THE JEWS OF LOS ANGELES: URBAN PIONEERS

Edited by
NORTON B. STERN



Published by the
Southern California Jewish Historical Society

THE JEWS OF LOS ANGELES: URBAN PIONEERS

Edited by
Norton B. Stern



Published by the
Southern California Jewish Historical Society
6505 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90048
1981

Digitized by Project Zikaron
Touro University-NY Libraries
www.zikaron.tourolib.org
2026

THE JEWS OF LOS ANGELES: URBAN PIONEERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE FOUNDING OF THE ORGANIZED JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER LOS ANGELES 9
By William M. Kramer

LOS ANGELES PICTURE PARADE 21

THE OLD JEWISH CEMETERY IN CHAVEZ RAVINE, LOS ANGELES 27

LOS ANGELES PICTURE PARADE 36

THE BANKER OF THE SOUTHLAND IN 1885 39
By Joseph D. Lynch

LOS ANGELES PICTURE PARADE 42

AN 1869 JEWISH STANDARD FOR GENTILE BEHAVIOR . . 47
By Norton B. Stern and William M. Kramer

EMIL HARRIS: LOS ANGELES JEWISH POLICE CHIEF . . . 51
By Norton B. Stern and William M. Kramer

LOS ANGELES PICTURE PARADE 81

WHEN THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR CAME TO LOS ANGELES . 87
By Norton B. Stern

LOS ANGELES PICTURE PARADE 96

THE LADIES' HEBREW BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES IN 1892 101
By Virginia Katz

THE LOCATION OF LOS ANGELES JEWRY AT THE BEGINNING OF 1851 103
By Norton B. Stern

LOS ANGELES PICTURE PARADE 111

THE FIRST JEW TO RUN FOR MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES . . 116
By Norton B. Stern

JEWS IN THE 1870 CENSUS OF LOS ANGELES 129
By Norton B. Stern

INTRODUCTION

The Southern California Jewish Historical Society in cooperation with the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles, is presenting *The Jews of Los Angeles: Urban Pioneers,* honoring this city's 200th anniversary. This book gives the reader an opportunity to learn about some of the Jewish men, women and events that helped shape the character of this wonderful city.

The Jewish people of this community have always worked to improve the quality of life for all Angelenos. We have been partners and leaders in building a strong network of agencies which help those in need. Much has been and will be written about the history leading to this memorable bicentennial, and we are proud of our role.

The first record of a Jewish presence in the pueblo that became a metropolis was in the late 1840s. The census of 1850, taken in January, 1851, listed eight Israelites. That number has multiplied over the years, and now there are about 600,000 Jews in Greater Los Angeles.

From the beginning these urban pioneers took an active role in every facet of the city's life. One of the seven members of the first city council was a Jew, and for many years that body had at least one Jewish member. A Jew served as city attorney in 1862, another as city treasurer in 1876, and still another as chief of police in 1878. Jews served in the sheriff's department, on library boards, as founders of utility firms, as pioneers bankers and merchants, and in many other capacities, all of which were part of those functions which make a city viable. Jewish contributions to music, film, radio, television, literature, painting and the theater are well known. The Southern California Jewish Historical Society expresses its thanks to Dr. Norton B. Stern who has edited this volume for our society. He is the editor of the *Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly.*

As we look into the past we are reminded of the meaningful events which have brought us to the present. Through a thoughtful examination of the present we will mold a dynamic future.

Pauline Hirsh, *President*
Southern California Jewish Historical Society
March, 1981

THE FOUNDING OF THE ORGANIZED JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER LOS ANGELES

By William M. Kramer

When the Federal Census of 1850 was taken in Los Angeles, a community of eight Jews was recorded. All of them were bachelors who lived in their stores on the ground floor of the city's leading commercial building, a two-story structure located at the southeast corner of Aliso and Los Angeles Streets.[1] The number of Jews steadily increased, family life was established and, in 1854, the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Los Angeles was founded. This society was the first organized charitable agency in the city, and it continues to this day as part of the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles, under the name of the Jewish Family Service.

The first formal meeting of Los Angeles Jewry's benevolent society took place on July 2, 1854. It was described in the press:

> The Israelites of this city formed themselves into a society under the name of the Hebrew Benevolent Society. At a meeting held on the 2d inst., the following gentlemen were elected officers of the society: S. K. Labatt, president; Chas. Shachno, vice president; Jacob Elias, secretary and treasurer; S. Lazard and H. Goldberg, trustees.[2]

The five purposes of the society were to act as a burial society, a social-fraternal club, a Jewish philanthropic agency, a general charity composed only of Jews, and as a High Holy Day or "at need" synagogue.

> The Israelites of this city, being desirous of procuring a piece of ground suitable for the purpose of a burying ground for the deceased of their own faith, and also to appropriate a portion of their time and means to the holy cause of benevolence, unite themselves for these purposes, under the name and style of "The Hebrew Benevolent Society" of Los Angeles.[3]

---

1. Norton B. Stern, "The Location of Los Angeles Jewry at the Beginning of 1851," *Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly,* October 1972, pp. 25-32.
2. *Los Angeles Star,* July 8, 1854, p. 2. Its funerary role has been overemphasized. In its address to the Los Angeles City Council for land it referred to its cemetery function as one "among others." Los Angeles City Council Petition No. 613.
3. *Constitution and By-Laws of the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Los Angeles, California* (Los Angeles, 1855), reprinted 1954, by the *Southern California Jewish Historical Society,* p. 3.

The cemetery was their pressing purpose. The high infant mortality of the times and the violence of the rural roads and city streets, made them aware of the fact that what was ultimately true for all might be suddenly true for them. And it was "expressly enjoined that in all their decisions on religious questions they shall be guided by the Jewish rites."[4]

Their second commitment, to give time to benevolence, was the framework for their social gatherings which provided fund raising with fellowship and helped make them into a *Kehillah K'doshah,* a community of holiness. For example, in the fall of 1855 they gave a ball for their membership in the community.[5]

Thirdly, they did charity work on behalf of the poor and sick of Israel at home and abroad. In the founding year of 1854 they contributed funds in aid of Jews in the land of Israel.[6] Another example of the society's giving charity to fellow Jews outside the community was its action following the 1871 Chicago fire. Solomon Lazard, president, called a meeting on October 14, 1871 at which the society voted $250 from its treasury for Jewish aid besides individual gifts for nonsectarian aid from its members.[7] One editor wrote: "Our Israelite citizens, after donating liberally at their meeting went in a body to the place for the meeting of [all] merchants."[8] The Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society also provided a sum for Chicago relief. The Jewish ladies had organized their society on January 9, 1870 with Mrs. Wolf Kalisher, president; Mrs. Harris Newmark, vice president; Mrs. Bernard Katz, secretary; Mrs. John Jones, treasurer; and Mrs. Abraham Baer, collector. Their advisors were Isaiah M. Hellman, Harris Newmark and Henry Wartenberg.[9] The daughters of Israel in Los Angeles were praised editorially by the *Star*:

> The Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society. – This society held a special meeting at the residence of their president, Mrs. W. Kalisher, on last Monday evening, when it was unanimously resolved to donate the sum of $100 in gold coin for the relief of the Chicago sufferers. A few remarks on this truly benevolent society at this time would not be inappropriate. Scarce

4. *Ibid.*, Article VII; see also Article XV.
5. *Los Angeles Star,* October 27, 1855, p. 2.
6. *Occident,* Philadelphia, November 1854, p. 423.
7. *Los Angeles Daily News,* October 13, 1871, p. 2, October 15, 1871, p. 3.
8. *Los Angeles Star,* October 16, 1871, p. 2.
9. *Los Angeles Daily News,* January 11, 1870, p. 2, January 12, 1870, p. 3.

> two years organized, these ladies, through their devotion to the principles of their organization, benevolence and charity, have brought their little society to a prosperous and successful condition, and in every respect worthy of emulation by older and more experienced associations. Their deeds of goodness have been silent as the dews of heaven but fraught with blessings for their many acts of charity. Long may they prosper to disseminate their principles, mercy, benevolence and charity.[10]

A publication of the Historical Society of Southern California in 1892 proclaimed the Ladies' HBS as the "first ladies' benevolent organization instituted in Los Angeles." It observed that while the membership was from the Jewish community, "there has never been a public calamity where assistance was asked that the society did not respond . . ."[11]

Article VIII of the 1854 constitution did not distinguish between Jewish and non-Jewish applicants for aid. "The Committee on Charity" was charged with acting promptly, "and in case of illness of the applicant they shall immediately repair to the place of abode and render such assistance, either with money or personal and medical attendance as the case may require," and so the third and fourth purposes of Jewish and general benevolence properly overlapped. This good neighborliness was further evidenced by the society's statement of 1870 to the local press. In it President Henry Wartenberg said:

> We have extended charity, not only to those of our own faith, but to every sect who applied for the same; that the only thing taken into consideration was, whether the applicant was worthy of receiving the required assistance or not; that it made no difference whether the applicant was a Jew or Gentile, as long as he was actually in need of assistance, he invariably received it. This is as it should be, and as I trust, it will ever be.[12]

When Wartenberg was secretary of the society in 1863 he participated in its program to aid in a nonsectarian way local victims of the smallpox epidemic.

---

10. *Los Angeles Star*, October 18, 1871, p. 3.
11. Virginia Katz, "The Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society," in M. Burton Williamson, ed., *Ladies Clubs and Societies in Los Angeles in 1892*, reprinted in *WSJHQ*, January 1978, pp. 157-158.
12. *Los Angeles Star*, July 12, 1870, p. 3. Henry Wartenberg was in business with Wolf Kalisher, their general merchandise store being located in Bell's Row, at Aliso and Los Angeles Streets.

> Los Angeles, Tuesday, Feb. 10, 1863. Meeting of the Committee on Charity, Mr. Solomon Lazard, President. Moved and seconded that the sum of $150, out of the funds of the Hebrew Benevolent Society, be expended to procure nourishment for the sick, and that this committee form themselves into a committee of relief, to solicit contributions and distribute the same to the indigent sick.
> Resolved, that a copy of these proceedings be furnished the newspapers of this city for publication. H. Wartenberg, Secretary.
> Contributions of any kind will be thankfully received during the prevalence of the sickness, by the following gentlemen: Solomon Lazard, Julius Sichel, Maurice Kremer, Wolf Kalisher, Isidor Cohn.[13]

The fifth purpose of the Hebrew Benevolent Society was to conduct organized Jewish worship services, and at the Jewish New Year and Day of Atonement of 5615/1854, they conducted services for Los Angeles Jewry, functioning as a High Holy Day congregation.[14] Throughout the West, benevolent societies functioned as temporary congregations and sponsored or paved the way for synagogues.[15] The society's constitution, Article VII, also provided for the appointment of a lay clergy, "suitable persons to perform the burial service and prayers at the house of mourning." The lay-led religious services arranged by the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Los Angeles were replaced, in 1860 and 1861, by a temporary High Holy Day congregation called Beth El. In the latter year, this group invited Rabbi Abraham Galland, who had officiated in Sacramento and San Francisco, to conduct the ritual. He was the first professional Jewish clergyman to lead a synagogue group in the Southland. The following year, 1862, the first permanent synagogue, Congregation B'nai B'rith, was founded.[16]

Although Los Angeles Jewry was very new, its Hebrew Benevolent Society was blessed with leadership. As Justin G. Turner put it, "The Jews of Los Angeles were pleased" when Solomon N. Carvalho, who was an active participant in Charleston, Baltimore

---

13. *Los Angeles Tri-Weekly News*, February 13, 1863, p. 3.
14. *Occident*, November 1854, p. 422. It is likely that regular High Holy Day services in Los Angeles began in 1851.
15. William M. Kramer, "The Emergence of Oakland Jewry," *WSJHQ*, January 1978, pp. 103-104, 107, 110.
16. *Los Angeles Star*, September 7, 1861, p. 2; Tom Owen, "The First Synagogue in Los Angeles," *WSJHQ*, October 1968, p. 9.

and Philadelphia Jewish life came briefly to town after serving "with Colonel John C. Fremont as his daguerreotypist and artist in his cross continent expedition of 1853."[17] Carvalho had arrived in Los Angeles in June of 1854 and did a number of local portraits, including one of the former Mexican Governor Pio Pico. To locate Carvalho one needed only visit the second story of the store run by Samuel K. Labatt.[18] Both Turner and Max Vorspan felt that the role of Carvalho in founding the Hebrew Benevolent Society was a major one. Vorspan wrote: "Carvalho may have influenced Sam [sic] Labatt to be a founder of the Hebrew Benevolent Society, and to serve as its president."[19] Surely the contribution of that distinguished Sephardic Jew was important and it was so recorded by the group:

> Resolved, unanimously, that the thanks of this meeting be tendered to Mr. S. N. Carvalho for his valuable services in organizing this society, and that he be elected an honorary member; also that these proceedings be published in the *Occident*.[20]

However, the society's founding president was qualified for the mantle of leadership. An 1853 report shows that Samuel K. Labatt was experienced in Jewish organizational work in his hometown of New Orleans. Labatt was an officer of the New Orleans Hebrew Benevolent Society, prior to his leaving for the West in 1853. Vorspan did not realize that Labatt was an American-born, Sephardic Jew. Labatt and his brother Joseph, and Carvalho, formed a significant Sephardic presence in early Los Angeles. Samuel K. Labatt left New Orleans with Charles Emanuel, a fellow officer of the New Orleans Hebrew Benevolent Society, for California in the spring of 1853. The *Occident* of Philadelphia recorded Labatt's departure and his benevolent work in New Orleans along with that of Emanuel.[21] Within a year Labatt had settled in Los Angeles with his brother, Joseph, and had begun his

---

17. Justin G. Turner, "The First Decade of Los Angeles Jewry," *American Jewish Historical Quarterly*, December 1964, p. 132.
18. *Los Angeles Star*, July 8, 1854, p. 2; *Southern Californian*, Los Angeles, July 27, 1854, p. 2.
19. Max Vorspan and Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews of Los Angeles* (San Marino, 1970), p. 13.
20. *Occident*, September 1854, p. 327. See also *Southern Californian*, August 10, 1854, p. 3; *Los Angeles Star*, July 8, 1854, p. 2.
21. *Occident*, April 1853.

presidency of the Los Angeles Hebrew Benevolent Society. Charles Emanuel settled in San Francisco where he was elected in the fall of 1853 to serve as the secretary of Congregation Emanu-El.[22]

Samuel K. Labatt was part of the power structure of little Los Angeles when he took the chair of the new society. He was known to the community through his advertisements in the local paper as the operator of the Tienda de China, which was on Main Street opposite the Bella Union Hotel. The store was described as "finished on the outside and presents a fine appearance, being an ornament to that part of the city." He was listed as the agent for his distinguished father, Abraham Cohen Labatt of San Francisco, who served as an alderman of that city in 1850 on the first city council under charter. [23] The Labatts had attracted widespread attention in a legal dispute with M. Michael and Company, who were general merchandisers on Mellus Row.[24]

The *Los Angeles Star*, in a report in its Spanish section on the local militia, listed Labatt as a sergeant in 1853. His coreligionist, Solomon Lazard, was a third lieutenant. In 1855, S. K. Labatt was chosen as the commanding officer of the Ringgold Light Artillery at their June 7 election. The group had "some 60 members, whose character and standing afford every assurance of an effective and well appointed force, upon whom the city may rely in every emergency." Labatt held the rank of Captain and it was as a result of his work with the Ringgold Light Artillery that he was authorized by Judge Myron Norton to organize the more official City Guard on July 19, 1855, in which he retained his captaincy.[25]

Samuel's brother Henry J. Labatt was secretary of the First Hebrew Benevolent Society of San Francisco, elected on May 29, 1853.[26] A leading attorney and law writer, he was in touch with his brothers Samuel and Joseph in Los Angeles. Stern has said that in connection with the anti-Semitic remarks of William W. Stow, of Santa Cruz County, speaker of the California Assembly in

---

22. Jacob Voorsanger, *The Chronicles of Emanu-El* (San Francisro, 1900), p. 36.
23. *Southern Californian*, August 24, 1854, p. 2, August 3, 1864, p. 1; *Alta California*, San Francisco, April 20, 1850, p. 3.
24. *Southern Californian*, April 4, 1855, p. 5, April 5, 1855, p. 7.
25. *Los Angeles Star*, June 25, 1853, p. 3; *Southern Californian*, June 13, 1855, p. 2.
26. *Occident*, September 1853.

1855, who favored a Sunday Blue Law, that Henry wrote Samuel to enlist Los Angeles Jewry to undertake its first anti-defamation action against the ravings of Stow.[27] Undoubtedly at Samuel's urgings the editor of the local paper wrote:

> We have been requested by several of our citizens, to publish the remarks of Mr. Speaker Stow and others on the bill enforcing the closing of the stores in Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties. The excitement in San Francisco and Sacramento among this large and worthy class of our citizens has been intense. Meetings have been held, and strong resolutions of censure passed, charging Mr. Stow as ignorantly and willfully misrepresenting them not only without any foundation, but with bigoted prejudice and falsehood.[28]

Interestingly, Samuel Labatt had visited California prior to 1853, but had returned to New Orleans. In 1851, in San Francisco, he was one of the 707 members who signed the constitution of the vigilance committee.[29]

This additional information may make more understandable the role of Labatt in Los Angeles, since had had similar experience in a Hebrew benevolent society in an older and larger Jewish community, and would have understood the needs and requirements of such a body as well as how to organize it. It is also true he was a Los Angeles civic leader. This is, of course, not meant to demean Carvalho's contribution but to show the major role of Samuel K. Labatt, another American-born Sephardic Jew, in launching the Los Angeles Jewish experience.

It was journalist Victor Harris who incorrectly observed in 1910 that up until 1897 the officials of the society "were almost exclusively German." This despite the fact that the founding members and their successors were overwhelmingly of Polish-Jewish

---

27. Norton B. Stern, "Los Angeles Jewry and Stow's Anti-Semitism," *WSJHQ*, July 1975, pp. 314-315.

28. *Los Angeles Star*, April 7, 1855, p. 1. Vorspan and Gartner apparently overlooked this statement and its indication of the action taken by early Los Angeles Jewry, to conclude that, "there is no record that the Jews of Los Angeles took any notice of Stow's performance." Max Vorspan and L. P. Gartner, *op. cit.*, p. 15.

29. Porter Garnett, editor, "Papers of the San Francisco Committee of Vigilance of 1851," *Publications of the Academy of Pacific Coast History*, Vol. I, No. 7, Vol. II, No. 2 (Berkeley, 1910, 1911).

origin, with a sprinkling of Bavarians, Alsatians, and others in addition to the founding Sephardic president.[30]

The cemetery, the first consecrated by Jews in Southern California, was located less than one mile northwest of the Plaza.[31] It came into existence at the behest of the benevolent society when on September 20, 1854, two and one-half months after the organizing meeting, the secretary of the Hebrew Benevolent Society, Jacob Elias, wrote out a petition requesting the Los Angeles City Council to grant a parcel of land suitable "as a burial ground." Two days later the city council approved the request, ordering that title be granted to the Jewish group for three and one-tenth acres of land located in the Chavez Ravine, on land now occupied by the Naval Reserve Armory which is just south of Dodger Stadium. The Hebrew Benevolent Society took possession of the property on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, September 22, 1854. "In consideration of the sum of one dollar . . ." the society finally acquired title toward the end of Pesach, on April 9, 1855, over one-half year later, with recordation on April 17, 1855.[32]

On April 14, 1855, an advertisement was placed in the local newspaper requesting bids for building a brick wall with a stone foundation and a double wooden gate which would enclose the cemetery. The notice was signed by Samuel K. Labatt, president of the society.[33] The missing element in the chain of evidence was the early, probably the first, burial in the Jewish cemetery of Los Angeles.

