celebrated on the third Wednesday in December by the members dining together, provided that the expenses of the dinner shall be paid by the voluntary subscriptions of the members. No member shall invite any person without the consent of the committee of arrangements, to whom the charge for each guest shall be paid.

Sec. 2. The election of officers and physician and messenger shall take place on the anniversary and the person elected shall serve for one year, and until successors are elected, and a majority of the votes present shall constitute an election.

Sec. 3. Vacancies shall be filled at the first opportunity after they occur, and in the manner in which the vacant office was previously filled.

ARTICLE IV

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Society and maintain order and decorum, and to enforce and remit fines according to the Constitution. He shall nominate all committees, call extra meetings when required by ten members in writing, or whenever he may deem it necessary. He shall sign orders drawn in accordance with the Constitution, and act upon the rules of order laid down therein.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to aid the President in the discharge of any of his duties, and to supply his place when necessary. In the absence of the Vice-President his duty shall devolve upon the eldest Trustee present, and in his absence upon any member who may be appointed pro tem.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary and Treasurer to keep the books and accounts and transact the Pecuniary affairs of the Society under the Supervision of the Trustees. He shall attend the meetings of the Trustees whenever required and shall furnish information called for by them. He shall issue Summonses, keep and read the minutes, note the fines and report the absentees; and for the faithful discharge of his duty he shall be exempted from the payment of arrears.

SEC. 4. The Trustees shall be the supervisors of the fiscal affairs of the Society. They shall examine and report on the Secretary and Treasurer's books, funds and accounts at each anniversary meeting and shall recommend the mode in which the Secretary and Treasurer's accounts shall be kept. Whenever they deem the amount in his hands sufficiently large to be invested they shall report the same at the first regular meeting of the Society and also suggest the best plan of investment which must be sanctioned by a vote of a majority of the members present.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the Messenger to call on the Secretary and Treasurer for the Summonses and to deliver the same to each and every member to collect all moneys for dues, etc.: he shall take charge of any articles belonging to the Society which may be entrusted to him by any of the officers and his salary shall be Twenty-five Dollars per Annum and five percent on all arrears and orders collected by him.

ARTICLE V

SECTION 1. The Annual Committees of this Society shall be a Committee of Benevolence, a Committee of Arrangements and a Committee on Letters. Each to be composed of three members and to be appointed by the President at the Anniversary Meeting and these and all other Committees shall be governed by a majority.

SEC. 2. The Committee on Benevolence shall execute according to their best judgment the charitable objects of the Society and whenever there are any persons or persons resident in this City whose sickness or distress can be alleviated it shall be their duty to appropriate any sum they may deem sufficient not to exceed Thirty Dollars. This Committee shall report a full account of their transactions at every quarterly meeting giving the name of the recipient of the charity fund the age, sex and amount expended.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Committee of Arrangement to superintend the comfortable reception and accommodation of the members when in session; to procure a suitable place of members when necessary; to convene and arrange the Society at the Funerals of their fellow members or on any other occasion when they may be invited to walk in procession. They shall also make all necesary arrangements for the celebration of the Anniversary Dinner in accordance with the provision of Article Third.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Letters to report on the character of the applicant for Membership on the first reading of the letter of application unless they require further time when the consideration of the application shall be postponed until the general quarterly meeting.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION 1. Any Israelite having attained the age of eighteen years may become a member of this Society on application by letter which letter shall be read at the first meeting of the officers of the Society and the applicant shall then be balloted for and on receiving a majority of the Votes of the members present shall be considered a member of this Society upon payment of three dollars initiation fee.

SEC. 2. Resignations must also be made by letter but cannot be accepted until the Secretary and Treasurer shall report that the arrears have been paid.

SEC. 3. The name of each member in arrears at the Anniversary Meeting of the Society shall be read aloud by the Secretary who shall notify each delinquent on his summons to the next general quarterly meeting of the amount due; and if he shall neglect or refuse to pay said arrears at the next regular meeting he shall no longer be considered a member and his name shall be stricken from the roll. Should any member in arrears be absent from the city he shall be notified by letter.

SEC. 4. The monthly contribution of each member shall be fifty cents.

SEC. 5. Any member may become a life member by paying Fifty Dollars.