To recapitulate, although the Hebrew Benevolent Society had possession of the burial site in the fall of 1854, it was not legally theirs until April of 1855. Something must have occasioned the need to complete the transaction. Logically that event would have been a burial in the cemetery. An interment would have necessitated some improvement of the property to provide a protective enclosure. Possession of a deed of ownership would have been a prerequisite of making such an improvement and confirming Jewish ownership of a sacred burial site as the tradition calls for.

---

30. *B'nai B'rith Messenger*, September 16, 1910, p. 8.
31. See "The Old Jewish Cemetery in Chavez Ravine, Los Angeles," *WSJHQ*, January 1977, p. 167.
32. Los Angeles City Council Archives, Vol. 5, p. 717; Los Angeles County, Book of Deeds, No. 3, pp. 53-54.
33. *Los Angeles Star*, April 14, 1855, p. 2.

There was such a triggering event to induce Los Angeles Jewry to complete the "purchase" and its attendant paperwork and start to enclose the grounds. In 1854 a party of immigrants on their way to Los Angeles camped in a gulch of the Greenhorn Mountains, in what was later to be Kern County. They found a rich deposit of gold, which resulted in the Kern River gold rush. By the spring of 1855 a flood of gold seekers and tradesmen had established themselves at the rich diggings.[34]

Harris Caspar, a German Jew, was among the very earliest arrivals. He had come from Europe, leaving his wife and children behind, and had gone to Los Angeles where he had friends. He may have worked in Los Angeles as a clerk prior to hearing of the new opportunity at the Kern River mines. He took a load of merchandise from Los Angeles and established a store to serve the miners at the new gold diggings. On February 23, 1855, William Ferguson of Greenhorn Gulch, which was located twelve miles from Harris Caspar's store, got into an altercation with the storekeeper and shot and killed him. A contemporary account said that Ferguson killed Caspar "because he refused to sell . . . a pair of pants on credit." Another account said, "it was by accident." Ferguson turned himself in at Greenhorn Gulch and was tried by the miners there.[35] When Caspar's friends in Los Angeles heard about his murder they "made arrangements . . . to have his remains brought in here, and interred in the Jewish burying ground of this city."[36]

Caspar's burial in early March, 1855, was apparently the catalyst which gave urgency to the delayed issuance of the deed, which took place on April 9, 1855, as mentioned above. Only the contemporary press report testifies to Harris Caspar's death and burial. No cemetery record or headstone has survived. It is likely that Caspar's grave marker was made of wood and weathered into illegibility.[37]

When the organized Jewish community of Los Angeles improved its cemetery, that religious labor was considered a worthy

---

34. *History of Kern County, California* (San Francisco, 1883), p. 101; Harris Newmark, *Sixty Years in Southern California 1853-1913* (Los Angeles, 1970, 4th edition), p. 148.
35. *Los Angeles Star,* March 1, 1855, p. 2.
36. *Ibid.*
37. The only other reference to a *possible* prior Jewish death in Los Angeles is found in the *Southern Californian,* November 2, 1854, p. 2: "Jacob Regeneck, a Polander, found murdered . . . sharp instrument, probably sword."

example for Christians to follow. The following editorial appeared in the summer of 1855 after the cornerstone dedication of the cemetery enclosure:

> The Hebrew Benevolent Society. – This society, which was organized about one year since, have recently made arrangements to enclose a burial place for their dead, by a good and substantial brick wall. The cornerstone was laid on Wednesday, and the work will now proceed rapidly to completion. Whether we regard the enterprise of our Jewish citizens, the spirit displayed by the projectors of the cemetery, or the fraternal feeling it denotes, we think it well entitled to the support of the community. It is a matter of deep regret with many of our Protestant citizens, that no receptacle for the dead, has been made secure by an enclosure, where their friends who are committed to the silent grave may remain unmolested. We hope this example of the Hebrews will be an incentive to Protestants to take into consideration this important subject, for we presume none will deny that aside from the advantages that will accrue, there is a melancholy pleasure in knowing that the graves of our relatives and friends, are undisturbed.[38]

At various times there were changes in the Hebrew Benevolent Society cemetery. In 1869 there was an exchange of land with the city which increased its size. In 1873 it was noted that the land had been divided into blocks and avenues and landscaping was in progress. In 1891 the Home of Peace Society was created which devoted itself to the care of the cemetery grounds. It was led by Mrs. Maurice Kremer (nee Matilda Newmark), who had arrived in the city with her family in September, 1854. Beginning in November, 1902, the cemetery, now known as Home of Peace, was moved to a thirty-five-acre site on Whittier Boulevard in East Los Angeles. The new grounds were purchased by the pioneer Congregation B'nai B'rith, now known as the Wilshire Boulevard Temple, and administered by them. By the end of 1910 all removals had been made from the old site.[39] The now abandoned cemetery site in Chavez Ravine remained the property of the Hebrew Benevolent Society and its successors. It was estimated that of the transfers about half (or 180) had been buried as charitable cases from

38. *Los Angeles Star*, June 2, 1855, p. 2.
39. For a detailed study of the changes, see Thomas Cohen, "First Jewish Community Site – Los Angeles," *WSJHQ*, April 1969, pp. 93-99.

the origin to 1902.[40] Chavez Ravine was no longer the pleasant glade of 1855. By 1902 it had "become almost inaccessible, completely surrounded by oil wells, derricks and tanks, and brick yards and kilns, the smoke from which has so discolored the shrubbery and monuments that they have become black and unsightly."[41]

The Hebrew Benevolent Society, as noted above, was paralleled in 1870 by a sister group, the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society, which was sometimes referred to as an auxiliary. It had the same goals. The two groups merged in 1918 as the Jewish Aid Society, which retained title to the property in Chavez Ravine.[42]

The Kaspare Cohn Hospital, now Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, was founded in 1902 by the Hebrew Benevolent Society. Its president, Jacob Schlesinger, secured the donation of the first hospital site and structure at 1443 Carroll Avenue from his wife's cousin, Kaspare Cohn.[43]

In 1929, the Jewish Aid Society became the Jewish Social Service Bureau, and this organization sold the former cemetery property in Chavez Ravine to the Federal Government in 1943. In 1946 the Jewish Social Service Bureau became the Jewish Family Service of what is now the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles.

Until the research done by Thomas Cohen and Norton B. Stern in the mid-1960s, the exact location of the original cemetery in Chavez Ravine was unknown and its site therefore unmarked. At the bicentennial of Los Angeles, a mature Jewish community in the City of the Angels can feel itself as a vital part of the celebration. In the heart of the city, in Chavez Ravine, there is California State Historical Landmark Number 822. On September 29, 1968, it was publicly dedicated in the presence of civic and Jewish dignitaries brought together by the Southern California Jewish Historical Society and the *Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly*, in cooperation with the Jewish Federation-Council of

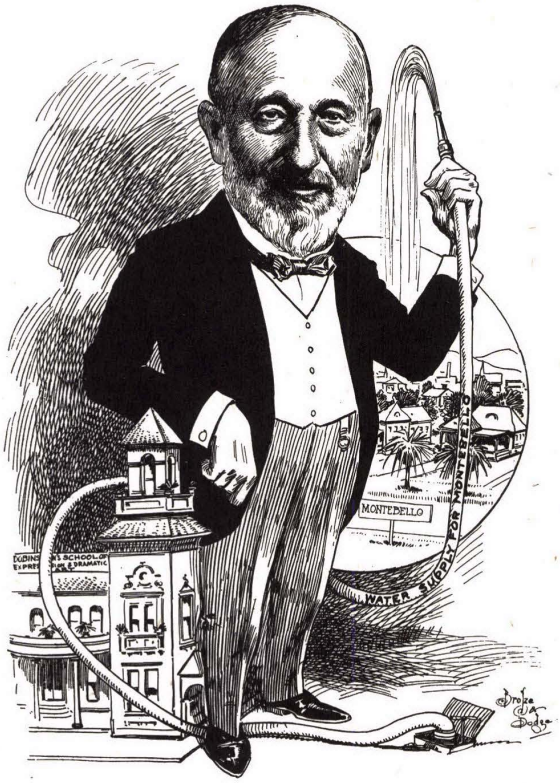
---

40. Los Angeles City Council Petition No. 613, June 30, 1902.
41. *Ibid.*
42. Thomas Cohen, *op. cit.*, p. 104. Ten years earlier the Jewish ladies of Mokelumne Hill, California had organized a benevolent society and twenty years earlier so had the Jewish women of San Francisco. *The Weekly Gleaner*, San Francisco, October 19, 1860, p. 5.
43. Victor Harris, "The Beginning of Los Angeles' First Jewish Hospital," *WSJHQ*, January 1976, pp. 136-138, reprinted from *B'nai B'rith Messenger*, July 23, 1909.

Greater Los Angeles. The bronze marker is there for all to read and to remember:

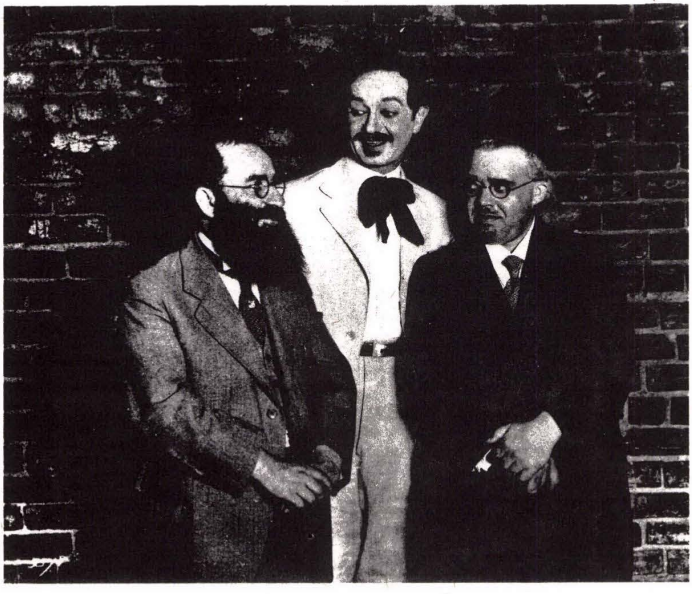
FIRST JEWISH SITE IN LOS ANGELES
The Hebrew Benevolent Society of Los Angeles (1854), first charitable organization in the city, acquired this site by deed on April 9, 1855 from the City Council for a sacred burial ground. This property represented the first organized community effort by the pioneer Jewish settlers.
California Registered Historical Landmark No. 822
Plaque placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in cooperation with the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles
September 29, 1968

During the 1860s, Henry Wartenberg, it will be recalled, served as president of the Hebrew Benevolent Society. His transplanted headstone at the Home of Peace Cemetry is not only a personal epitaph of those who established the Chavez Ravine burial site and the organized Jewish community at Los Angeles which sponsored it, but it is a tribute to the men and women of the pioneer Jewish decades of the City of the Angels. It reads: "His whole life was dedicated to acts of charity and kindness. Though now entombed his mortal frame may lie, that which so endeared him, that can never die." The organized Jewish community of Greater Los Angeles remains dedicated to acts of charity and kindness. When Wartenberg died in Los Angeles in 1879, the city was just about a hundred years old. His epitaph voices fulcrum words that give Los Angeles Jewry leverage into immortality as the city observes its two hundredth birthday.



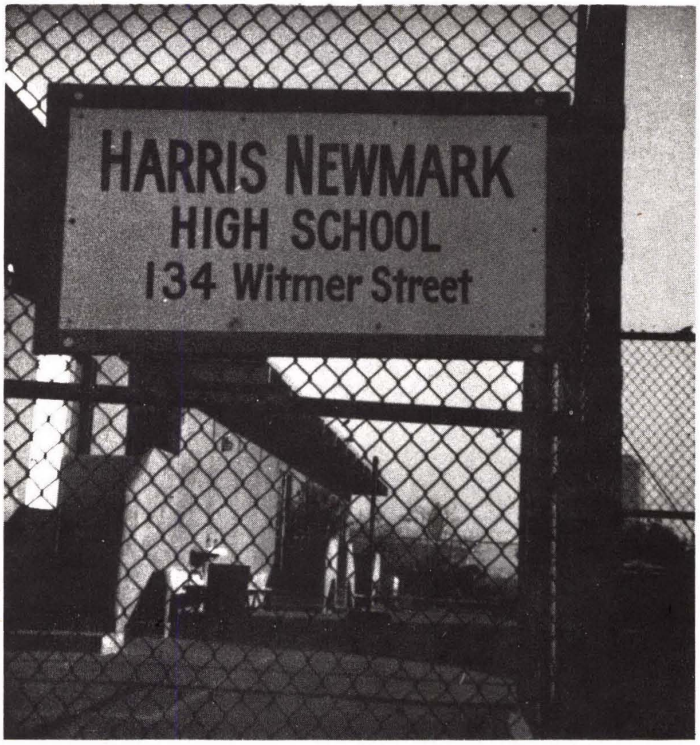
FOUNDER OF MONTEBELLO, CALIFORNIA

The city of Montebello, nine miles east of Los Angeles, was laid out by Harris Newmark and his nephew, Kaspare Cohn, on 1,200 acres which they had purchased in 1885. The cartoon above of Newmark (1834-1916), was first published in a volume of caricatures of Los Angeles citizens entitled, *As We See 'Em* (Los Angeles, 1905). Newmark and Cohn engaged William Mulholland to lay out the five and ten-acre plots of the original Montebello and to develop a water supply for the new town, which was originally intended to be an agricultural community. Harris Newmark had arrived in Los Angeles as a teenager in 1853.



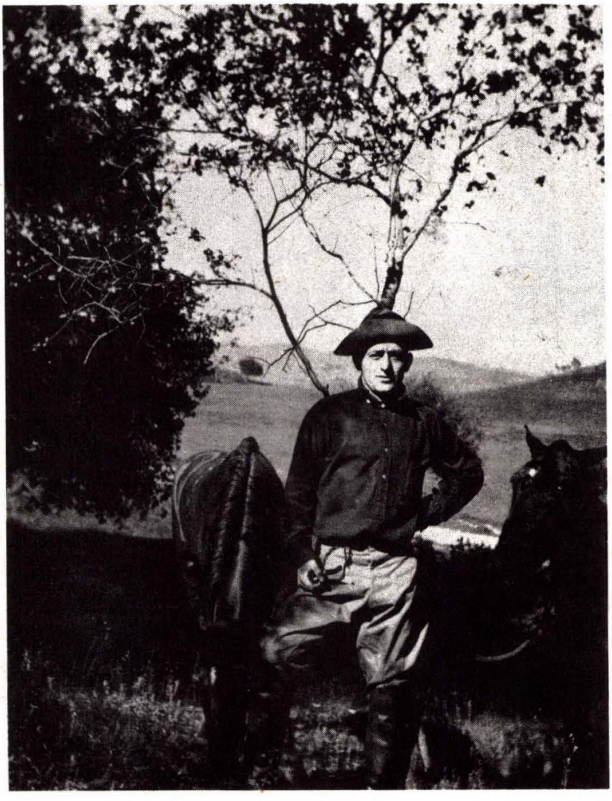
CANTOR, YIDDISH ACTOR, RABBI
LOS ANGELES, 1930

Left to right: Josef (Yosele) Rosenblatt (1880-1933), the famous cantor; Elia Tenenholtz (b. 1890), the Yiddish and motion picture actor; and Rabbi Solomon M. Neches (1893-1957), dean of the Western Jewish Institute of Los Angeles. This photograph was taken when Rosenblatt was in Los Angeles on one of his concertizing tours. Tenenholtz had been in Yiddish drama in New York until 1926, when he came to Los Angeles and entered the movies under contract to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. He appeared in about sixty motion pictures under the name of Tenen Holtz. He was one of the founders of the Los Angeles Yiddish Culture Club. Neches, born in Jerusalem, was a descendant of Rabbi Elijah Gaon of Vilna. He arrived in Los Angeles in 1921.



HARRIS NEWMARK HIGH SCHOOL LOS ANGELES

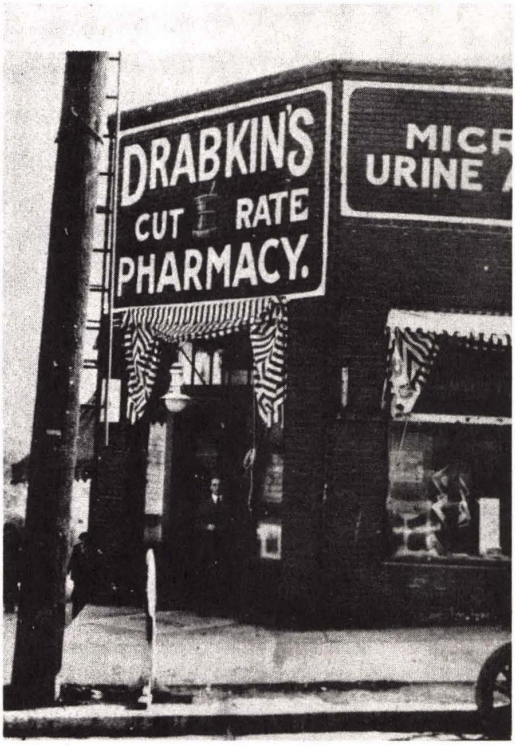
The Los Angeles Board of Education approved the new name for what had been the Belmont Continuation High School on June 2, 1975. Harris Newmark (1834-1916), who is memorialized by the new name was one of Los Angeles' most significant pioneer Jews. He was a founder of the Los Angeles Public Library, laid out what is now the City of Montebello, served as president of Congregation B'nai B'rith, was one of the important commission and grocery wholesalers of early Los Angeles, and wrote the most useful historic reminiscences of the early Southland, *Sixty Years in Southern California, 1853-1913* (First edition, New York, 1916, Fourth edition, Los Angeles, 1970). Educators noted that the new name of this high school should remind the students of the success of this pioneer figure and that he should serve as "a symbol of making a NEW MARK in their lives."