ARTICLE VII

General quarterly meeting of the members of the Society shall take place on the third Sunday in March, June and September at 10:00 o'clock A. M., provided there be no holidays when the meeting shall take place the following Sunday. The Anniversary Meeting shall be held at 6:00 o'clock P. M. on the third Wednesday in December.

ARTICLE VIII

Ten Members shall constitute a quorum at the general quarterly meeting and be competent to transact all business.

ARTICLE IX

SECTION 1. The amount to be expended in benevolence shall be in charge of the Secretary and Treasurer who shall pay the same from time to time on the written orders of the Chairman of the Committee on Benevolence.

SEC. 2. All sums in the Treasurer's hands above fifty dollars shall be deposited in bank in the name of Society and all checks drawn by him shall be countersigned by the President.

ARTICLE X

Any member addressing the President must rise from his chair under a penalty of fifty cents.

ARTICLE XI

At the general quarterly meeting of members this Society shall have power to make any By-Law or Resolution not incompatible

with the constitution which may be considered and passed at the meeting it is introduced.

ARTICLE XII

No law shall be made a part of this Constitution unless it is brought before the Society and read at one meeting and adopted at the next general quarterly meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and all laws and By-Laws shall be amended or repealed in the same manner only as they were enacted.

APPENDIX III

Membership of The Society, 1870

This list of members of the Society in 1870, when the Constitution of that year was adopted, was published as an appendix in the booklet containing the Constitution of 1889.

Abrahams, A. H.
Ancker, G. V.
Apple, J.
Abrahams, T. H.
Alexander, L.
Barrett, Jacob
Bentschner, David
Brown, H.
Block, E.
Brown, Samuel
Bentschner, S.
Benjamin, Louis
Berkman, H.
Belitzer, J.
Cohen, N. A.
Cohen, Jacob
Cohen, McDuff
Cohen, Joseph
Clark, H.
Cohen, P. Melvin
Cohen, Louis
Cohen, J. Barrett
Cohen, G.
Crinch, H.
Cohen, L.
Chumaceiro, J. H. M., Rev.
David, R. L.
DeLeon, H. H.
Drucker, L.
Davega, Dr. C. C.
Elias, Louis
Elias, Lewis
Endel, M. M.
Epstin, Philip
Elias, L.
Falk, A.
Frank, J.
Fass, S.
Flaum, J.
Goldman, G. L.
Goldsmith, A. A.
Goldstein, D.
Goudkop, I.
Garfunkel, M.
Hart, D. S.
Harris, A. J.
Harris, Isaac
Hertz, J. E.
Hoffman, S.
Hyman, E.
Hart, C.
Holzman, S.
Hoffman, G.
Iseman, Mark
Iseman, J.
Israel, M.
Jacobs, R. H.
Jacobs, David
Jacoby, S. A.
Jacobi, M.
Jacoby, P. G.
Klein, Isaac
Kaphan, Theo.
Loryea, A.
Levin, N.
Levy, Max
Loeb, D.
Lazarus, B. D.
Leveson, J.
Lazarus, E. M.
Lopez, David
Lorentz, L.
Lewith, E. J.
Levin, N., Jr.
Levin, S. M.
Levy, Joseph
Mairs, S.
Moise, C. H.
Mordecai, Benj.
Moses, J. L.
Mintz, Jacob
Mintz, Jos.
Mann, Simon
Myer, J.
Mantoue, B.
Mantoue, E.
Myers, Rev. M. H.
Nachman, A.
Oppenheim, Jos.
Oppenheim, J. H.
Oppenheim, S. H.
Ottolengui, Israel
Prince, George
Pearlstein, T.
Rich, Philip
Rich, L.
Rosenthal, H.
Rice, B.
Schur, B. D.
Schur, Barnet
Strauss, M.
Strauss, Solomon
Seckendorff, A.
Seckendorff, M.
Spertner, M.
Scott, E.
Solomons, S. S.
Solomons, Dr. J. R.
Shapira, L. D.
Sprinz, B.
Spring, J.
Tobias, J. L.
Triest, J.
Valentine, H.
Vizanska, G. A.
Weiskopff, L.
Wallach, Isaac
Winestock, B. M.
Wallach, John
Wallach, Myer
Wolff, Henry
Zemansky, S.

APPENDIX IV

CONSTITUTION OF 1899

ARTICLE I

Name and Object

SECTION 1. The name of this Society shall be "THE HEBREW BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF CHARLESTON."

SEC. 2. The object of this Society shall be to afford relief, aid and comfort to the sick and indigent, and assistance to the worthy stranded stranger in our city seeking direction and help. In a word, all that is comprehended by—BENEVOLENCE.

ARTICLE II

Officers

SECTION 1. This Society shall be administered by a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and a Board of three Trustees, who together shall constitute the Board of Officers.

ARTICLE III

Membership

SECTION 1. Any Israelite not under 18 years of age, may apply for active membership by letter addressed to the Society, and same shall be passed on at their earliest meeting by the Board of Officers, a two-thirds majority of whom shall suffice to elect. The member-elect, on notification, shall on the first of the month immediately thereafter pay such sum as may then be due.

SEC. 2. Any youth under 18 and over 13 years of age desiring to contribute to and ally themselves thus early with the objects of the Society, may become junior members in same manner as active. They, however, shall not be allowed to vote or hold office, but may attend any meeting of the Society.

SEC. 3. Any member in good standing shall be entitled to vote and hold office. Members defaulting in their annual dues may be suspended before the annual meeting and denied all privileges; and if not paid within three months after due notice, a majority of the Board may expel, and strike name from membership, same to be reported at annual meeting.

SEC. 4. Resignations must also be made by letter, and it must be shown that all dues have been paid before same shall be accepted.

SEC. 5. Honorary members may-be elected at any annual meeting only by a unanimous vote, for valuable services rendered the Society; and when so elected shall be exempt from all dues but entitled to all the privileges of active members.

SEC. 6. Any member in good standing may become a life-member on payment of fifty dollars.

ARTICLE IV

Assessments

In time of supreme stress, or to meet any current deficiency that that may arise, the Board of Officers by unanimous vote shall have power to assess members of this Society up to an amount not to exceed the yearly dues.

ARTICLE V

By-Laws

To carry the provisions of this Constitution into proper effect, a code of By-Laws shall be adopted by this Society. Cushing's Manual shall be the standard authority controlling the parliamentary actions of the Society and Board of Officers, not provided for by the Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI

Property

All property of any description that is now owned, or that in future may be acquired in any way by this Society, shall be held solely for its own use and purposes.

ARTICLE VII

To amend, alter or repeal this Constitution, or the By-Laws made under the same, a majority of two-thirds of all the votes present shall be required. The amendment must be offered in writing and laid over, and again read at the next regular or any called meeting before action can be taken. But this Society may make on a two-thirds vote of members present, any By-Law or resolution not incompatible with this Constitution, which may be considered and passed at the meeting it is introduced.

By-Laws

ARTICLE I

Meetings

Section 1. The annual meeting of this Society shall be held on the third Sunday in December for the election of officers, receiving reports and the transaction of any other business that may transpire. Quarterly meetings of the Board of Officers shall be held, provided they have business requiring their action.

Sec. 2. Special meetings of the Society may be called by the President, or by the request to him of ten members in writing, stating the reason for meeting; and no other business shall be transacted than that for which it is convened.

Sec. 3. In the call for such meeting the Secretary shall be required to notify the members of its purpose.

Sec. 4. Ten members shall constitute a quorum at the annual meeting or other meetings of the Society, competent to transact all business that may be presented. A majority of Board of Officers shall constitute a quorum at any of their sessions.

ARTICLE II

Elections

The nomination and election of officers shall take place at each annual meeting of the Society, and a majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for a choice.