Courtesy of Richard N. Kauffman, Hillsborough

ON THE PATH OF THE SANTA MONICA FREEWAY — 1909

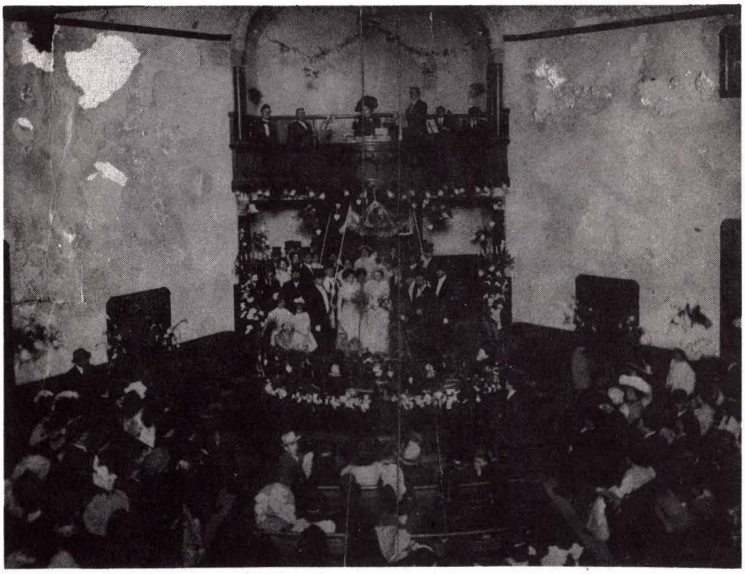
On February 17, 1909, Isaac O. Levy (pictured here) and Miss Florence Newmark, daughter of the Maurice H. Newmarks, took "a long ride on the road to Santa Monica," from Los Angeles. Levy, who was born in Los Angeles in 1878, was an accomplished horseman, a talented amateur horticulturist and a prominent Los Angeles insurance broker. He died in 1956. His riding partner, who took the photograph, was later to be Mrs. Sylvain Kauffman of Atherton, California. She passed away in June, 1975.



Courtesy of Robert Drabkin, Los Angeles

DRABKIN'S PHARMACY, BUNKER HILL, 1919

Adolphe Drabkin is pictured here at the door of his pharmacy, located at 100 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles. The Music Center is just across the street from this corner, today. Drabkin, who had attended school in Antwerp as a youngster, studied chemistry at McGill University in Montreal. He spoke French fluently and had a fine following among the French colony in the Bunker Hill area. After operating a number of drugstores in Los Angeles, Drabkin retired in 1945 and passed away in 1960.



A LOS ANGELES ORTHODOX WEDDING — 1909

H. Lew Zuckerman married Sadie Belle Goldberg on February 28, 1909, in the Olive Street Schule (Congregation Beth Israel). Rabbi Isidore Myers of Sinai Congregation, officiated, assisted by the Reverends M. A. Alter and Alfred Arndt. This photograph is the only interior view known of the 1902 Beth Israel synagogue building located on Bunker Hill. In the choir loft is shown Louis Myer's orchestra, which played Mendelssohn's wedding march for the processional. The *Los Angeles Times* (March 1, 1909) noted that this photograph was "the first known to be taken of an Orthodox Jewish ceremony in a synagogue." Following the ceremony the 500 guests enjoyed dancing and a sumptuous banquet at Lincoln Hall in the Walker Theater Building. The bride and bridegroom, now ninety years of age, are still hale and hearty residents of Los Angeles.

THE OLD JEWISH CEMETERY IN CHAVEZ RAVINE, LOS ANGELES

A Picture Story

The Hebrew Benevolent Society of Los Angeles established the first Jewish cemetery in Southern California in 1855. It was located less than one mile northwest of the Plaza, in Chavez Ravine.[1] From the 1890s the cemetery was known by the name of Home of Peace, and it was cared for by a group of ladies headed by Mrs. Maurice Kremer. In 1902, having outgrown the area, Congregation B'nai B'rith, led by its president, Kaspare Cohn, purchased thirty-five acres for a new Home of Peace Cemetery on Stevenson Street (now Whittier Boulevard).[2] The remains and monuments were transferred to the new memorial park from 1902 to 1910, the work being supervised and carried out by Oscar Willenberg, the superintendent of the cemetery.

Willenberg, a gentile, had been engaged in 1891. He remained superintendent until his retirement in 1920.[3] His photograph album containing many scenes of both the old and new cemeteries was inherited by one of his daughters, Mrs. George P. Powell (nee Erika Willenberg). Dr. Edwin H. Carpenter, an historian on the staff of the Huntington Library, obtained this album in 1974, and a number of the photographs were copied which he was kind enough to share with us. The following eight pictures show scenes at the Home of Peace Cemetery in Chavez Ravine, photographed prior to the 1902 disestablishment of the cemetery at that location. — Editor.

---

1. See Thomas Cohen, "First Jewish Community Site – Los Angeles," *WSJHQ*, April 1969; Norton B. Stern and William M. Kramer, "A Murder Victim's Burial in Los Angeles-1855," *WSJHQ*, October 1976.
2. *B'nai B'rith Messenger*, Los Angeles, May 30, 1902, p. 4.
3. Erika Powell, interview, December 21, 1974, by Edwin H. Carpenter.



Monument of Sarah Polaski (1835-1886) and her husband Louis Polaski (1828-1900), pioneers of the Los Angeles Jewish community. A picket fence surrounded the cemetery at the turn of the century.



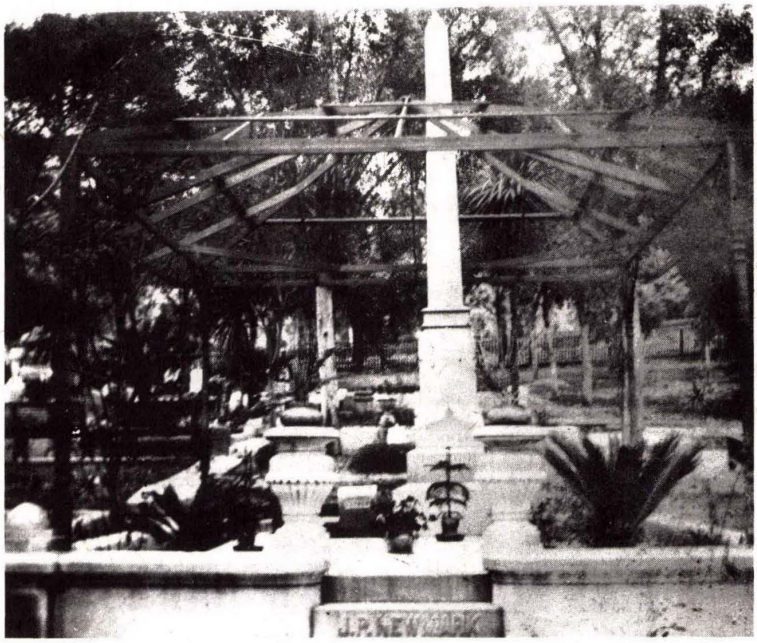
The plot of the Asher Hamburgers was at the north side of the cemetery just below the hill, on the other side of which are the Dodger Stadium grounds today. The street, running along the base of the hill seen in the background of this photograph, is Lilac Terrace.



The monument of Samuel Hellman (1836-1888), who had arrived in Los Angeles in 1854.



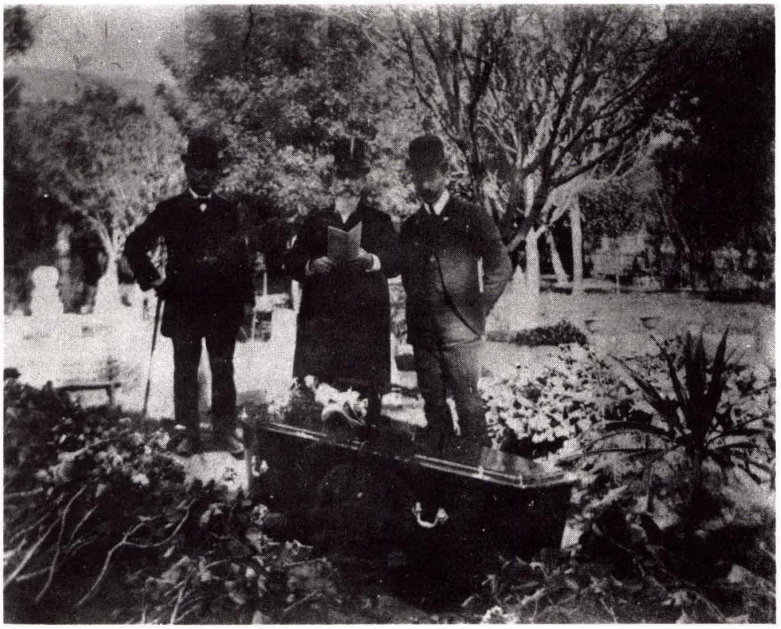
On Saturdays the children of Oscar Willenberg had the chore of tidying up the cemetery. Pictured are Claus, Oscar, Emil and Dorothy.



In the foreground is the trellised plot of the Joseph P. Newmarks.



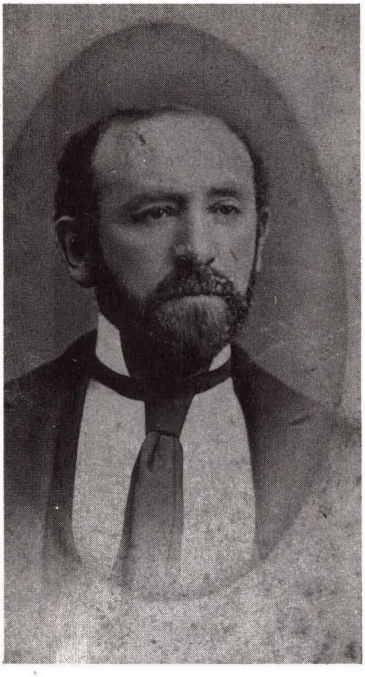
This view gives some idea of the density of the tree planting in the cemetery. In the right foreground is the marble headstone of Adolph Portugal (1831-1901), a Polish Jew, despite his name.

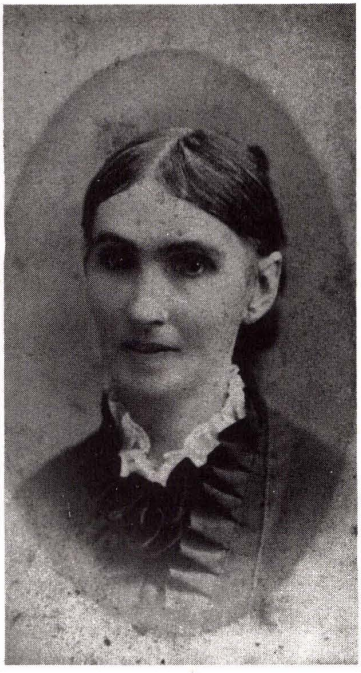


A photograph taken during a funeral, about 1900. The figures are unidentified, but there is a possibility that the gentleman in the center was Rabbi Abraham W. Edelman.



Monument of Abraham Cohn (1811-1892), father of Kaspare Cohn, a major Jewish leader and philanthropist of the Los Angeles Jewish community.





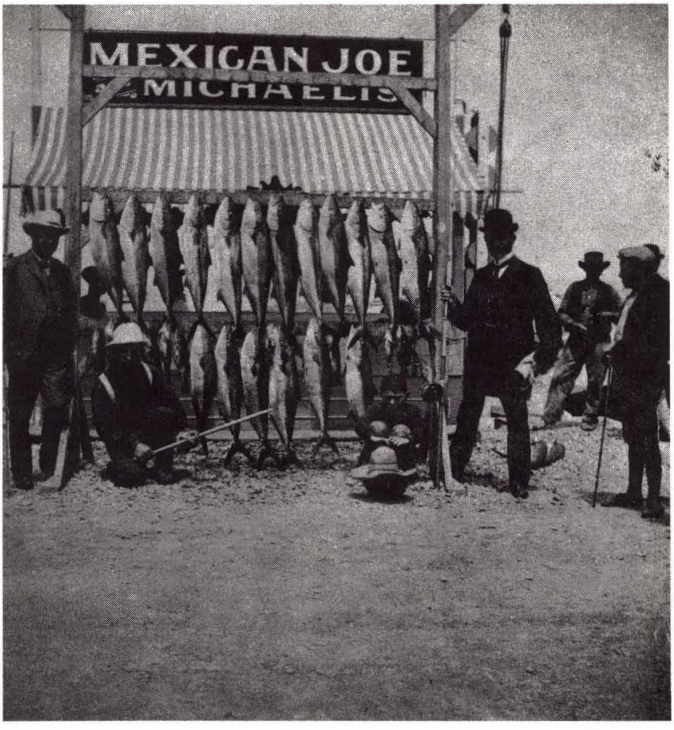
THE HILLIARD LOEWENSTEINS

Hilliard Loewenstein (1828-1895) arrived in Los Angeles in the early 1850s from Loebau, Prussia. He was a business partner of Samuel Meyer, and in 1856 he returned to Europe to woo and wed his partner's sister Rosa Meyer (1835-1877), who lived in Strassburg, Prussia. Four children were born to the couple: Emanuel, Rosette, Eva and Ignatz. The editor's biography of the oldest son, *Mannie's Crowd*, was published by The Arthur H. Clark Company in 1970. The above portraits were taken about 1875.



FOUR GENERATIONS IN 1900

Isadore Louis, his wife Valentine, and their two sons Heinrich (later Henry) and Emanuel, all of whom had been born in Prussia, settled in Los Angeles in 1868. In the early 1870s they moved to San Diego where they lived for many years, later returning to Los Angeles. Isadore had lived in California in the 1850s, and went back to Prussia to marry Valentine in the 1860s. This photograph, taken in 1900 in Los Angeles, shows Flora Rafalska, the great grandmother at the right, Valentine's mother; Mrs. Isadore Louis (Valentine) at the left; her son, Henry W. Louis, at the top; and his daughter, Ysidora (Bob), now Mrs. Julian Cole. Henry W. Louis was one of the leading pioneers of the Los Angeles sportswear and garment industry, and he was active in Jewish communal life.



Courtesy of Richard N. Kauffman, Hillsborough

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FISHING IN 1905

A fine catch of eighteen yellowtail and a number of other fish was achieved by Jacob Loew, posing with his bowler hat at the right, and his brother-in-law, Maurice H. Newmark, standing at the left. The two were Los Angeles businessmen, Newmark having been born in that city in 1859. As can be seen, the respectable businessman of those days wore attire suited to his occupation, not to the sport he was engaged in.

THE BANKER OF THE SOUTHLAND IN 1885

By Joseph D. Lynch*

The Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of this city [Los Angeles] was inaugurated in 1868 with a paid up capital of $200,000, and has since experienced a most remarkable season of prosperity, their surplus fund now amounting to $400,000. Their bank is situated on the southeast corner of Main and Commercial Streets, the most convenient portion of the city both for patrons and officers of the bank. The officers of the bank are: Isaias W. Hellman, president; L. C. Goodwin, vice president; and John Milner, secretary. The board of directors are Isaias W. Hellman, O. W. Childs, Phil. Garnier, C. Ducommun, John S. Griffin, C. E. Thom, J. B. Lankershim and Jose Mascarel.

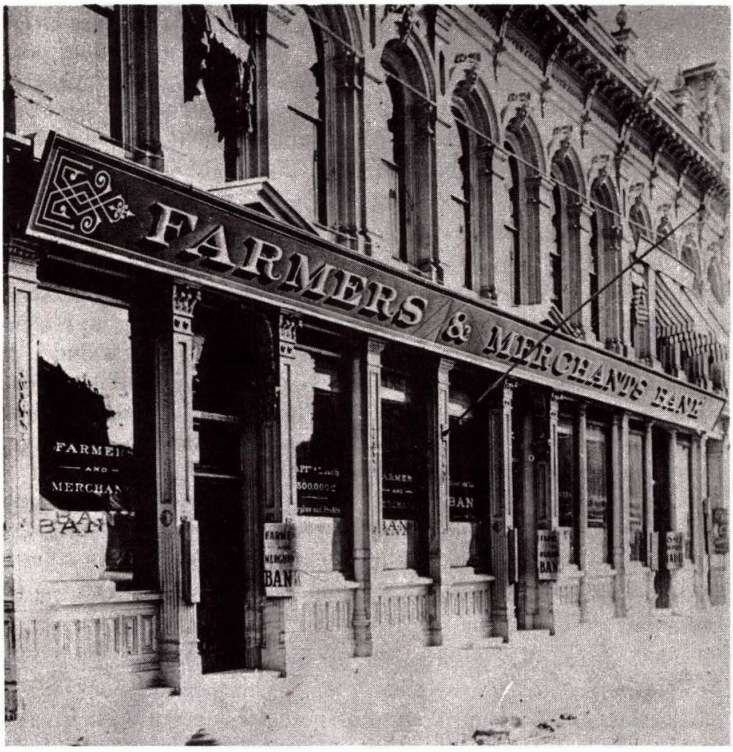
Their total assets amount to $2,052,930.91, the principal portion of which consists of cash on hand, U. S. four per cents and cash with other banks, which makes it one of the most secure and substantial banks in the State. The bank commissioners' report published last month classes the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank as the sixth in the State in volume of business done, there being only four banks in San Francisco who have paid a larger license tax to the State on account of business done.

The interior of the bank is furnished with the most exquisite taste and with a view to convenience and security, without regard to expense. Nine attaches to the bank, who are well up in their various positions, handle the great volume of business in this immense establishment.

Mr. Isaias W. Hellman, the president and largest stockholder of this bank, was the originator of the corporation, and its remarkable growth of business and financial success is due mainly to his conservative management, untiring energy and attention to its affairs. Mr. Hellman, a native of Bavaria, came to this city twenty-six years ago, a boy. For a number of years he was engaged in the mercantile business and became identified with many im-

---

* Joseph D. Lynch was the editor and publisher of the *Los Angeles Herald.* This article appeared in the *Herald's* "Annual" issue of January, 1885, p. 3.



FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK
At Commercial and Main Streets, Los Angeles, 1883.

portant enterprises in the way of developing and building up this country. Having unlimited confidence in the ultimatum of the country, he became largely interested in a great many tracts of valuable lands, when they were cheap, which have, since their development, become very valuable.

He is largely interested in the world renowned Cucamonga vineyard and the Alamitos Rancho, the largest stock ranch in Los Angeles County. He also owns large landed interests in other parts of the county, and several fine business blocks of city property Mr. Hellman's private residence and home on the southwest corner of Fourth and Main Streets, is one of the finest and most elaborately furnished residences in the city, costing $35,000 or more.

Mr. Hellman has been in the lead in all new enterprises that have been a benefit to this city, embracing street car lines, gas and water companies, and has been profitably remunerated in all. The great key to his success is that of all successful businessmen, in studiously avoiding speculation and only investing where the growth and natural development of the country was certain. In his conservative management of his private affairs, like those of the bank, he has not only amassed a princely fortune but gained the confidence and esteem of the business community. Mr. Hellman is at present one of the State Commissioners of the New Orleans Exposition and World's Fair, president of the City Railroad Company and a Regent of the State University. There is perhaps no man in Southern California who has handled his wealth or wears his honors with more modesty and unostentation than I. W. Hellman.[1]

1. For more on Isaias W. Hellman, see Norton B. Stern, "Toward a Biography of Isaias W. Hellman, Pioneer Builder of California," *WSJHQ*, October 1969, pp. 27-43.



Courtesy of the Archives, Peter M. Kahn Jewish Community Library, Los Angeles

PALESTINE MANDATE CELEBRATION, LOS ANGELES, 1920

This photograph was taken on June 27, 1920 at the old Los Angeles coliseum in Exposition Park, where the present Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum is now. The celebration was to commemorate Great Britain's acceptance of the mandate for Palestine, which had been agreed to at San Remo in April, 1920. The crowd, by far the largest Jewish gathering to that time in Los Angeles history, was estimated at over 25,000 (*Los Angeles Times*, June 28, 1920). After a parade from the courthouse downtown, the assemblage heard Aaron Shapiro, president of the Zionist District of Los Angeles introduce Marco R. Newmark, who in turn presented Rabbi Isidore Myers, the speaker of the day.



PALESTINE RESTORATION PARADE, LOS ANGELES, 1920

In our issue of July 1977, on page 324, the crowd at the old Los Angeles Coliseum celebrating Great Britain's acceptance of the Mandate for Palestine, was pictured. The event took place on June 27, 1920, and was preceded by a parade from the Los Angeles Courthouse to the Coliseum at Exposition Park. The picture above shows the parade in progress, with the American and Jewish flags being carried. Following the officials and the flags at the head of the procession, a brass band is to be seen. This photo came to us from Howard W. Brotman of San Diego.



Courtesy of Julia Bauman

ONE OF THE COTTAGES OF THE JEWISH ORPHANS' HOME OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Established in January, 1909,, the first quarters of the orphans' home was in the old Charles Stern mansion at Mission and Macy, Los Angeles. This structure burned down on August 1, 1910. In 1912, the community erected a new orphans' home in Huntington Park, under the superintendency of Rabbi Sigmund Frey. Several cottages were a part of the home, occupied by the children and their house mothers. The facility today is located in West Los Angeles and is called the Vista Del Mar Child Care Agency. See Ruth Frey Axe, "Sigmund Frey: Los Angeles Jewry's First Professional Social Worker," *WSJHQ*, July 1976, pp. 312-325; Siegfried G. Marshutz, "History of the Movement to Establish a Jewish Orphans' Home in Los Angeles," *Ibid.*, January 1977, pp. 155-160.



Courtesy of Los Angeles County Museum

FOUR POLITICAL HORSEMEN — 1923

The Hellman brothers, natives of Los Angeles, are pictured here with two of the top Democratic leaders of the early years of this century, in Santa Monica Canyon. Left to right: Marco H. Hellman (1878-1948), William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925), William Gibbs McAdoo (1863-1941), and Irving H. Hellman (1883-1975). Bryan, from Nebraska, was the Democratic presidential nominee in 1896, 1900 and 1908, and served as Secretary of State under Wilson, 1913 to 1915. McAdoo was Secretary of the Treasury under Wilson, 1913 to 1918. He was a Democratic contender for the presidency in 1920 and 1924, and served as Senator from California, 1933 to 1939. The Hellman brothers operated the Hellman Banks of Los Angeles. Their father, Herman, had arrived in Los Angeles as a fifteen-year-old, in 1859. For more on Marco, see "The Marco H. Hellman Family of Los Angeles, *WSJHQ*, January 1978, pp. 129-135.



CHAIM SHAPIRO FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

In 1930 the California gubernatorial election featured as candidates for the Socialist Party, Upton Sinclair for governor and Chaim Shapiro of Los Angeles for lieutenant governor. Shapiro, an attorney, had been born in Kremenchug, Russia in 1886. He came to America in 1906, to Los Angeles in 1908, and after attending the University of Southern California was admitted to the bar in 1912. He was one of the organizers of the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society (now known as the City of Hope), was active in Yiddish circles, Zionist affairs and Socialist politics. The 1930 election resulted in a Republican landslide with James Rolph, Jr., receiving almost a million votes for governor. Frank Merriam was elected lieutenant governor. Sinclair garnered about 47,000 votes statewide, with Shapiro receiving about 33,000.

AN 1869 JEWISH STANDARD FOR GENTILE BEHAVIOR

A Review Essay

By Norton B. Stern and William M. Kramer

A recent book by Esther Boulton Black of Claremont, California, *Rancho Cucamonga and Dona Merced* (San Bernardino County Museum Association, Redlands, 1975), termed by U.S.C. history professor Doyce B. Nunis, Jr., as "local history at its best," has occasioned a rethinking of the contemporary image of the Jew in pioneer Southern California in the American period. Black's book yields a treasure of detailed and documented history revealing the social patterns of many of the important Anglo and Californio families, who once constituted the power structure and the elite of Southern California society.

Black's book helps give the background to correct the misunderstanding of the important and lengthy essay describing local Jewry, which appeared in the *Los Angeles Daily News* on January 22, 1869. Published by editors and proprietors A. J. King and A. N. Offutt, it ran nearly 1,000 words. The article was reprinted almost in its entirety in the March 5, 1869 issue of *The Jewish Messenger* of New York. The editor of the Jewish paper regarded the Los Angeles report as if it were an effective defence of a Los Angeles Jewry under attack. In like manner, historian Morris U. Schappes, in his book, *A Documentary History of the Jews in the United States 1654-1875* (New York, 1950), opined that the essay was a defence of the Jews which answered "charges" that they "were rich, greedy, . . . and . . . transient." In his doctoral dissertation of January, 1961, Max Vorspan, of the University of Judaism, offered a similar explanation, noting that "reading between the lines of the defence, we can learn the prevalent objections to the Jew."

With the help of scholarship such as that of Esther Black, as well as that of California State University at Northridge historian Leonard Pitt, we can realize that the 1869 article was not a mere

defence or an apologetic for the Jews, but actually was a reproof of both the native Californios and the immigrant Anglos for their shortcomings. The *Messenger* editor, as well as Schappes and Vorspan, reached what appeared to be logical conclusions about the *News* essay praising the Jews, given the facts and models available to them. It now seems far more likely that the intent of the article was not really to defend the Jews, but by implication to gently admonish many of the leading gentile figures of the Southland. That there was much to admonish is clearly established in Esther Black's book.

It will be useful to note the points made about the Jews in the 1869 article, and relate them to the findings in the book. In so doing we believe that the *News* applied a Jewish role model as a standard for that gentile behavior which they found in need of improvement.

The 1869 description noted that among the Jews "the men are peculiarly marked for their sobriety," and they avoid "modes of dissipation that cancer the heart and disease the body and eat into worldly substance and paralyze energy." Leonard Pitt in his work, *The Decline of the Californios* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1966), gives numerous examples of the long, drawn out fiestas, with their overeating and overdrinking. Refugia, Juan Bandini's wife, prepared "one elegant fiesta after another even while feeling 'awfully downcast' about money matters."

The *News* article spoke approvingly of Jewish women "for their chaste and decorous demeanor and their freedom from the fearful scandal to which their Anglo-American sisters are so fiercely addicted." It is further stated that the Jews' religion "forbids nuptial contact with the gentile," and this too was viewed with approbation. Black quotes Horace Bell to the effect that intermarriages between Californio women and Anglo men, "was in some respects a quicker way to clean [the native landowners of their] assets." Bell went on to say that "the senoritas were greatly attracted to stalwart young Americans," and Black wrote that "there was an understandable resentment of the Californios against the Americans who had benefited so handsomely from dowries." In the Mexican period such marriages often involved the conversion of American Protestants to Catholicism.

The *News* praised Los Angeles Jewry for upholding "the sanctity of the marriage vow, which is much in this day of nuptial debauchery." Esther Black reported on the many illegitimate children fathered by the leading rancheros. The practice was so common that it acquired an open status with only limited social disapproval.

The 1869 essay pointed out that another virtue of the Jews was that they were not aggressive politically, and yet were "among our very best citizens, and the city suffers nothing in their hands." Both Black and Pitt indicate the low level of the politics of the period, and point to Judge Benjamin Hayes, a Catholic, as an almost unique exception among Southland politicos. He opposed vigilantism and actively and honestly tried to represent and advise the Californios. While Jews had served in various city and county offices by 1869, they were rarely political careerists.

Jews were praised by the newspaper for their linguistic skills and their literacy. "Who ever knew a Jew that could not read and write his native tongue?" The writer was referring to the well known illiteracy and functional illiteracy of many of the Californios.

The *Los Angeles Daily News* went on to ask: "Who so ready as the descendants of Jacob in our midst to respond with heartiness to every charitable appeal?" And not only did the Jews help their own, but were praised by the Sisters of Charity for their "incouraging words and open purses." The editor reminded the reader that in finance the Jew was "cautious, because educated to commerce, but not backward in public enterprises." Two years later it was the Jewry of Los Angeles which was the first to respond to the needs of the Chicago fire sufferers, and the editor of the *News* reported that fact and then denounced in no uncertain terms the failure of the general public to so respond. He was following a precedent, for on June 2, 1855, the editor of the *Los Angeles Star* praised Los Angeles Jewry for having made secure their cemetery grounds, and said: "We hope this example of the Hebrews will be an incentive to Protestants . . . [so] that the graves of our relatives and friends, are undisturbed."

No one has better presented the profligacy, the extravagance and the careless use of credit which was so common among the landed Californios than has Esther Black. She points out that their

well known extravagance worked "against the real usefulness in society that might [have] characterized the California ladies . . . ." Pitt concluded "that more than any other factor, the Californio's spendthrift tendency . . . put him in financial hot water. . . ." This should be compared with the *News* writer's statements that the Jew lived "within his means," and practiced a "studied isolation from the prevalent vices. . . ."

Both Black and Pitt stress the unlawful violence which characterized the behavior of so many of the Californios and Anglos, whereas the 1869 column said that with one exception, "we will venture the assertion that there has not been a criminal prosecution against a Jew since the organization of the city."

The paper significantly noted that while "mercilessly and remorselessly have confiding Californios been plucked of their substance . . . it is not the Jew . . . that has wrested from them their fair and hereditary possessions by extortionate rates of interest." Black mentions Jews (Philip Sichel, Isaias W. Hellman and Solomon Lazard) who gave mortgages on land at "two percent per month, which was not considered an exorbitant rate at that time." Non-Jews such as the prominent Benjamin D. Wilson, John G. Downey and E. J. "Lucky" Baldwin "were loaning money at five to ten per cent per month" according to Black.

Perhaps those who looked at the 1869 essay as apologetic and as a reflex of the negative image of the Jew were misled not only by the absence of such studies as those of Black and Pitt, but also by failure to read the concluding words of the *News* piece. There the author makes it very clear that the Jews are best characterized by the example of their Los Angeles patriarch, Joseph Newmark. Of him it was written: "His urbanity and purity are the delicious comment and pride of the town. It would be well if our Gentile population would imitate his revered example." Newmark was an example of the Jews, the Jews were an example for the gentiles.

Emil Harris: Los Angeles Jewish Police Chief

by NORTON B. STERN and WILLIAM M. KRAMER

Emil Harris was not a typical policeman—if you can stereotype the police. But then, in the eighth decade of the nineteenth century, Los Angeles was not a typical American town. Long forgotten lawman Emil Harris served the city and county of Los Angeles in matters routine and adventurous. His career ranged from patrolman to chief of police and his responsibilities from quieting drunken Indians to deep involvement in the famous case of the infamous bandit, Tiburcio Vasquez, as well as his efforts to head-off the tragic events of the Los Angeles Chinese massacre of 1871. Who was Emil Harris? He was German-born, pioneer in youth work in Los Angeles as a gymnastics instructor, a champion marksman, a devoted Odd Fellow, Turnvereiner, and Jew.

Emil Harris was born in Prussia on December 29, 1839. In 1853, in the company of an aunt, he came to the United States where some members of his family had previously settled. After living in New York for some time he set out for California where he also had relatives. In 1857 he took passage on the *North Star* to the Isthmus of Panama and made the land journey to the Pacific side where he boarded the ship *John L. Stevens* for San Francisco, arriving there in March.

In San Francisco he had intended to learn the printing trade and actually began to work in this field, "but the work did not prove congenial and he soon left." Subsequently Harris was employed as a waiter in a Kearny Street restaurant. Later he went to work in his uncle's Stockton billiard hall. He and his uncle returned to San Francisco and founded a cigar business as a partnership. Two years afterwards, Harris' uncle acquired "a billiard hall of eight tables at Visalia," California. Harris managed the establishment until the business was sold. He then returned to San Francisco where he was naturalized on March 18, 1867.[1]

On April 9, 1869, Emil Harris arrived in Los Angeles.[2] There he was employed as a barkeeper at the Wine Rooms on Main Street.[3] He quickly became involved in civic life. In June 1869, he registered as a voter. Working in the commercial center of the city, he was aware of the need

[Reprinted from 'Southern California Quarterly', Summer, 1973, Vol. LV, No. 2]

for fire protection. "Probably the first attempt to organize a fire company . . . was made in 1869, when a meeting was called on . . . November 6th, at Buffum's Saloon, to consider the matter."[4] Among those present were Henry Wartenberg, who was chosen as president, and Emil Harris.[5] Wartenberg was a leader of the Jewish community, having been president of the Hebrew Benevolent Society since 1864.[6] As a partner in a tannery, he too knew of the pressing need for protection against the disaster of fire.[7] In October 1871, Emil Harris was elected first assistant foreman of the Fireman's Company.[8]

At the end of 1870, Emil Harris was appointed a patrolman of the Los Angeles Police Department.[9] In his new capacity he continued his civic work in the general community while acquiring a well-deserved reputation for brilliance as a pioneer detective of the California southland. Almost at the beginning of his police career, Harris became a major figure in the events of Calle de los Negros and the Chinese massacre of 1871. Los Angeles was a small town with a big underworld. The "Nigger Alley" area was the heartland of local vice.[10] There were prostitution, gambling, a number of low saloons, and frequent violence often culminating in homicide. Indians, Mexicans, Caucasians and Chinese met there in a kind of reservation of impropriety.

While contemporary accounts[11] generally ascribe the Chinese massacre in the alley as having been the result of a tong war between rival Chinese factions which resulted in the murder of a Caucasian, a retrospective view by local historian Major Horace Bell, suggests that it was a race riot which had been triggered by Robert Thompson, who attempted to steal $7,000 from a Chinese merchant. Thompson was killed by Sam Yung (or Yuen), who had revealed in open court on the morning of October 24, 1871, that he kept this sum "in a trunk in the rear of his store." That afternoon Thompson entered the store of the Chinese businessman on the pretence that he was there to serve a warrant and to take Sam Yung into custody. When the merchant refused to leave his store and funds unprotected, there was an "ensuing scuffle" in which "the Chinaman shot Thompson dead." A careful reading of the *Los Angeles Daily Star* account of the cause of the massacre tends to support Bell's version against the racist account in the press. The story of the killing of Thompson gives evidence that it was done by Sam Yung as a defence of his property and person, and not as a lawless act of a semi-civilized Chinese involved in a tong war, as portrayed in the contemporary news media.[12] Subsequently, more than twenty Chinese were killed

by the mob and some "forty thousand dollars was taken during the sack of Chinatown."[13]

Officer Emil Harris was among those who made every effort to control the mob and prevent the loss of life and property among the Chinese. He tried to place them in protective custody, but

> The infuriated mob followed. Cries of "Hang him!" "Hang him!" "Take him from Harris!" "Shoot him," arose in every direction. The officers proceeded safely with their prisoner until their arrival at the juncture of Temple and Spring Streets. Here they were surrounded, and the Chinaman forcibly taken from them. . . .[14]

In his testimony the next day during the Coroner's Inquest, Emil Harris, after being sworn, said:

> Between five and six o'clock, yesterday evening, while on duty on Commercial Street, . . . I heard some shots fired and ran toward them to Los Angeles Street, and saw an excited crowd in front of Negro Alley. . . . [The Sheriff] requested me and all citizens willing to obey the laws to stand along side of him; a great number volunteered, and others, more excited, wanted to force their way into the houses . . . the excited multitude got the upper hand. . . . one Chinaman came running out [and I] heard a cry by some white persons, "Here is one!" and I succeeded in capturing him . . . when some parties unbeknown to me, about 100 or more took him from me [and] that was the last I saw of him . . . they cried "Hang him". . . . [Later] a Chinaman called me by name; I told him to come out and I would protect him if I could. . . . I suppose the one taken from me was the first one hung. . . .[15]

At the conclusion of his testimony it was clear that Harris felt that none save one of the Chinese killed was culpable, and that the officer had attempted to save the celestials from the mob. This, in spite of the testimony of his coreligionist, Mendel Meyer, who said that "the Chinamen shot at white people, [and] at the officers . . . [including] Harris."[16]

The Coroner's Jury of eleven included five citizens of the Jewish faith: Herman Fleishman, M. Levy, B. Simon, P. N. Roth, and Leopold Harris. Another witness who testified before the jury was the merchant, David Solomon.[17] On the grand jury named to bring charges against those arrested during the massacre, were the pioneer Jewish merchants, Samuel Norton and Kaspare Cohn.[18]

Three months after the tragic events in Negro Alley, the attitude of the Chinese community toward Emil Harris and his fellow officer George Gard, surfaced. The Chinese were aware that the two had attempted to protect them, their lives and their property from the attackers. The local press carried this item:

A Present.—Officers Gard and Harris, were yesterday the recipients of a beautiful gift, consisting of Chinese embroidery, presented by the Wing Chong company, as a testimonial of their appreciation of services rendered from time to time.[19]

"From time to time" was a euphemism for the Chinese massacre of 1871. Emil Harris was one of a minority who knew that the peril of lawlessness posed greater problems for Los Angeles than did the so-called Yellow Peril.[20]

The most famous bandit in southern California history was Tiburcio Vasquez. Those lawmen who took part in his capture became the most famous of that day. San Francisco's *Alta California,* the leading newspaper of the metropolis of the Pacific slope, wrote of Harris' part in the taking of the outlaw.

Harris was one of Vasquez captors, and stood his hand with coolness and courage, ready to go for that notorious bandit on "a short call." He took, with the others, strong chances for his life; but strategy secured the robber without loss of blood. The fact that he was there and ready with his rifle to do his part, redounds to Harris' credit.[21]

In April 1874, when Sheriff William R. Rowland of Los Angeles County heard that Vasquez was in the area, he determined to make up a stand-by posse to be ready if there was an opportunity to capture him. Vasquez had a well-deserved reputation for murder and robbery, committed by himself and his gang. Historian Robert Greenwood states succinctly: "Vasquez emerges as perhaps the major figure in California outlawry."[22] On May 8, 1874, California's Governor Newton Booth, issued a proclamation of reward, offering $8,000 for Vasquez's arrest if delivered alive and $6,000 if he should be killed during his apprehension.[23] Sheriff Rowland's special posse included some of the most trustworthy citizens who could counter violence with marksmanship and physical strength. They included

Mr. Albert Johnson, Under Sheriff; Major H. M. Mitchell, attorney at law of this city; Mr. J. S. Bryant, city constable; Mr. E. Harris, policeman; Mr. Thos. Rogers, of the Palace Saloon; Mr. D. K. Smith, a citizen of this county; Mr. B. F. Hartley, Chief of Police and Deputy City Marshal, and Mr. [George] Beers, of San Francisco and special correspondent of the San Francisco *Chronicle.*[24]

On the evening of May 13, 1874, Sheriff Rowland learned that the Vasquez party was at the ranch house of "Greek George," which was near the mouth of Nichols Canyon, in what is now West Hollywood.