ARTICLE III

Duties of Officers

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Society. He shall nominate all committees, call extra meetings when required, may appoint when desirable, with consent of members, a physician to the Society. He shall sign all orders and countersign all checks issued by Secretary and Treasurer, and shall act according to the prescribed Rules as laid down. On notification of the death of any member he shall notify a suitable number of members to attend the funeral as representing the Society. At the annual meeting he shall present a full report of the doings and progress of the Society during the year.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to aid the President in the discharge of any of his duties and to supply his place when necessary. And in his absence, this duty shall devolve upon the oldest Trustee present; and in their absence, upon any member who may be appointed pro tem.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary and Treasurer to keep the books and accounts, issue all notices, make a faithful record of all its transactions and conduct the pecuniary affairs of the Society under the supervision of President and the Trustees. He shall attend the meetings of the Trustees whenever required, and shall furnish any information called for by them. He shall keep a correct register of the members and report all failures in payment of annual dues or assessments. He shall deposit all moneys collected in such place as may be designated by the Trustees, and all deposits and investments shall be in name of the Society. He shall pay out no money except on the written order of the President or the chairman of Committee on Benevolence, and only by check. He shall turn over all moneys, properties and effects to his successor. He shall make a full report at annual meeting. He shall have the privilege of exemption from the payment of dues. In lieu of salary he shall be entitled to a percentage of amount of dues collected as may be agreed on by the Board of Officers.

SEC. 4. The Trustees shall supervise the fiscal affairs of the Society, shall examine and report on the Secretary and Treasurer's books, funds and accounts at each annual meeting, and report any financial matter they think proper. They shall see that all surplus funds of the Society be judiciously employed or invested, and shall suggest the best plan of investment, which must be sanctioned by a vote of a majority of the members present.

ARTICLE IV

Powers of Officers

If application be made to this Society for relief by or for a non-resident, such case shall be referred to the President, who, with the Committee on Benevolence, after a satisfactory investigation, may grant an amount that will not in their judgment embarrass the finances of the Society.

ARTICLE V

Dues

SECTION 1. The dues of active members shall be six dollars, payable in advance, in two equal instalments semi-annually; all dues to date from January first following annual meeting.

SEC. 2. The dues of junior members shall be one dollar per annum in advance.

ARTICLE VI

Admission Fee

At any annual meeting the members may decide whether an admission fee shall be required of new members for the ensuing year, not to exceed one dollar, applicable to any special use the Society may determine.

ARTICLE VII

Standing Committees and Duties

SECTION 1. The following Standing Committees shall annually be appointed by the President, each to consist of three members.

1. On Benevolence.
2. On Arrangements.
3. On Entertainments.

SEC. 2. The Committee on Benevolence shall execute, according to its best judgment, the charitable objects of the Society; and whenever there is any person resident in this city, whose sickness or distress can be alleviated, it shall be their duty, with the consent of the President, to appropriate any sum necessary not to exceed thirty dollars. This committee shall make report in full in writing at the annual meeting, giving name of the recipient of help, the age, sex, and the amount given, and whatever else they may deem of interest to the Society.

SEC. 3. The Committee of Arrangements shall provide a suitable place of meeting, and superintend the comfortable reception and accommodation of the members when in session. They shall make all requisite arrangements for any anniversary or other celebration whenever any shall be determined on by the members of the Society, the expenses of which, however, shall be paid by voluntary subscription; and shall act only with the approval and advice of the Board of Officers.

SEC. 4. The Committee on Entertainment shall provide for the conduct of any benefit, or the like, that may be decided on at anytime to raise funds for the Society, and make any arrangements therefor. They shall submit their plans to the Board of Officers for approval before entering into any contracts or making any announcements.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

SECTION 1. No alteration or amendment shall be made to these By-Laws except as provided in the Constitution.

SEC. 2. These By-Laws, or any section thereof may, however, be suspended for a single meeting only, by a unanimous vote of the members at the meeting.

APPENDIX V

Membership of The Society, 1899

This list of members of the Society in 1899 was printed in the booklet containing the Constitution of 1899, which was published in 1900.

N. Abrahams
L. L. Cohen
Louis Cohen
W. B. Cohen
I. S. Cohen
I. W. Banov
Henry Blank
M. M. Bernstein
Z. Brown
I. Blank
J. L. David
M. M. David
H. H. DeLeon
Ralph Elias
Max Furchgott
M. H. Garfunkel
S. Hirschman
H. Hirschman
M. Hornik
F. Herzog
M. Israel
I. Israel
Samuel Israel
Arthur Israel
Lewis Israel
Nat. Israel
W. W. Jackson
E. J. Lewith
J. Livingston
Louis Levine
I. M. Monash
J. N. Nathans
J. N. Nathans, Jr.
G. M. Pollitzer
Jake Pinkussohn
I. Pinkussohn
J. S. Pinkussohn
I. M. Pearlstine
S. Rittenberg
H. Rephan
S. S. Solomons
E. M. Solomons
Robert M. Solomons
Montague Triest
Sol C. Williams

APPENDIX VI

CONSTITUTION OF 1965

ARTICLE I

Name and Object

SECTION 1. This Society shall be known and designated as The Hebrew Benevolent Society of Charleston, S. C., under which name it was incorporated on December 18, 1830. The Society was founded on June 25, 1784. Its original Hebrew name was Hebra Gemilut Hasadim.