The posse was secretly assembled at Mitchell's law office in the Temple Block and moved out at 2:00 a.m. on the morning of the 14th. At daybreak the party made a run to "Greek George's" house.

> Through an open door, Vasquez was seen at the breakfast table, and [Emil] Harris, followed by the others, made a quick dash for the house. A woman waiting on Vasquez attempted to shut the officers out; but Harris injected his rifle through the half-open door and prevented her. During the excitement, Vasquez climbed through a little window, and Harris, yelling, "There he goes!" raised his Henry rifle and shot at him. By the time Harris had reached the other side of the house, Vasquez was a hundred feet away . . . then the officers used their shotguns. . . . Underneath one of the beds was found Vasquez' vest containing Charley Miles' [stolen] gold watch, which Harris at once recognized. The prisoner was asked whether he was seriously hurt and he said that he expected to die . . . asking Harris to write down some of his bequests. . . .[25]

In later years Harris was to regard his part in the Vasquez capture as "one of the most interesting recollections of his life," and he retained the bandit's rifle in his personal possession.[26] Just over a week later the Committee on Police of the Los Angeles City Council recommended that Harris be dismissed from the force for having been out of the city "without consent, as required to be obtained by ordinance, and had disobeyed the orders of the Marshal. . . ."[27] It was undoubtedly Harris' expertise as a detective that got him into this difficulty, for as in the Vasquez case in which he had been deputized by the county sheriff and thus was absent from his city police duties, he was frequently called upon by other law agencies, including the United States Marshal's office for service in the area and even as far as into Arizona Territory.[28] Harris' supporters on the city council "warmly defended" him and "eulogized him as one of the captors of Vasquez," and the matter was quietly dropped.[29]

Harris' reputation was now so firmly established that he was entitled to every benefit of the doubt. As the *Star* had reported: "He has detective qualities second to no man in the State; is brave, cool and energetic and just the man to have associated in such a hazardous undertaking [as the Vasquez affair]."[30] Emil Harris was a remarkable officer on a most interesting force. At the end of 1871, the local press made an observation which still holds true: that the police force of Los Angeles was small in numbers when compared with other cities of like importance. The force consisted of six officers operating under the marshal, who was the chief of police. They were divided into two watches of three men each. Two were mounted officers "on fleet horses." They received one hundred

dollars per month salary while the four patrolmen received eighty dollars a month.[31]

In 1872 the *Star* reported that there was a marked improvement in the force with few offenders escaping arrest and punishment.

> While it is apparent that the improvement extends throughout the entire police force, and that each and all policemen are faithfully endeavoring to discharge their duties; the large number of arrests lately made by officers Gard and Harris, seem to deserve special mention. They have succeeded in "working up" and ferreting out some very important and difficult cases, and through their energy and vigilance, many rough and dangerous customers have been caught and placed in the hands of the law.[32]

The paper recommended that it would be to the benefit of the community if George Gard and Emil Harris could be assigned to special duty in order to utilize their skills fully, "besides special officers or detectives should be men of stability, good judgment, sobriety, and great discretion. All of these qualifications, we believe, are embraced in the officers above mentioned."[33]

Emil Harris' methodology as a detective is basically unrecorded, however, the evidence of his ability is written large across the pages of the Los Angeles press. When a carpenter by the name of Grant lost such valuables as a silk velvet vest, two pairs of sleeve buttons, and a hair watch-chain, he informed Harris of his losses. "That expert and efficient officer fixed his suspicion on . . . Charles Miller . . . and found all the articles in his possession."[34] When the old skating rink of Los Angeles was robbed, it was Harris who "after diligent investigation, succeeded in getting a clue, and . . . arrested the burglar."[35] When R. M. Towns lost his valuable gold watch, he gave Harris the case to work up. "Harris fetched the timekeeper, and Mr. Towns has now got his watch." The paper noted that "there is a real interesting batch of details connected with the case."[36]

In the Los Angeles of the 1870s, Harris seemed to know every lawbreaker and potential lawbreaker among the populace. The city numbered under 10,000 during the period. Harris used his firsthand knowledge with a speed and energy truly remarkable. When Charles Norton's house was entered by a thief, Harris was given the case and "captured his man in five minutes."[37] Officer Harris and his partner, Gard, quickly solved a watch theft that involved a man from Compton, which showed "the shrewdness and competency of the officers," who were pronounced "hard to beat on either a warm or cold trail."[38]

Harris' job kept him on the go beyond the limits of the pueblo. He "arrived from San Buenaventura . . . with three-fingered Jack and lodged him in jail."[39] Another time he returned from San Francisco bringing back a bogus detective with a passion for counterfeiting greenbacks.[40] When another passer of counterfeit bills was known to be in Los Angeles, Harris was assigned to the case. He "immediately started for Wilmington, considering that the most likely point from which the criminal would try to escape." The *Star* account observed that Harris' "surmises were correct" and the captured criminal was brought to the United States Commissioner.[41]

Emil Harris saw his share of violence. When pistol shots were fired at the Chinese servant of Judge H. K. S. O'Melveny, the policeman was informed and after an examination of the premises and questioning, went directly to the house of a suspect and asked if there was a pistol there. The weapon was found with blood on it and a young man of the household was found with a bandaged finger. Harris got his man who "assigned no reason for the act except his dislike of Chinamen."[42] With two colleagues Harris pursued "two Frenchmen who got 'obstreperous,' and commenced firing off six-shooters." The officers went for them and the men broke and waded across the Los Angeles River and shot at the policemen. The latter located a hack and overtook the culprits, lodging them in jail.[43] Even on his day off Harris could not give up the scent and on one occasion used his free day to chase up a nearby canyon looking for an outlaw.[44]

Harris, whose interest in youth work will be discussed later, was the friend and protector of children. With his friend, George Gard, he succeeded in stopping a runaway mule, thereby preventing imminent injury to some children then crossing the street.[45] The same two lawmen investigated a burglary at the German schoolhouse. They learned that a group of boys were the burglars. They left the culprits to their parents for proper castigation for the theft of books and slates, and such. The police were promised that every article stolen from the school would be replaced in good condition.[46]

One night in 1873 a horse thief absconded with a beast from in front of the Pico House. Harris "nabbed the fellow" and while taking him to jail experienced an attack on his person. He must have been a very tough horse thief because the account noted that "Harris . . . had his hands full in getting him to the lock-up."[47] In an earlier encounter when escorting two men to jail, two other men tried to relieve him of his

prisoners. Fortunately for Harris it was only four against one and as the *Star* told it, "Four men [were soon] on their way to jail surrounded by officer Harris. Bully for Harris."[48]

Religion was not without its part in the criminal annals of early Los Angeles. The headlines noted "The Church Thief Caught." Gard and Harris had captured the scoundrel who had robbed the local sanctuary. The officers had figured that a man recently accused of stealing the blankets of a person rooming with him, was the kind of man to steal from a church. "Officers Harris and Gard deserve great credit for . . . this case."[49] In a cryptic item, the local press announced that "a 'resurrectionist,' actively engaged in 'raising Cain' on Main Street, was consigned to the 'City Tombs' yesterday by officer Harris."[50]

Harris' work included bringing prisoners back to Los Angeles from various parts of the state and he became well known in many communities. His opinions and knowledge were solicited widely. When he returned from San Francisco in December 1877, the press reported that he had observed the political procession of the Workingmen's Party and that it "was one of the largest and most orderly he had ever seen—not a drunken man was visible within the lines."[51] In Ventura, he was the source of information used by the local paper on the capture of Santos Sotelo, one of the notorious Sotelo brothers.[52]

The public respected Harris and the criminals had cause to fear him. When a miscreant was at large, the *Star* could say with comfort, "We think Emil Harris will fetch him ere long."[53] Hitting Harris could be expensive. "Jas. Lawrence, the menagerie man, was arrested yesterday and fined $20 for striking officer Harris."[54] When one Richard Stillwell drew a knife on Harris, resisting arrest, the officer tried to take the weapon from him but met with more resistance and assault. "Officer Harris . . . in order to save himself shot Stillwell, the ball passing through the muscles of the left arm, in a slanting direction, and entering his body . . . the wounded man was then deprived of the knife. . . ."[55]

Emil Harris was not only a protector of life and limb, but was also concerned with keeping secure the property of the local merchants and seeing that they were not victimized by fraud. It was Harris who discovered that a stolen forty-five dollar overcoat had been sold for four dollars to a local merchant.[56] Harris arrested the man who burgled an Aliso Street store relieving it of several pairs of pants and boots and other sundry items.[57] What the press called "One of the most important arrests and captures [resulting] . . . from goods obtained under fraud-

ulent designs" was made by Harris and two associates. Harris was praised for his part in the capture of the embezzler of merchants and was given the honor of taking the prisoner to the San Francisco jail.[58]

The business section of downtown Los Angeles included a large number of Jewish merchants who found in their coreligionist, Emil Harris, a protector, defender and friend. P. N. Roth, owner of the Lafayette Store on Main Street, suffered the loss of two hundred dollars worth of clothing and other articles by a disgruntled employee. Harris and Gard located the suspect and submitted him to relentless questioning. "Those diligent and efficient officers . . . succeeded admirably in working a conclusion out of the premises given them."[59] This achievement undoubtedly relieved the pressure on the town marshal who had permitted the two to be out of town the previous month in pursuit of counterfeiters in the desert. The marshal was severely criticized for leaving the town under-policed, while Harris and Gard spent four weeks in the service of federal authorities.[60]

Wolf Kalisher, the man who in October 1862, succeeded Michel Goldwater[61] as vice president of what is now the Wilshire Boulevard Temple, was the victim of the attempt on the part of "some unregenerate rascal" to steal his horse. Fortunately, Kalisher was approaching the yard of his store in the company of policemen Gard and Harris, and the frightened thief made a getaway sans horse.[62] Not exactly a major crime at the Kalisher store premises occurred when the two officers caught a thief stealing the merchant's copy of the *Los Angeles Daily News*. However, the *News* thought it was newsworthy.[63]

Harris wasn't perfect. Maybe it was his background as a bartender that made him occasionally slip up when dealing with a drunk. One such was arrested by Harris on suspicion of having stolen a watch, but "was discharged upon proof that the article came into his hands by fair and not foul means."[64] A little earlier the *Star* briefly noted that a John Doe drunk had been arrested by Gard and Harris and thereupon "pitched into the officers, and was by them pitched into jail."[65] On another occasion the press described a drunk taken in by Harris as "an obstropulous [*sic*] inebriate cavorting around loose on Main Street."[66]

Harris' involvement with the Chinese massacre of 1871 was part of an ongoing relationship with the Celestials. One night Harris learned that a "Chinawoman" had been beaten up by Sing Lee, one of the leaders of Chinatown. Investigation validated the report and Sing Lee resisted arrest. "The sight of a revolver caused him to change his mind and resort

to bribery." Harris and a fellow officer "were obdurate, and . . . a fine of $10 [was] imposed by the Mayor."[67]

Emil Harris was sent to San Diego to arrest a Chinese woman who was employed as a domestic by George P. Marston, an important San Diego community leader. There were those who accused Harris of retrieving the woman so that she might be brought back to the control of her Los Angeles Chinatown master. In response to that charge, Mr. and Mrs. Marston wrote Officer and Mrs. Harris, indicating "that they were sorry that Mr. Harris, who is a true Christian [sic!] gentleman, should have been misjudged."[68]

The trained eye of Harris maintained surveillance of the Indian community of Los Angeles. He was in at the arrest of one Luis Mayet "caught in the act" of selling liquor to Indians.[69] On another occasion it was noted that "Three sportive aborigines, on a bender, were arrested by officers Gard and Harris . . . they will ornament the chain gang."[70] A third incident involving Indians and liquor was recorded: "Two semi-drunken squaws were arrested yesterday by officer Harris, for having stolen a ham, and were sentenced by the Mayor to abide in the city hotel for twenty-four hours."[71]

A visitor to Los Angeles in 1869, the year that Emil Harris arrived in the city, noted that: "There are many foreigners living here, . . . but principally Germans and German Jews."[72] The integration of Germans and Jews of German cultural background was an important fact of the social structure and the civic leadership of the town. Many Jews of eastern European origin had acquired Germanic culture as part of the general emancipation of Jews following the French Revolution and the Napoleonic period. In Los Angeles the Turn Verein movement provided the vehicle for the expression of Germanic culture by Jew and gentile.[73] This advertisement appeared for the first time on May 19, 1870, in the *Los Angeles Daily News:*

The Gymnasium is now open at Mrs. Wiebecke's [beer] garden, Alameda Street, near the depot. Application for membership or admission must be made to Emil Harris at Wine Rooms on Main Street or F. Morsch at Heinisch's on Commercial Street.[74]

A few days later it was announced that Harris had been named the gymnastics instructor of the Turn Verein society.[75] The first major news report of the German group read:

A number of our German citizens met last Saturday evening for the purpose of effecting an organization to provide calisthenic exercises and recreation for

those who may desire it. The following officers were elected: C. C. Lips, president; L. Lichtenberger, vice president; C. F. Heinzemann, treasurer; I. Cohn, secretary; H. Schalberg, property man; Professors F. Morsch and E. Harris, Instructors. A committee was appointed to secure a suitable place for the erection of a gymnasium, hall, etc. At present the society have their apartments at Wiebecke's Garden, near the Depot. . . .[76]

Evidently Professor Harris was a success, because at the general meeting held by the Los Angeles Turn Verein a year later, "E. Harris was elected First Instructor," and his coreligionist, Isaac Cohn, was re-elected secretary.[77] Shortly thereafter, "By the kind invitation of Mr. Emil Harris, leader and instructor," a reporter for the *News* visited the Turn Verein hall for one of its semi-weekly practices. He observed that "Nowhere else in the city can a more interesting sight be witnessed than that afforded by the athletic exercises, and feats of the members." The journalist was impressed by the fact that a significant part of the program was devoted to working with boys "of all ages and sizes from the half-grown lad to little fellows of eight, and all seem alike proficient and active." An accolade for Harris and the Teutonic group was bestowed by the writer:

> The skill of the pupils does great honor to the ability of the leader, and to his activity as well, as he must set the example on each new movement. The Germans are far in advance of our people in all that regards physical culture. . . .[78]

Emil Harris' work with youngsters was a pioneer example of group work in the southland. It anticipated the boys' club work of a later era. The first anniversary of the Turn Verein "was a decided success. The Round House garden was crowded with visitors." Harris' publicity attempts were fruitful. Six boys were given awards for "best turning." The young gymnasts were, in the order of proficiency: Frederic H. Fleishman, Herman Gerson, Isaac Benjamin, John Schick, Isidor Fleishman and Harry Bell. Four of them were Jewish. Other award recipients included Otto Weiss and Henry Katz.[79] A surprise award went to "their leader, Mr. Emil Harris," who received "a fine silver-mounted horn. . . ."[80] Another report indicated that the performance consisted of exercises "on the horizontal and parallel bars in which great strength and skill were shown." The account was humorously headed, in German, "Watch on the Rhine." The Turn Verein anniversary event reflected "well deserved credit" on Harris, "whose proficiency in the art gymnastic is well known in this city."[81]

The Turn Verein also provided a social setting for the community and the grand balls and masquerades were important parts of the Los Angeles social scene. At various masquerades Harris appeared in black face, as Boss Tweed, as Uncle Sam, and as a mammoth rooster. Mrs. Harris came as a puritan woman, as the spirit of semi-tropical California, bedecked with fruit and flowers, as the Queen of Spain, and as a roving Irish lad—"We have seldom seen a more perfect makeup than was this character of Mrs. Harris, and she could speak the brogue too."[82] The strangest event occurring to the Harris family at one of the masquerades showed the prejudice of the period.

> He [Emil Harris] also took the character of a Chinese vegetable vendor, but this latter character was difficult to sustain, as the numerous maskers went for that "heathen Chinee," and soon broke him up in his business.[83]

Very often the Harrises won prizes for their costumes, including a silver fruit dish presented to Mrs. Harris and a pair of sleeve buttons for her husband who portrayed, in the words of the *Star,* "the Nigger Dandy."[84]

The Turn Verein Germania had a military section. The rifle division listed its officers in 1876: Emil Harris, captain; Conrad Jacoby, lieutenant; E. Neitzke, sergeant; W. Marxsen, first corporal; and Charles Gollmer, second corporal.[85] When Captain Harris received his sword it was in time for the May Day parade in which he led the Turn Verein's military company.[86] When the rifle section planned target practice in East Los Angeles at their own shooting range, Harris assured the public, through the daily press, that every precaution was taken to prevent accidents and "that it is utterly impossible for anything of an untoward nature to happen." To accommodate the expected crowd at the rifle practice, "Trains on the East Los Angeles Street Railroad will run every half-hour."[87] The shooting match in the fall of 1876 saw Emil Harris win the top award, the silver medal for rifle marksmanship. "He has to win once again when it will become his permanent property."[88] In the summer of 1876, Harris had been re-elected to another six months term as rifle section captain.[89] In 1902, J. M. Guinn recorded that Harris was one of ten to organize "the Turner Germania, which has grown to be a very important organization, with five hundred members."[90]

Emil Harris was a very active member of one of the most important fraternal orders, the Odd Fellows. In 1960, Dr. Max Vorspan, vice president of the University of Judaism, Los Angeles, called "the venerable

secretary of the I.O.O.F." and was informed that "no Jews now or ever," were active in the Odd Fellows of Los Angeles.[91] Emil Harris was only one of many local Jews active in the order. In fact, one of the founders and the first Noble Grand (president) of the first Odd Fellows Lodge, Los Angeles No. 35, was Morris L. Goodman.[92] Goodman also was the first Jew to hold political office in the southland, serving as a member of the first Los Angeles city council in 1850. Henry Wartenberg, who was a Los Angeles city councilman and member of the council police committee in 1868, as well as president of the Hebrew Benevolent Society, was a major dignitary of the Odd Fellows. By 1870, Wartenberg was the Worshipful Grand Marshal of the I.O.O.F. Grand Lodge of California and also Deputy District Grand Master.[93]

Emil Harris was elected Noble Grand of the second Odd Fellows lodge to be organized in Los Angeles, Golden Rule Lodge No. 160, on December 30, 1870. Lodge officers had been installed the preceding year by Henry Wartenberg, when Harris occupied a lesser post.[94] The leading Jews in the community were on the committee of arrangements for the celebration of the fifty-second anniversary of the Odd Fellows, during the year Harris served as Noble Grand. These included Wartenberg, Isaias W. Hellman, Isaac Cohn, Constant Meyer, Bernard Katz, Solomon Lazard, Harris Newmark, and Herman Jacoby.[95] In 1900, Harris was the only charter member of Golden Rule Lodge still alive and living in Los Angeles.[96]

The Jewish and gentile Germans of Los Angeles were not only at the heart of the power structure of the community, but they also sought to directly influence the voters by the endorsement and support of "good government" candidates. An *ad hoc* group called the German-American Elective Union was organized in September 1874. Its purpose was described in a resolution proclaiming: "We will support only good and honorable citizens for office . . . without distinction of political differences." Among the active Jewish members of the Elective Union were Isaac Cohn, Henry Fleishman and Emil Harris. Harris was on the committee assigned

> . . . to see that a full registry of voters is secured, and if any Germans have not become citizens, provided they are entitled to the rights of citizenship, to assist them in procuring their naturalization papers.[97]

Two days after a meeting of the Elective Union on September 27, 1874, at the Turn Verein Hall, where presumably a caucus was held, the *Star* began to print a series of announcements: "For City Marshal—

Detective officer Emil Harris desires to announce himself as a candidate for our next City Marshal."[98]

Emil Harris, though a local officer, was by 1874 known statewide as an exceptional lawman, a brilliant detective. The San Francisco *Alta* wrote: " . . . Emil Harris is up for the office of City Marshal of that flourishing city. . . . Los Angeles cannot do better than reward him with the office of Marshal."[99] The *Star* expressed its agreement, noting that the Vasquez capture was

> . . . only a drop in the bucket of Harris' achievements. He is constantly doing good service, and our people have long wanted a chance to reward him. They will do it very handsomely on the 7th proximo.[100]

The *Star* demonstrated its total support for Harris' candidacy by reprinting the comments of the *San Francisco Examiner*. Both the *Examiner* and the *Star* said that Harris' election would be "gratifying to his many friends in San Francisco, Stockton and Marysville, in all of which he formerly resided, and is well known and well liked."[101]

Emil Harris ran as a candidate of the Citizens' Ticket, which was opposed by the Peoples' Ticket, the Farmers' Ticket, the Peoples' Reform Ticket, and Independent Nominations. The Citizens' Ticket was led by Frank Sabichi and included, in addition to Harris, two other members of the Jewish community, Henry Fleishman, running for city treasurer and Bernard Cohn, running for city council.[102] On December 3 and 5, 1874, the *Star* made its strongest editorial endorsement of Harris.

> We do not know that Mr. Emil Harris will thank us for referring to him, but we are extremely anxious to place ourselves on record in his favor. We have yet to meet a businessman or property holder who has not openly expressed a preference for this honest and efficient officer. It may not only be said of him that he is seemingly always on duty, but successfully so; for hardly a day passes that he does not capture a pickpocket, a burglar, a robber or a horse thief. Mr. Harris is strictly temperate, competent and brave as a man dare be. We have heard a great many people say they would turn out next Monday if it was only to vote for Harris to contribute to the elevation of a model and praiseworthy officer.[103]

The editorial of December 5, further emphasized Harris' detective ability and the terror that it struck in the hearts of those who broke the law.

> There is not in the State a cooler, braver, more self-possessed officer than Mr. Harris. He goes about his work without making any fuss. He walks

quietly up to the offender, be he of high or low degree, and quietly leads him off to answer to his follies or offences, as the case may be. The evil doers of this section know him, and have a holy horror of him. Somehow or other he has a faculty of spotting them on sight. If they undertake to carry on any of their pranks, he invariably finds a clue which he follows up with unerring sagacity until the offender is imprisoned and the stolen booty recovered.[104]

The readers of the *Star* were led to feel that Harris' election was assured. The paper carried a number of announcements that Jacob F. Gerkins had withdrawn from the race for city marshal in favor of Emil Harris. John J. Carrillo had an impressive following, but with the switch of support from Gerkins to Harris, the latter's election seemed certain. The *Star* had even announced that Harris' election was "a foregone conclusion." What is more, it said that "when Harris gets to be Marshal, there will be a general 'get out' of thieves. . . ." It was remarked that "the robbers and thieves of Los Angeles are dead against him."[105]

The *Star* had forgotten the important Latin vote of Los Angeles. When all the votes had been counted, it was Emil Harris who congratulated John J. Carrillo on his successful candidacy for city marshal. Harris went down to defeat by the narrow margin of twenty-three votes.[106] The defeat only strengthened Harris' desire to win and increased the respect in which he was held by the community. Down with Harris went the slate. Later, however, those defeated in 1874, were to enjoy the sweet savor of success. The period of transition from Californio power to Anglo power was not yet complete. The Germans, of whatever faith, were honorary Anglos. When the latter group attained its majority, the balance of power shifted, and the outs were in and the ins were out. Three years later, lawman Harris would stand for the office again. Somewhat prophetically it was written: "Mr. Harris added large numbers to his list of friends by his manly canvass and will be found a much more formidable competitor in the next contest. . . ."[107]

Harris continued in police work after his defeat at the polls. In 1875 we find him as a Los Angeles County deputy sheriff working in close cooperation with his recent opponent, City Marshal Carrillo. The two jointly were "to effect the arrest of the assassin" who had shot his wife through the heart at the Rancho Ballona.[108] In 1876 Emil Harris was reappointed deputy by the sheriff. Harris and his partner, M. H. Mitchell, were described by the press as "two able and efficient officers."[109] Harris remained formidable. "There are between thirty and forty suspicious characters in this city, who are known to have no

respectable mode of earning a living. They are known to Emil Harris, the Marshal, and the police. . . ."[110]

In 1877, the title of city marshal was changed to that of chief of police. Bernard Cohn, who had been defeated with Harris in 1874, was serving as a city councilman in 1877. It was he who moved that the city council should fill the office of chief of police by appointment, whereupon he nominated Emil Harris. J. F. Gerkins was nominated to the same office. The tally showed Harris—5, Gerkins—2, and two blank ballots. "On motion, Mr. Harris was declared [on December 27, 1877] appointed as Chief of Police" of Los Angeles, succeeding J. F. Gerkins.[111] The press anticipated Harris' victory and this time it was right: "It looks to us . . . as if the outcome would be Emil Harris."[112] When the news broke it was reported about Harris, on the day before his thirty-eighth birthday: "He is young, energetic and indefatigable. He will make for himself a striking record of efficiency, or we are much mistaken."[113] Even the newspaper which had supported Gerkins, reluctantly praised Harris as an efficient officer. It was further reported that: "Some warm personal friends . . . went to his residence to give him a serenade . . . to an empty house, as both Mr. and Mrs. Harris were [away] from home. . . ."[114]

The *Alta* of San Francisco ran an article headed, "A merited reward."

> Emil Harris, who has been elected chief of police in Los Angeles, is well known as the leader of the party that captured the notorious bandit Vasquez and deserves the thanks of the whole State, as well as the particular reward just conferred on him by the people of Los Angeles, for his gallant efforts on that occasion. During his term of office Chief Harris proposes to rid Los Angeles of the thieves that make that city a rendezvous and will deserve the thanks of the people of that section.[115]

On the first day of 1878, the *Herald* announced simply that Emil Harris had assumed his duties. Los Angeles had its Jewish chief of police. Jews were an active part of the political life of the city and county of Los Angeles. Later in 1878, an Anglo-Jewish publication of Chicago reported:

> The following coreligionists hold municipal office in Los Angeles, California: Emil Harris, chief of police; I [saiah] M. Hellman, city treasurer; Charles Prager, [county] supervisor; Mr. B[ernard] Cohn is running for mayor and Samuel Prager is running for Tax collector. Just think of it, all of them Jews![116]

One of the first activities of Chief Harris was to remove the tarnish from the stars worn by his officers. He complained, in January 1878, before the city council, that private parties possessed police stars "and

that these stars were liable to be used for unlawful purposes." He also noted that it was the individual officer and not the force that owned the badges, and the officer "when discharged could retain the same."[117] The council decided to replace the old stars with a new type and to retain ownership of these when issued. They purchased them from Simon Nordlinger, a local jeweler.[118] Harris was to have a unique badge of his own. On February 14, 1878, he received a call to appear at once before the city council. He assumed that the council wanted him to explain something about his request for an ordinance that would enable him to suppress the local opium dens.[119] He was surprised when he was invited to sit among the council members,

> but the climax of his surprise was reached when Mayor [Frederick A.] MacDougall, taking from his desk a handsome case, in a few well chosen words, presented him a fine gold badge as the insignia of his office. The badge is in the form of a shield, consisting of solid gold elaborately wrought and enameled. The face bears the inscription "Los Angeles Chief of Police" and the reverse, "Presented to E. Harris by his friends—Los Angeles, Feb. 14, 1878." Mr. Harris was entirely taken by surprise, but he managed to utter a few words of grateful acknowledgement for the honor conferred upon him. It was a very pleasant episode and one which the City Fathers seemed to enjoy most heartily.[120]

Harris' duties as chief of police were somewhat more extensive than might be expected. All forms of deviant behavior were subject to his investigation. In addition to opium dens mentioned above, he was to control and restrict the operation of bawdy houses,[121] to clear the sidewalks of "all manner of stuff that seriously interfered with travel,"[122] to remove streetcar rails when they obstructed traffic,[123] to collect bond money from prisoners seeking release, to collect the funds for business licenses,[124] to inforce the sanitary ordinances when citations were issued by the health officer,[125] to remove illegally stored gunpowder and ammunition,[126] to investigate the hangouts of hoodlums,[127] to inforce the rules against cruelty to animals such as the exhibition of the "so-called headless rooster,"[128] and, judging by the volume of press reports, he spent a good deal of time as dog catcher and protector of man's best friend.

It was during his term as chief that a dog pound was established at the cost of fifty dollars, to effect the "abatement of the dog nuisance. . . ."[129] Harris received fifty per cent of the receipts from dog licensing and from June to late November, 1878, for example, he collected $160.50 for this.[130] That the dog nuisance was a serious problem is indicated by the

fact that Harris' dog catcher had captured fourteen dogs one morning by eleven o'clock.[131] Harris also supervised the recovery of lost dogs, such as that of Mr. Max Cohn of Mojave who had lost his valuable setter.[132]

Chief Harris was a professional. He wanted the image and the substance of a professional police force. Early in his term and subsequently, he communicated with the city council to inform them that his office and its furnishings were inadequate to the proper operation of his department.[133] He said that his office did "not admit of any privacy," and during his term his headquarters was removed to the room previously occupied by Holbrook's tinshop, adjoining the Dollar Store on Spring Street.[134] It was during his administration that the council police committee examined the jail to see what repairs and changes were needed and arranged to furnish blankets when necessary for the prisoners. Twelve pairs of blankets were acquired and a window was placed in the "female cell."[135] Harris also suggested that officers be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred when arresting people outside of the city. The council adopted the proposal and funded the program from fines collected from convicted persons.[136]

As chief, Emil Harris gave his men orders and he personally supported them in their activities. When he recovered a horse "which had been hypothecated" from a citizen, he dispatched two officers to find the thief. Spotting a gang of tramps he assigned an officer to watch them. This worthy saw the vagrants entering an empty freight car and proceeded to lock them in for the night.[137] Concerned about the safety of lawmen, Harris asked that drivers of the chain gang carts be provided with arms, since some prisoners had escaped and the overseer of the chain gang needed assistance to maintain custody.[138] When duties increased, the chief sought and was given authorization to engage four extra policemen for a month. He made his selection from fifty applicants.[139] Harris needed to protect his men because there was no shortage of citizens who baited the department.

The cry of police brutality was heard in 1878. An anonymous citizen said in a letter to an editor that there were "certain members of the community" ready to obstruct the machinery of the law. Some had accused the chief of police of misconduct in the "incarceration of a raving maniac." The letter writer indicated that "meddlesome, self-sufficient" persons objected to the police using "the necessary force and no more." He felt that "If you want good officers and those who will faithfully perform their duties, you must protect and encourage them

in all lawful" activities.[140] The sentiment was indicative of the public concern for an efficient force in a community which was just emerging from its frontier lawlessness. Emil Harris addressed himself to this problem of the gradually emerging city.

The chief was a man of insight and instinct. When a local woman resisted going to court by lying down on the sidewalk and refusing to move, Harris had only to talk to her for a moment or two whereupon she arose and went quietly. On another occasion a man who was thought to be insane was brought to the police station. The chief determined that he was ill and suffering from a serious headache.[141]

Two of the major cases of which Harris took personal charge were those of the Temple and Workman Bank robbery and the murder of T. Wallace Moore. The 1878 bank robbery was solved by the chief following a brilliant analysis of the physical evidence which showed him that it was an inside job designed to look like that of an outsider.[142] Harris' work on Moore's murder began in 1877 and continued to its successful conclusion while he was chief. The press noted that Harris had shown sagacity in his pursuit of the criminal and used a methodology which employed many ingenious disguises.[143]

Juvenile delinquency was an old problem when the city was still new. Harris personally took charge of police efforts to discover the perpetrators of a number of petty thefts which were suffered by local merchants including Louis Lewin, M. W. Childs and Samuel Hellman. The main objects stolen were knives. Detective work determined that juveniles were guilty and a boy of eight was leader of the gang. The boys denied their guilt. "Finally the chief convinced them that further denial would be useless." Whereupon the lads took the chief to the place where the stolen articles were buried. The press account made this summary observation:

> The children, when first charged with the thefts, were as cool and self-possessed as old hands and stoutly denied that they had anything to do with the robberies. . . . The youngsters are all respectably connected and go to one of the city schools.[144]

Two juveniles, a boy and a girl, were reported missing, in love, and possibly eloping.

> Chief Harris from the first suspected that the mother of the would-be benedict knew something of the movements of her son and therefore, set a watch on her movements. Yesterday morning his astuteness was rewarded by seeing her take

a buggy and drive off. An officer followed her and was led to Santa Monica where he found the children. . . .[145]

Harris was right. The couple promised to get married anyway when they reached eighteen. The boy's mother did not object. The girl was a prospective heiress of $40,000.

It was the custom for the chief of police to report regularly to the city council and to provide them with a monthly statistical summary of the activities of the department. During Harris' first month in office he informed the council that he had attended to their orders and was seeking a manner in which provision might be made for reimbursing officers "who have to leave the city in pursuit of fugitives."[146] At the end of January 1878, his report included the following: six misdemeanor arrests, two for assault and battery, four for battery, one for assault, eleven for petty larceny, twelve for drunkenness, two for fast driving, three for assault with deadly weapons, one for grand larceny, twelve for trespassing, one for insanity, there was one defaulting witness, two arrested for resisting an officer, five for vagrancy, one for indecent exposure, two for cheating, and one for burglary. A total of $758.50 was reported stolen, of which $618.00 was reported recovered.[147]

Another example, that for November, 1878, is instructive. There were 138 arrests in the following categories: trespass, 58; drunk, 20; misdemeanor, 14; battery, 12; petit larceny, 9; vagrancy, 9; assault to kill, 5; grand larceny, 3; burglary, 2; and one each for abduction, arson, exhibiting a deadly weapon, fast driving, murder, and robbery.[148]

By the closing months of 1878, it was apparent that the Los Angeles city government was to undergo a major upheaval. By the end of the year every member of the city council was replaced following the election of December 2, 1878. Almost every city official was likewise out of office. Mayor Frederick A. MacDougall had died on November 16, 1878. Councilman Bernard Cohn, who had nominated Harris for the position of chief a year earlier, "was unanimously elected Mayor pro tem to fill the vacancy. . . ."[149] In the closing weeks of their terms, Los Angeles had a Jewish chief of police serving under a Jewish mayor. This was the first and last time that a Jew was to hold either office in the City of the Angels.

At the end of Emil Harris' term as chief, an incident occurred which momentarily cast a shadow on his otherwise exemplary service. On election day, December 2, one of Harris' men, Officer Tribolet, who had

been assigned to duty at the voting precinct located at the depot from which trains were dispatched to Santa Monica, came to the downtown area for lunch. He had left his post without being relieved by another officer, contrary to his instructions by the chief. At the unauthorized lunch break, Tribolet allegedly met a friend, a Frenchman, Jean Marie Levique, who told him that Aaron Smith was buying votes for $2.50 each.

At this time, Chief Harris came upon the scene and discovered that Tribolet was away from his post. He ordered him back to duty at the train depot precinct. Tribolet was later to claim that he tried to tell Harris about the vote buying. Instead of returning to his post, Tribolet went around the block, presumably to seek the opportunity of arresting Smith for vote buying. But Harris spotted him again and ordered his arrest. At the police station, Tribolet refused to give up his star, whereupon Harris had to strip it from him. Tribolet had gone for his gun, making it necessary for officers Thomas Rowan and Jesus Bilderrain to restrain him.[150]

A highly prejudicial report, later proven unwarranted by the facts, appeared in the *Star*. It was undoubtedly supplied by Tribolet. In this version Harris and his officers were accused of making a cowardly assault on a faithful fellow officer who was only doing his duty. This account gave as motivation for the affair a previous argument between Harris and Tribolet in which the chief was said to have removed the officer's star "in the heat of excitement, but restored it after deliberation." Tribolet claimed that at the station he was the victim of "brave Tommy Rowan [who] held a huge knife at his breast, and the gallant Chief held aloft a chair in a threatening attitude."[151] None of these allegations held up in the subsequent proceedings. It was to the small credit of the *Star* that after printing the libelous account it issued a provisional disclaimer. The next day Harris denied "in toto the version given in yesterday's *Star*... and asks suspension of opinion pending legal investigation."[152] It was the cool response of a professional officer.

Tribolet brought charges against Harris before the city council, which decided to meet as a committee of the whole to fully investigate the matter.[153] At the hearing which opened on December 9, with Mayor Cohn in the chair, Harris counter-charged that Tribolet had admitted paying for votes himself and expected to make one hundred dollars in the illicit process.[154] This provided the motivation for Tribolet's charges, which were apparently designed to deflect attention from himself to Harris' friend and coreligionist, Aaron Smith, who had been accused by

the officer of the same charge of vote buying. Smith was a man of good repute, a member of the important Hebrew Benevolent Society, the compiler of the Los Angeles city directory of 1878, which had been published by the Mirror Printing House, and he was a partner in the firm of Smith and Walter, a pioneer carpet and wallpaper firm founded by 1870.[155] At the hearing Aaron Smith testified that the charge against him was "false in every particular."[156]

With Tribolet admitting that bad blood existed between Harris and himself, with Officer Bilderrain supporting the chief in his testimony and with the established reputation of Aaron Smith, the action of the hearing board sustained Harris in his dismissal of Tribolet.[157] Surprisingly, a further judgment was issued, in which Harris was held derelict in his duty for "failing to follow up the clues, as to violation of the election laws."[158] One may speculate on the unusual decision of admonishing the chief on the word of an officer held by council and chief to be discredited. It is possible that Cohn, in his influential position, wanted to achieve two things by this mild rebuke of Harris: first, he may have wished to deny detractors a basis for claiming that there was any religio-ethnic preference or favoritism involved in the hearing. Second, he may have actually wished to protect Harris from any subsequent civil action by Tribolet or the newly elected city council, which was on the eve of assuming power.