SEC. 2. The object of this Society is Charity. Its purpose is to extend aid and comfort to those of our co-religionists in need: the indigent sick, the widow, the orphan, the aged, destitute families and children, and those who seek means of helping themselves.

ARTICLE II

Membership

SECTION 1. Any male of the Jewish faith, of good character, not under 18 years of age, desirous of becoming a member of the Society shall make written application to the Secretary. The Board of Officers shall approve the application if passed by a two-thirds majority.

SEC. 2. All members in good standing are entitled to vote and hold office. Resignations shall be by letter to the Secretary. No resignation will be accepted until arrears are paid.

ARTICLE III

Dues

SECTION 1. Regular annual membership dues shall be $10.00. Dues shall be payable in advance and shall date from January 1st after the annual meeting.

SEC. 2. Pro-rata dues of a newly-elected member shall be payable on the first of the month following his election for the period to the end of the year. Thereafter dues will be payable on annual basis from January 1st as specified in Section 1.

SEC. 3. Other classes of membership for the benefit of the charitable purposes of the Society are:

Annual Sustaining Member	$ 25.00
Annual Patron Member,	50.00
Life Member	500.00

SEC. 4. Any member who shall contribute $1,000.00 or more to the Society shall be designated as a "Benefactor of the Society", and shall be so listed in the records of the Society, and he shall enjoy lifetime membership.

SEC. 5. If any member is one year in arrears in his dues, the Board of Officers shall have the right to expel such member, provided 30 days written notice shall be given him with a final request for settlement of the arrears.

SEC. 6. A member who has been expelled for non-payment of dues may be reinstated upon his application and payment of dues in arrears at the time of expulsion, plus current dues.

ARTICLE IV

Officers and Trustees

SECTION 1. This Society shall be administered by a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and Treasurer, and six Trustees, who, together, shall constitute the Board of Officers of the Society.

SEC. 2. All Officers and Trustees shall be nominated and elected at the annual meetings of the Society for a term of one year.

SEC. 3. A Nominating Committee of three members in good standing shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board of Officers, at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting, to bring in a slate of nominations for Officers and Trustees at the annual meeting. This shall not preclude any member in good standing placing any member in good standing in nomination for any elective office at the annual meeting, and the President shall invite such nominations from the floor.

SEC. 4. A majority of all votes cast will elect to office in the Society, providing a quorum of ten members is present.

ARTICLE V

Duties of Officers and Trustees

SECTION 1. The President:

He shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Officers.

He shall appoint all standing and special committees, with the approval of the Trustees.

He shall serve as ex officio member of all committees.

He shall have the power to call special meetings in the interest or welfare of the Society. He must also call special meetings on request of ten members in writing, stating the purpose of the meeting.

SEC. 2. The Vice-President:

In the absence of the President, his duties shall devolve on the Vice-President, who shall preside and act in his place and stead.

SEC. 3. The Secretary and Treasurer:

As Secretary:

He shall attend all meetings and keep a faithful record of all proceedings, entering them in the Minute Books of the Society.

He shall keep a correct and up-to-date roster of the members of the Society.

He shall give due notice to members of meetings, and issue necessary notices concerning committee work and other activities of the Society.

As Treasurer:

He shall bill members for dues at least ten days prior to the annual meeting, the dues being for the year starting January 1st after the annual meeting. Six months later, he shall again bill members who have not paid the first bill. He shall report to the President all members in arrears for a year.

He shall deposit in the name of the Society, all monies collected, in the bank or banks designated by the Board of Officers.

He shall make disbursements from the funds of the Society only by checks signed by himself and either the President or Vice-President.