When the all-new city council voted on a chief of police for 1879, Harris was hardly a serious contender. He received two out of fourteen votes on the first ballot and none thereafter. He was succeeded by the blacksmith, Henry King, after eight ballots were cast.[159] Harris left the force.[160]

Emil Harris remained active in law enforcement after leaving the city police. He was almost immediately deputized for special work. One of his first assignments, in January 1879, was to convey a prisoner sentenced for murder to San Quentin prison.[161] It is to be noted that with the rapid turnover of police chiefs in Los Angeles, these former officials were in many cases given the opportunity to continue to utilize their expertise as lawmen. Henry King, Harris' successor, appointed J. F. Gerkins, Harris' predecessor as office deputy.[162]

In March 1879, the local press reported that Emil Harris had established a private detective agency at number eleven Downey Block.[163] Harris appears to have been among the first, if not the first, professionally experienced peace officer to become a private investigator and security officer. He combined his private practice with intermittent

service on special cases for public law enforcement agencies and in the late 1880s he did, for a time, serve as a captain of police, under Chief James F. Burns.[164] Somewhat earlier, Harris acted as a deputy constable assigned to the court of Judge R. A. Ling.[165]

The citizenry of Los Angeles was soon to appreciate the loss sustained when Harris and his experienced officers were out as a result of the change in city hall politics. Within a few months of his successor's term, the local press gave sardonic voice to a widespread feeling that the new police department was inefficient in the prevention and prosecution of crime.

> It is time for the police force of Los Angeles to show the stuff it is made of. Burglaries are abounding in this city, and they are committed by the same old set whom wide awake citizens, three weeks ago, felt a dread of as they saw them standing around waiting for a door or window that could be pried open. These fellows are still walking about, known, apparently, to everybody but the police. The police force is a costly one whose maintenance is only justified by its efficiency. The department in Los Angeles is quite justified in knowing as much as the average citizen does, and in shadowing the fellows who make life and property insecure. Spot these burglaries and follow up the burglars. If they are kept under the eye of efficient policemen they will find no time to break open and steal.[166]

From 1890 on, Emil Harris functioned as a private detective and in that capacity he handled business cases, served papers for attorneys, conducted a merchants' patrol, acted as a notary and was associated with a related business, the Southern California Arms Company.[167] His career as a private investigator, which he pursued for almost four decades, until 1918, was an extension of his highly respected public service. Herman W. Frank, a notable business and civic figure, engaged Emil Harris to solve a burglary of his store (Harris and Frank—Leopold Harris and Herman W. Frank). The store was located, from 1883 to 1906, at the southwest corner of Spring and Temple streets. Detective Harris quickly solved the case.[168] On occasion, Harris was specially deputized so that he might make an official, rather than a citizen's arrest, when taking into custody a suspect allegedly guilty of a criminal act against one of his clients.[169] He kept up his skill as a marksman. In 1882, he won a first prize, a Winchester rifle, in a shooting match.[170]

Throughout his lifetime, Emil Harris maintained social, professional and fraternal ties to the Jewish community. His youth work in the Turn Verein in the 1870s was with a largely Jewish group. This same interest in Jewish youth was to see him, with his younger brother Max, become

one of the prime movers in the founding of a Young Men's Hebrew Association in Los Angeles near the end of 1887. At the first anniversary ball of the Y.M.H.A., significantly held at the Turn Verein Hall, Max served as chairman of the committee of arrangements as well as floor director and Emil was the chairman of the reception committee which welcomed 250 guests, "among whom were some of the prettiest girls in Los Angeles." Active members of the Y.M.H.A., included some of the most prominent young Jewish figures of Los Angeles. Among them were Siegfried G. Marshutz, later to be the founding president of the Southern California Jewish Orphans' Asylum (now Vista del Mar Child Care Agency); Max Loewenthal, one of the pioneer Jewish attorneys of the city and the author of many of California's fish and game laws; Henry W. Louis and Daniel J. Brownstein, early Los Angeles garment manufacturers; and Homer C. Katz, who was to be very active with the Native Sons of the Golden West.[171]

Emil Harris' interest in Jewish life led him to affiliate with and support the first Jewish orphans' home in the West, located in San Francisco.[172] In addition, he is remembered as an early, prominent member of Congregation B'nai B'rith (now known as the Wilshire Boulevard Temple).[173]

Little is known about Harris' family. His wife, Lede, was the recipient of a fine birthday gift from Emil in 1872:

> Officer Harris yesterday filed a deed of a lot fronting on Main Street, valued at five hundred dollars, which he will present to his wife today as a birthday present, and no doubt agreeably surprise her.[174]

Six years later, Harris and his wife acquired a piece of property on the north side of Sainsevain Street from "Frau" Elizabeth Wiebecke, for $1,800. Mrs. Wiebecke's beer garden had been the first site of the Turn Verein activities with which Emil Harris was so closely identified. Emil and Lede Harris held the property for only three months before selling it at a profit to Jacob Cohn.[175]

Emil Harris' relationship to his brother Max was a close one. Max was ten years younger than Emil, and he was three inches taller than his detective brother, who measured a modest five feet seven inches.[176] Max was active in the Jewish community and possessed a considerable estate.[177]

During the last three years of his life, Emil Harris was retired. He suffered from a heart condition and in 1919 was admitted to Lincoln

Hospital for a brief period. His physician was Dr. Philip Newmark, a member of the leading Jewish family of Los Angeles.[178] Dr. Newmark was in attendance when Harris died on April 28, 1921, at age eighty-two. The cause of death was listed as myocarditis.[179] He was buried at Home of Peace Cemetery on May 1, 1921.[180]

Emil Harris' death was regarded as the close of an era by the *Los Angeles Times:*

> Finish will be written at the end of another chapter of the city's early history . . . when funeral services will be held in the Riedeman Chapel . . . for Emil Harris, town marshal [sic] of the pueblo of Los Angeles fifty years ago. . . . He was one of the best known peace officers in Southern California.[181]

Chief Emil Harris was a man before his time, the predecessor of those later officers who were to master scientific and psychological detection. He was an important pioneer of Los Angeles law enforcement. In his lifetime he justly enjoyed acclaim for his professional skills, courage and perseverance. He made rich contributions to the civic, fraternal, and athletic life of the City of the Angels. And his life story is a striking example of the abundant veins that are to be found by ethnic research into the history of the American experience, which is constantly producing new evidence to break down old stereotypes. Emil Harris was but one example of a pioneer western Jewish law officer whose career illustrates the variations in frontier Jewish life.



Police Chief Emil Harris

NOTES

[1] J. M. Guinn, *Historical and Biographical Record of Southern California* (Chicago, 1902), p. 1090; *Great Register of Los Angeles County 1888*, p. 48. Carol J. Cohen, Sheila Kaplan, George Marx and Jordan Monkarsh are California State University, Northridge, students who rendered assistance in research.

[2] Guinn, *Historical and Biographical Record*, p. 48. The membership roll of the Pioneers of Los Angeles County shows April 9, 1867, as the arrival date, but the overall chronology supports the 1869 date. *Annual Publication of the Pioneers of Los Angeles County 1902*, p. 210.

[3] *Los Angeles Daily News*, May 19, 1870, p. 2, c.3; *Great Register of Los Angeles County 1875*, p. 45, registered on June 25, 1869.

[4] Harris Newmark, *Sixty Years in Southern California 1853–1913* (4th ed.; Los Angeles, 1970), p. 405.

[5] *Los Angeles Daily News*, November 9, 1869, p. 2, c. 2, November 16, 1869, p. 3, c. 1.

[6] *Los Angeles Daily Star*, July 12, 1870, p. 3, c. 1.

[7] Henry Wartenberg was a partner of Wolf Kalisher in the processing of hides to produce leather goods. He also was very active in the Odd Fellows.

[8] *Los Angeles Daily News*, October 22, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.

[9] *Los Angeles Daily Star*, May 15, 1874, p. 3, c. 4.

[10] "Nigger Alley" or Calle de los Negros, did not refer to a Black community, but rather to a settlement of Californios who were regarded as being of swarthy complexion by the Anglos. See *The Quarterly, Historical Society of Southern California*, XXVI June-September 1944), 98, in which the *Los Angeles Express*, March 24, 1877, is quoted.

[11] *Los Angeles Star*, October 25, 1871, p. 3, c. 2; Newmark, *Sixty Years*, p. 432.

[12] Horace Bell, *On the Old West Coast* (New York, 1930), pp. 170–172; *Los Angeles Daily Star*, October 24, 1871, p. 3, c. 2; October 25, 1871, p. 3, c. 1. For another version see Paul M. De Falla, "Lantern in the Western Sky," *The Historical Society of Southern California Quarterly*, XLII (March 1960), 57ff.

[13] Bell, *On the Old West Coast*, p. 176.

[14] *Los Angeles Daily News*, October 25, 1871, p. 3, c. 1. See also *Los Angeles Daily Star*, October 27, 1871, p. 3, c. 5.

[15] *Ibid.*, October 26, 1871, p. 3, c. 4.

[16] *Ibid.*, c. 3.

[17] *Ibid.*, cs. 2–4; *Los Angeles Daily News*, October 26, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.

[18] *Ibid.*, November 9, 1871, p. 3, c. 2; December 3, 1871, p. 3, cs. 2–4.

[19] *Los Angeles Daily Star*, January 31, 1872, p. 3, c. 1.

[20] "After the 'Massacre,' the Chinese government made a vigorous protest and the United States paid a heavy indemnity." Marco R. Newmark, "Calle de los Negros and the Chinese Massacre of 1871," *The Quarterly, Historical Society of Southern California*, XXVI (June-September 1944), 98.

[21] *Los Angeles Daily Star*, November 21, 1874, p. 3, c. 1, quoting the *Daily Alta California*.

[22] Robert Greenwood, comp., *The California Outlaw: Tiburcio Vasquez* (Los Gatos, Calif., 1960), p. 13.

[23] *Ibid.*, pp. 258–259.

[24] *Los Angeles Daily Star*, May 15, 1874, p. 3, c. 2.

[25] Newmark, *Sixty Years*, pp. 456–457.

[26] Guinn, *Historical and Biographical Record*, p. 48.

[27] *Los Angeles Daily Star*, May 22, 1874, p. 3, c. 1.

[28] *Ibid.*, July 4, 1871, p. 3, c. 2; July 20, 1871, p. 3, cl. 1; October 19, 1871, p. 2, c. 1.

[29] *Ibid.*, May 22, 1874, p. 3, c. 1; June 12, 1874, p. 3, c. 2. A similar incident with similar results occurred in 1875. See *Los Angeles Daily Star*, May 2, 1875, p. 4, c. 2.

[30] *Ibid.*, May 15, 1871, p. 3, c. 4.

[31] *Ibid.*, December 13, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.

[32] *Ibid.*, February 5, 1872, p. 2, c. 3.
[33] *Ibid.*
[34] *Ibid.*, September 12, 1874, p. 3, c. 1.
[35] *Ibid.*, December 1, 1874, p. 3, c. 1.
[36] *Ibid.*, December 25, 1874, p. 3, c. 2.
[37] *Ibid.*, July 25, 1874, p. 3, c. 1.
[38] *Ibid.*, March 8, 1872, p. 3, c. 3.
[39] *Ibid.*, January 13, 1874, p. 3, c. 1.
[40] *Ibid.*, October 19, 1871, p. 2, c. 1.
[41] *Ibid.*, August 30, 1873, p. 3, c. 1.
[42] *Ibid.*, August 13, 1874, p. 3, c. 2.
[43] *Ibid.*, January 29, 1872, p. 2, c. 3.
[44] *Los Angeles Daily News*, August 22, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.
[45] *Ibid.*, April 30, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.
[46] *Los Angeles Daily Star*, July 22, 1872, p. 3, c. 1.
[47] *Ibid.*, October 25, 1873, p. 3, cs. 1–2.
[48] *Ibid.*, April 2, 1871, p. 3, c. 2.
[49] *Ibid.*, December 18, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.
[50] *Ibid.*, April 21, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.
[51] *Los Angeles Daily Herald*, December 4, 1877, p. 3, c. 3.
[52] *Ventura Signal*, July 28, 1877, p. 1, c. 7.
[53] *Los Angeles Daily Star*, September 13, 1874, p. 3, c. 1.
[54] *Ibid.*, November 15, 1873, p. 3, c. 1.
[55] *Ibid.*, September 2, 1872, p. 3, c. 3.
[56] *Ibid.*, March 16, 1876, p. 4, c. 1.
[57] *Ibid.*, September 1, 1875, p. 4, c. 3.
[58] *Ibid.*, August 17, 1876, p. 4, c. 1.
[59] *Los Angeles Daily News*, July 20, 1871, p. 3, c. 3.
[60] *Ibid.*, July 4, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.
[61] Later the pioneer Arizona merchant and grandfather of Senator Barry Goldwater.
[62] *Los Angeles Daily News*, May 9, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.
[63] *Ibid.*, January 28, 1871, p. 3, c. 3.
[64] *Los Angeles Daily Star*, March 28, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.
[65] *Ibid.*, March 12, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.
[66] *Ibid.*, March 24, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.
[67] *Ibid.*, July 19, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.
[68] *Ibid.*, July 15, 1873, p. 3, c. 2; August 7, 1873, p. 3, c. 3. See also on a related affair, *Ibid.*, February 24, 1872, p. 3, c. 3.
[69] *Ibid.*, April 19, 1871, p. 3, c. 2.
[70] *Ibid.*, March 11, 1871, p. 3, c. 2.
[71] *Los Angeles Daily News*, November 14, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.
[72] Henry Eno, *Twenty Years on the Pacific Slope*, edited by W. Turrentine Jackson (New Haven, 1965), pp. 196–197.
[73] Lamberta M. Voget, "The Germans in Los Angeles County California" (Los Angeles, 1933), typescript [in the author's possession].
[74] *Los Angeles Daily News*, May 19, 1870, p. 2, c. 3.
[75] *Ibid.*, June 1, 1870, p. 3, c. 2.
[76] *Los Angeles Daily Star*, June 3, 1870, p. 3, c. 2.
[77] *Ibid.*, April 18, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.
[78] *Los Angeles Daily News*, May 17, 1871, p. 3, c. 2.
[79] *Ibid.*, May 23, 1871, p. 3, c. 2.

[80] *Ibid.*, p. 3, c. 1.

[81] *Los Angeles Daily Star,* May 23, 1871, p. 3, c. 2.

[82] *Ibid.*, October 9, 1871, p. 2, c. 2; March 8, 1873, p. 3, c. 2; March 10, 1873, p. 3, c. 1.; March 1, 1874, p. 2, c. 3; March 7, 1875, p. 4, c. 2; February 13, 1876, p. 4, c. 5.

[83] *Ibid.*, March 8, 1873, p. 3, c. 2.

[84] *Ibid.*, February 13, 1876, p. 4, cs. 5–6.

[85] *Ibid.*, February 29, 1876, p. 4, c. 1. Conrad Jacoby was the publisher of the *Sud Californische Post,* the first German language newspaper of southern California, which Jacoby had founded in 1874. Jacoby's brother, Philo Jacoby, was the publisher-editor of *The Hebrew* of San Francisco and was well known as the leading strong man of that city, as well as a champion rifle marksman.

[86] *Los Angeles Daily Star,* April 5, 1876, p. 4, c 1; April 6, 1876, p. 4, c. 2.

[87] *Ibid.*, April 30, 1876, p. 4, cs. 1–2.

[88] *Ibid.*, October 3, 1876, p. 4, c. 2.

[89] *Ibid.*, July 13, 1876, p. 4, c. 2.

[90] Guinn, *Historical and Biographical Record,* p. 48.

[91] Max Vorspan and Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews of Los Angeles* (Philadelphia, 1970), p. 305.

[92] *Seventy-fifth Anniversary, Los Angeles Lodge, No. 35, Independent Order of Odd Fellows* (Inglewood, Calif., 1930), p. 3.

[93] *Los Angeles Weekly Republican,* December 26, 1868, p. 3, c. 1; *Los Angeles Daily News,* May 19, 1870, p. 3, c. 2.

[94] *Ibid.*, January 9, 1870, p. 3, c. 1; January 1, 1871, p. 3, c. 1.

[95] *Ibid.*, April 19, 1871, p. 2, c. 4 (advertisement).

[96] Guinn, *Biographical and Historical Record,* p. 48. Golden Rule Lodge No. 160, I.O.O.F., had been organized on July 9, 1869. J. Albert Wilson, *History of Los Angeles County California* (Oakland, Calif., 1880), p. 122.

[97] *Los Angeles Daily Star,* September 17, 1874, p. 3, c. 1.

[98] *Ibid.*, September 29, 1874, p. 2, c. 5. City Marshal was the then-current title of the chief of police.

[99] *Ibid.*, November 21, 1874, p. 3, c. 1, a reprinting of the item from the *Daily Alta California.*

[100] *Los Angeles Daily Star,* November 21, 1874, p. 3, c. 1.

[101] *Ibid.*, December 6, 1874, p. 2, c. 2.

[102] *Ibid.*, December 1, 1874, p. 3, c. 5; *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* December 5, 1874, p. 3, cs. 4–5.

[103] *Los Angeles Daily Star,* December 3, 1874, p 2, c. 2.

[104] *Ibid.*, December 5, 1874, p. 2, c. 1.

[105] *Ibid.*, December 4, 1874, p. 2, c. 3; December 5, 1874, p. 2, c. 2; December 6, 1874, p. 2, c. 2.

[106] Another factor that may have contributed to Harris' unexpected defeat was the substantial vote that went to B. Frank Hartlee, the third candidate for marshal. *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* December 9, 1874, p. 3, c. 4.

[107] *Los Angeles Daily Star,* December 9, 1874, p. 3, c. 1.

[108] *Ibid.*, April 4, 1875, p. 4, c. 3.

[109] *Ibid.*, March 7, 1876, p. 4, c. 3; John Steven McGroarty, *Los Angeles From the Mountains to the Sea* (Chicago, 1921), p. 365.

[110] *Los Angeles Daily Star,* February 29, 1876, p. 2, c. 1.

[111] Los Angeles City Council Minutes, December 27, 1877.

[112] *Daily Herald,* Los Angeles, December 27, 1877, p. 3, c. 2. Earlier the same newspaper had reported that a caucus of the city council "stood four for Emil Harris and four for Chief Gerkins. This is mere rumor." *Ibid.*, December 20, 1877, p. 3, c. 2.

[113] *Ibid.*, December 28, 1877, p. 3, c. 2.

[114] *Los Angeles Daily Star,* December 29, 1877, p. 3, cs. 2–3.

[115] *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* January 3, 1878, p. 3, c. 3, quoting the *Daily Alta California,* San Francisco, December 31, 1877.

[116] *The Jewish Advance,* Chicago, August 9, 1878, p. 3, c. 1. In addition, Maurice Kremer was the county tax collector and Solomon Lazard was the president of the quasi-official Chamber of Commerce, and had served as chairman of the "Committee of Safety" concerned with effective policing of Los Angeles in 1877. *Los Angeles Daily Republican,* August 4, 1877, p. 3, c. 2.

[117] Los Angeles City Council Minutes, January 17, 1878.

[118] *Ibid.,* January 24, 1878, March 21, 1878. Simon Nordlinger had arrived in Los Angeles in 1869.

[119] *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* February 15, 1878, p. 3, cs. 3–4.

[120] *Ibid.* The tradition of presenting a gold star to the chief began with Harris, and continued with his successor, Henry King. *Los Angeles Daily Star,* February 4, 1879, p. 3, c. 2.