He shall have charge of the bank safety deposit box in which the Society shall keep its securities, entry to which can only be had in his presence, together with the President or Vice-President.

He shall keep proper books and records of the financial affairs of the Society and make report thereof at the annual meeting.

He shall furnish bond in such amount as the Board of Officers shall determine, the premium thereof to be paid by the Society.

SEC. 4. The Secretary and Treasurer shall receive an annual stipend in an amount set by the Board of Officers.

SEC. 5. The Board of Officers shall exercise overall supervision of the affairs of the Society. They shall strive to increase membership in the Society, to increase its financial resources, and improve its operations for the benefit of its charitable activities.

SEC. 6. The Society shall have the right to employ as trustee and manager of its assets a bank or other fiduciary institution and the Society's assets may be delivered to such bank or fiduciary institution with the approval of the Board of Officers.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

SECTION 1. The Society shall hold its annual meeting on the third Sunday of December for the election of officers, receiving reports, and the transaction of other business.

SEC. 2. Special meetings may be called by the President, or upon written request signed by ten members in good standing. The membership shall be notified at least ten days prior to such meetings and told of their purpose.

SEC. 3. A quorum of ten members shall be necessary to convene any meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE VII

Committees

SECTION 1. The Society shall have three standing Committees, to wit: Benevolence, Finance and Arrangements. Each Committee shall consist of three members in good standing, to be appointed within thirty days after the annual meeting by the President, with the advice and consent of the Board of Officers.

The President may also appoint such special Committees as he deems necessary, with the approval of the Board of Officers.

SEC. 2. The Committee on Benevolence shall administer the charitable activities of the Society, with the advice and consent of the Board of Officers.

It shall recommend a budget for the year's charitable work and report at the annual meeting on what has been done during the year.

The chairman of the Committee will serve as the Society's representative on the Charleston Jewish Social Service.

The Committee will receive and screen all applications for loans and make its recommendation to the Board of Officers.

No person may borrow more than One Thousand and No/100 ($1,000.00) Dollars from the Society without the unanimous approval of the Board of Officers.

SEC. 3. The Committee on Finance shall supervise the fiscal affairs of the Society, including its Funds and investments. It shall examine and report at the annual meeting on receipts and disbursements and all accounts on the books of the Treasurer. The Committee will also consider the investment portfolio of the Society, at least once a year, and make recommendations to the Board of Officers of such changes as it deems in the best interest of the Society.

SEC. 4. The Committee on Arrangements shall make all necessary arrangements for the annual and other meetings of the Society. Any special events, such as anniversary dinners, shall be arranged by the Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Changes in Constitution

SECTION 1. Any proposal to amend or revise this Constitution shall be made in writing and signed by three (3) members in good standing. It shall not be acted upon at the meeting at which it is first read but laid over to the next annual meeting, or special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds vote of the members present shall be necesary for adoption of any change.

SEC. 2. Roberts Rules of Order, Revised Edition, shall be the parliamentary procedure for this Society, except when in conflict with this Constitution.

APPENDIX VII

Membership of The Society, 1965

This list of the members of the Society in 1965, the year that the new Constitution was adopted and this historical sketch published, totals 188 members, the largest membership in the history of the Society.

Ackerman, William
Addlestone, Dr. Hyman
Alterman, David
Banov, Dr. Charles H.
Banov, I. Lee
Banov, Dr. Leon, Jr.
Banov, Dr. Leon, Sr.
Banov, Milton A.
Baner, Arthur
Barbanel, Leon
Barkowitz, Donald B.
Barron, Ben M.
Baumrind, M. Harold
Baumrind, Stephen
Berlinsky, Herbert
Berlinsky, Norman
Bernstein, Charles S.
Bernstein, M. A.
Bernstein, W. J.
Birlant, George C.
Bluestein, M. H.
Bogin, George S.
Brickman, Jack P.
Brickman, Sam
Chase, Marty
Cohen, David E.
Cohen, Edgar A.
Coleman, Dave
Coleman, Dr. Ralph R.
Davis, Allan J.
Ellison, Dr. Haskell S.
Ellison, Morton
Epstein, Alex
Epstein, Dave
Feinberg, D. Stanley
Feldman, Dr. Leon
Feldman, William
Fox, Otto
Fox, Harold
Freudenberg, Henry H.
Furchgott, Max
Galinsky, Rabbi H. M.
Garfield, Louis
Garfinkel, Alex
Garfinkel, Max
Garfinkel, Philip
Geldbart, Dr. Ralph G.
Gilick, Charles
Ginsberg, I.
Goldberg, David S.
Goldberg, Harry
Goldberg, I. M.
Goldberg, Moses D.
Goldberg, Nathan
Goldberg, S. Irwin
Goldman, Sol
Goldstein, Maurice
Golembe, Samuel
Halio, Elliott T.
Hirshberg, William
Hirsch, Willard
Hirschmann, Edgar
Hornik, Marion W.
Jacobs, Harold
Jacobs, Melvin T.
Jacobs, S. H.
Jacobson, I. H.
Kaplan, Burton A.

Karesh, Alex
Karesh, Leonard
Karesh, Dr. Stanley H.
Kohn, Albert
Koslow, Henry
Krawcheck, Abe
Krawcheck, Jack
Krawcheck, Max
Krawcheck, Saul
Kronsberg, Avram
Kronsberg, Jonathan
Kronsberg, Edward
Kronsberg, Milton
Kurtzman, Dr. Joseph L.
Lancer, David
Lancer, Isadore
Lapin, Reuben E.
Lehrer, Maxwell
Lemel, Dr. A. Lawrence
Lesser, Louis
Lesser, Melvin
Levinson, A. J.
Levinson, Harry J.
Levkoff, Irving
Levy, Alexander
Levy, Sidney
Lipman, Leon
Lipton, Dr. Morey
Livingstain, Leo H.
Maschler, Arthur
Meddin, Hyman
Mendelson, Dr. Bernard P.
Mendelsohn, Burnet
Mendelsohn, Harry
Mendelson, Isadore
Mendelsohn, Joseph S.
Mendelsohn, Moses J.
Meyerson, Gerald
Meyerson, L. A.
Needle, Dr. Harry
Needle, Dr. Herman
Needle, Joe
Nussbaum, Maurice
Olasov, Bernard J.
Padoll, Rabbi Burton L.
Patla, Jack
Pearlman, Hon. Gus H.
Pearlstine, Edwin S.
Pearlstine, Edwin S., Jr.
Pearlstine, Floyd
Pearlstine, Milton A.
Poliakoff, Max
Pressman, J. L.
Priluker, Harold
Prystowsky, Arnold
Rabinowitz, Louis
Raphael, Capt. Alfred L.
Raskind, Sidney
Read, Joseph D.
Rephan, Hyman
Reznick, Moses
Rittenberg, Dr. Alvin
Rittenberg, Dr. Henry
Robin, Belvin H.
Robinson, Irving M.
Robinson, Klyde
Rosen, Dr. Jack
Rosen, Morris
Rosen, Samuel
Rubin, Ben
Rubin, Isadore
Rubin, Manning
Rudich, Seymour
Sandler, Nat
Schiff, Charles
Schraibman, Jack
Schwartz, J. Marion
Shapiro, Samuel
Sharnoff, Moses
Sherman, Harold I.

Shimel, Louis M.
Sholk, Harry J.
Shulman, Nat
Silver, Dr. Bernard
Slotchiver, Shaie
Slotin, Philip H.
Sokol, Joseph
Sokol, Morris
Sokol, Oscar
Solomon, A. Bernard
Solomon, A. Melvin
Solomon, Aaron
Solomon, David
Solomon, Irving
Solomon, Melvin
Solomon, Walter H.
Sternberg, Harry L.
Stine, Dr. Gordan B.
Steinberg, Dr. Matthew
Steinberg, Irving
Steinberg, Leon
Steinberg, Samuel
Sudit, Howard
Tanenbaum, Louis M.
Tanenbaum, Max M.
Taxon, Rabbi Jordan I.
Tobias, Thomas J.
Toporek, Louis M.
Triest, Maier
Vane, Jack
Weil, Julius H.
Weinberger, Jack I.
Weinberger, Phil
Wetherhorn, Leo
Williams, Dr. Arthur V.
Wolper, Leon
Yaschik, Eugene
Yaschik, Henry
Zucker, J.
Zucker, Julius M.