[121] *Los Angeles Daily Republican,* June 22, 1877, p. 3, c. 3. See also Los Angeles City Council Minutes, June 20, 1878.

[122] *Los Angeles Daily Republican,* May 17, 1878, p. 3, c. 1.

[123] *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* January 4, 1878, p. 3, c. 3.

[124] *Ibid.,* January 27, 1878, p. 3, c. 3; Los Angeles City Council minutes, May 2, 1878.

[125] *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* September 13, 1878, p. 3, c. 4.

[126] *Ibid.,* October 11, 1878, p. 3, c. 4.

[127] *Ibid.,* October 4, 1878, p. 3, c. 2.

[128] *Ibid.,* October 2, 1878, p. 3, c. 2.

[129] *Ibid.,* May 31, 1878, p. 3, c. 4.

[130] *Ibid.,* November 30, 1878, p. 3, c. 4.

[131] *Los Angeles Evening Express,* September 23, 1878, p. 3, c. 3.

[132] *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* July 10, 1878, p. 3, c. 2.

[133] *Ibid.,* January 4, 1878, p. 3, c. 3, March 29, 1878, p. 3, c. 4; *Los Angeles Evening Express,* August 30, 1878, p. 1, c. 2.

[134] *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* August 31, 1878, p. 3, c. 2, December 13, 1878, p. 3, c. 2.

[135] *Ibid.,* February 8, 1878, p. 3, c. 4, February 15, 1878, p. 3, c. 4.

[136] *Ibid.,* January 18, 1878, p. 3, cs. 4–5.

[137] *Ibid.,* February 6, 1878, p. 3, c. 4, February 20, 1878, p. 3, c. 2.

[138] Los Angeles City Council Minutes, January 31, 1878; *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* February 1, 1878, p. 3, c. 4.

[139] *Ibid.,* November 8, 1878, p. 3, c. 2; December 13, 1878, p. 2, c. 3.

[140] *Ibid.,* February 20, 1878, p. 3, c. 4; February 24, 1878, p. 3, c. 5.

[141] *Ibid.,* February 5, 1878, p. 3, c. 5; February 13, 1878, p. 3, c. 3.

[142] *Ibid.,* March 17, 1878, p. 3, cs. 4–5.

[143] *Ibid.,* April 16, 1878, p. 3, c. 3.

[144] *Ibid.,* February 24, 1878, p. 3, c. 6.

[145] *Ibid.,* January 12, 1878, p. 3, c. 3.

[146] *Ibid.,* January 11, 1878, p. 3, c. 4.

[147] *Ibid.,* February 1, 1878, p. 3, c. 4.

[148] *Ibid.,* December 6, 1878, p. 3, c. 4.

[149] *Ibid.,* November 22, 1878, p. 3, c. 2; Los Angeles City Council Minutes, November 21, 1878. Cohn served as Los Angeles mayor from November 21 to December 19, 1878. Harris was a signer of a memorial tribute to Dr. MacDougall, which was published in the *Los Angeles Daily Star,* November 17, 1878, p. 3, c. 3.

[150] *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* December 10, 1878, p. 3, cs. 3–4.

[151] *Los Angeles Daily Star,* December 3, 1878, p. 3, c. 4.

[152] *Ibid.,* December 4, 1878, p. 3, c. 2.

[153] *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* December 6, 1878, p. 3, c. 4.

[154] *Ibid.,* December 10, 1878, p. 3, cs. 3–4.

[155] *Los Angeles Daily News,* October 13, 1871, p. 2, c. 2; Newmark, *Sixty Years,* p. 377. In 1890, Aaron Smith was a deputy auditor for Los Angeles County. *Los Angeles City Directory 1890* (Los Angeles, 1890), p. 653. See also *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* November 18, 1882, p. 3, c. 2.

[156] *Ibid.,* December 10, 1878, p. 3, c. 4.

[157] *Ibid.,* December 10, 1878, p. 3, c. 4; December 11, 1878, p. 3, c. 2.

[158] *Ibid.*

[159] Los Angeles City Council Minutes, December 19 and 20, 1878; *Directory of Los Angeles City 1878* (Los Angeles, 1878), p. 64.

[160] *Los Angeles Daily Star,* January 4, 1879, p. 3, c. 3.

[161] *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* January 9, 1879, p. 3, c. 1.

[162] *Ibid.,* January 9, 1879, p. 3, c. 2.

[163] *Los Angeles Daily Star,* March 23, 1879, p. 3, c. 3. The Downey Block was at the northwest corner of Temple and Spring streets in the heart of the business district.

[164] Newmark, *Sixty Years,* p. 425. Burns was chief from April 1, 1889 to July 10. 1889. Official List, Chiefs of Police, Los Angeles Police Department.

[165] *Los Angeles City and County Directory of 1883–4* (Los Angeles, 1884), p. 112.

[166] *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* May 28, 1879, p. 3, c. 3.

[167] Los Angeles city directories, 1890 to 1918.

[168] Herman W. Frank, *Scrapbook of a Western Pioneer* (Los Angeles, 1934), p. 92.

[169] *Los Angeles Times,* March 31, 1885, p. 4, c. 5.

[170] *Los Angeles Daily Herald,* January 21, 1882, p. 3, c. 3.

[171] *Los Angeles Times,* November 30, 1888, p. 2, c. 2; Vorspan and Gartner, *History of the Jews of Los Angeles,* p. 317.

[172] *Pacific Hebrew Orphan Asylum and Home Society* (San Francisco, 1886–7), p. 27.

[173] *B'nai B'rith Messenger,* Los Angeles, June 7, 1929, Section two, p. 9, c. 1.

[174] *Los Angeles Daily Star,* March 26, 1872, p. 3, c. 2.

[175] Los Angeles County, Deed Book No. 58, p. 635, No. 62, p. 292; Newmark, *Sixty Years,* p. 409.

[176] *The Great Register of Los Angeles County, 1890,* p. 37; *1892,* p. 76.

[177] *Condon's Blue Book of Wealth* (Los Angeles, 1927), p. 173.

[178] Dr. Philip Newmark was the first physician in charge of the Kaspare Cohn Hospital (now the Cedars-Sinai Hospital) in 1902. *B'nai B'rith Messenger,* Los Angeles, April 19, 1929, p. 3, c. 3.

[179] Lincoln Hospital, 443 South Soto Street, Los Angeles, Medical Records, for Emil Harris.

[180] *Los Angeles Times,* April 20, 1921, Part I, p. 16, c. 8. He is buried in the northeast section, row six grave forty-two.

[181] *Ibid.,* p. 6, c. 5.



THE YOUNG SECOND GENERATION, LOS ANGELES, 1896

Early in 1896 a number of young men whose families belonged to Congregation B'nai B'rith, Los Angeles, established the Young Men's Hebrew Culture Association. Rabbi Michael G. Solomon was their "patron and instructor." Soon after its founding the group consisted of fourteen boys in their late teens, of which twelve are pictured above. George N. Black was the president, and Marco R. Newmark the secretary. Practically all of them were active members of the Southland's Jewish community in their maturity. Left to right, top row — Abraham Kremer, Samuel Behrendt, Marco H. Hellman, Leo W. Barnett, Isaiah M. Norton; bottom row — Henry M. Newmark, Isaac O. Levy, George N. Black, Albert M. Norton, Edgar Baruch, Robert Newmark and Samuel T. Norton. See *The Jewish Progress*, San Francisco, February 7, 1896, p. 5, March 13, 1896, p. 5.



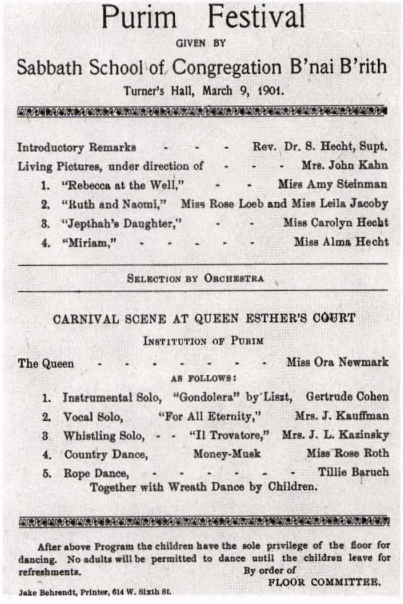
LOS ANGELES HOME OF THE HERMAN W. HELLMANS

During the 1890s while Herman W. Hellman was serving as president of Congregation B'nai B'rith, Los Angeles, he and his family occupied this home at 958 South Hill Street. Born in 1843 in Bavaria, Hellman came to Los Angeles in 1859 with his brother Isaias, to join their somewhat older cousins, Samuel and Isaiah Hellman. Herman worked for Phineas Banning as an office boy briefly, then for his cousin Samuel in his book and stationery store. Then he operated his own fancy goods and stationery store on Main Street until 1870. He returned to Europe that year where he married Ida Heimann. In 1871, he founded the wholesale grocery firm of Hellman, Haas & Company with Jacob Haas and Bernard Cohn. From 1890 until his death in 1906, Hellman was in banking. The Hellman children were Frida (Mrs. Louis M. Cole), Amy (Mrs. Sollie Aronson), Marco and Irving. The house pictured above was occupied by the Hellmans well into the twentieth century, and for a number of years by Ida Hellman after her husband's passing.



AT CABIN BIG SLEEP, IN THE ARROYO SECO, 1912

The three young Angelenos above are pictured sitting in front of the vacation cabin which they built in the Arroyo Seco, above Pasadena, California. Left to right: Laurence Lewin, Isaac Levy and Ross Lewin. The Lewins' grandfather was Solomon Lazard, French-born, who had arrived in Los Angeles in 1851. He married Caroline Newmark in 1865. Laurence was born in Los Angeles in 1890, and he was unusually well-posted on the early Jewish families of the city. He and his brother Ross (born 1892) worked for many years for the Brownstein, Louis clothing manufacturing and jobbing company. Isaac Levy was born in Los Angeles in 1878. His father, Michel, was born in France and came to Los Angeles from the California gold region in the 1860s. Isaac Levy was a founding partner of the Behrendt-Levy Insurance Agency. His mother was a sister of Laurence and Ross' father, Louis Lewin. See *WSJHQ*, January 1971, pp. 88-90, April 1973, pp. 141-157.



Purim Festival

GIVEN BY

Sabbath School of Congregation B'nai B'rith

Turner's Hall, March 9, 1901.

Introductory Remarks - - - Rev. Dr. S. Hecht, Supt.

Living Pictures, under direction of - - - Mrs. John Kahn

1. "Rebecca at the Well," - - Miss Amy Steinman
2. "Ruth and Naomi," Miss Rose Loeb and Miss Leila Jacoby
3. "Jepthah's Daughter," - - Miss Carolyn Hecht
4. "Miriam," - - - - - Miss Alma Hecht

SELECTION BY ORCHESTRA

CARNIVAL SCENE AT QUEEN ESTHER'S COURT

INSTITUTION OF PURIM

The Queen - - - - - - - - Miss Ora Newmark

AS FOLLOWS:

1. Instrumental Solo, "Gondolera" by Liszt, Gertrude Cohen
2. Vocal Solo, "For All Eternity," Mrs. J. Kauffman
3. Whistling Solo, - - "Il Trovatore," Mrs. J. L. Kazinsky
4. Country Dance, Money-Musk Miss Rose Roth
5. Rope Dance, - - - - - - - Tillie Baruch

Together with Wreath Dance by Children.

After above Program the children have the sole privilege of the floor for dancing. No adults will be permitted to dance until the children leave for refreshments.

By order of

FLOOR COMMITTEE.

Jake Behrendt, Printer, 614 W. Sixth St.

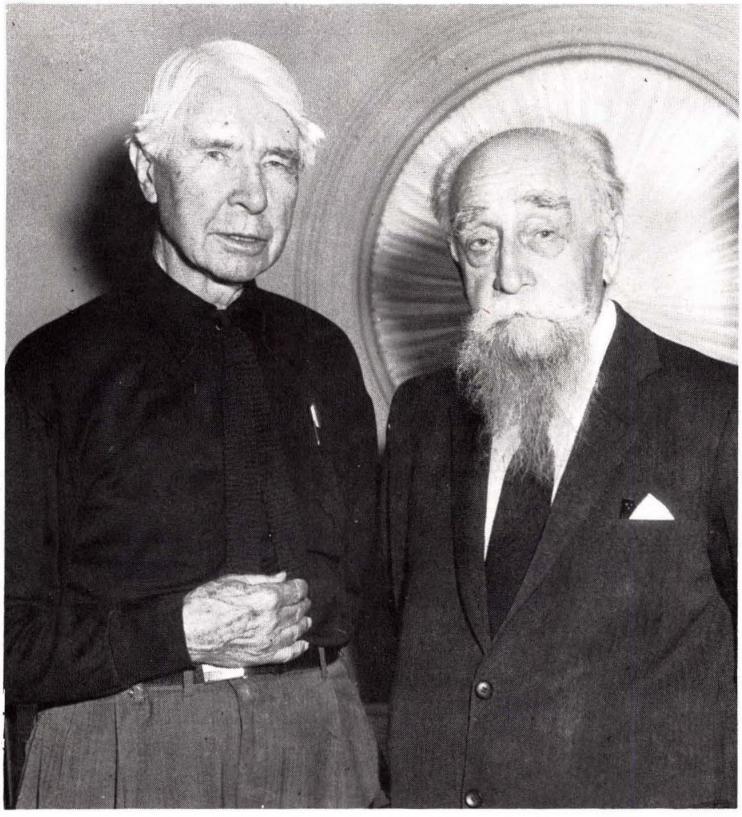
LOS ANGELES PURIM PROGRAM — 1901

Turner's Hall at 317½ South Main Street, Los Angeles, had the facilities needed for the Purim festival of Congregation B'nai B'rith in 1901. The synagogue was located at the northeast corner of Ninth and Hope. Rabbi Sigmund Hecht and two of his daughters, Carolyn (married Samuel M. Newmark in 1903) and Alma (married Joseph Y. Baruh in 1902), were involved in the affair; as were Mrs. John Kahn, whose husband was the president of the Concordia Club; Rose Loeb (later Mrs. Herman Levi), the granddaughter of the Harris Newmarks; Ora Newmark, the daughter of the Max N. Newmarks; Mrs. Jules Kauffman, nee Rachel Levy; and Rose Roth, who had been raised in Ventura and who was to be married to Philip A. Newmark later in the year. Turner's Hall provided a stage, dance floor and restaurant services. See *WSJHQ*, October 1975, p. 78, October 1977, p. 29.



RIFLE CLUB OF THE LOS ANGELES TURNVEREIN, 1885

Emil Harris, seated fourth from the left above, wearing a few of his marksmanship medals, had been one of the Turnverein organizers in 1870, and he was an instructor in gymnastics of that German-oriented group. But he also served for a number of terms as the captain of the rifle club, and he won the top awards for marksmanship in 1875 and 1876. In 1876, Harris was the captain and another Jew, Conrad Jacoby, seated next to Harris (fifth from left with full beard) was his lieutenant. Both Harris and Jacoby were Polish Jews from the Prussian-controlled province of Posen. Jacoby was the editor-publisher of the German language newspaper of Los Angeles, the *Sud-California Post*. Harris, who was Los Angeles Police Chief in 1878, became one of the Angel city's first private detectives. See *WSJHQ*, October 1973, pp. 34-40; *Southern California Quarterly*, Summer 1973, pp. 163-192.



Courtesy of Dr. William M. Kramer

CARL SANDBURG AND RABBI JACOB SONDERLING

On June 17, 1961, at the Westside Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles, Joseph Schildkraut, the distinguished actor, and his wife, sponsored a tribute evening to honor Rabbi Jacob Sonderling, then eighty-two. Carl Sandburg, the famed poet and writer, joined with such notables as sculptor Anna Mahler and Rabbis Max Nussbaum and Alfred Gottschalk to honor Sonderling. The honoree, born in Germany, had entered his first pulpit in Hamburg in 1906. A friend of Theodor Herzl, Sonderling was an enthusiastic Zionist and a leader in fusing the arts with religion. He was influential with a number of composers such as Arnold Schonberg. Sonderling died in 1964, Sandburg in 1967.

WHEN THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR CAME TO LOS ANGELES

By Norton B. Stern

In the summer of 1870 feelings between the citizens of Prussian and French origin in Los Angeles were at an all time low. The Franco-Prussian War surfaced sentiments of nostalgic fervor in the hearts of many local citizens and on August 26, a brief saloon brawl resulted. The leader of the French group and the leader of the Prussian group in this bar-room altercation were two of Los Angeles' top Jewish residents. The affair was a minor one, but it had a lasting effect on at least one Jewish organization, ending its short existence.

The Alliance Israelite Universelle was a Jewish defense society established in Paris in 1860 as a direct outgrowth of the Mortara case. The activities of the Alliance were mainly centered around the protection and improvement of conditions for the Jews of Eastern Europe, North Africa and the Near East. To help support its educational and benevolent programs the Alliance encouraged local committees to organize throughout the world. One of the first such groups to be established in the United States was in San Francisco. There, on March 25, 1864, twenty-two men met and formed a branch of the "Universal Jewish Alliance." The first officers of this chapter of the Alliance were Rabbi Elkan Cohn, president, a Polish Jew born in Prussia; Rabbi Henry A. Henry, vice president, a London-born Jew of Polish origin; and Daniel Levy, secretary, born in France in the province of Lorraine. The charter members included some of the most prominent Jews of the Bay City of French, Polish and German origin, and at least one American-born Sephardic Jew.[1]

---

1. *The Hebrew*, San Francisco, April 1, 1864, p. 4; Z. Szajkowski, "The Alliance Israelite Universelle in the United States, 1860-1949," *Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society*, June 1950, p. 393. Seixas Solomons was the Sephardic Jew; others were Leopold Sachs, Moses Heller, A. Block, Jules Cerf, A. Wasserman, J. Wormser, Jacob Vogelsdorff, Simon Koshland, L. Wertheimer, Jacob Greenebaum, J. Hecht, J. Godchaux, A. Weill, Isaac Levy, Brunden, A. Seligman, A. Cohen, and M. Steppacher.

Four years later, on August 16, 1868, a branch of the Alliance was organized in Los Angeles. The founding meeting was called to order by Eugene Meyer, who had been born in 1842 at Strasbourg, France. He noted that all those present were aware that the "main object of the society is the emancipation of all the Israelites, and to redress all wrongs upon our race all over the globe." Temporary officers were then elected. Maurice Kremer, French-born, whose wife was Mrs. Eugene Meyer's sister, was elected president; Leon Loeb, Eugene Meyer's cousin, was elected the temporary secretary. A bylaws committee was appointed consisting of a French, Polish and German Jew: Solomon Lazard (Fromberg, France), Henry Wartenberg (Kempen, Posen), and Herman Fleishman (Reckendorf, Bavaria).[2]

Permanent officers for the Los Angeles chapter of the "Universal Israelitish Alliance" were elected early in September, 1868. They were: Maurice Kremer, president; Wolf Kalisher, vice president; Leon Loeb, secretary and treasurer; Henry Wartenberg, Solomon Lazard and Herman Fleishman, trustees. Of the six, three were French-born, two were Prussian-born Polish Jews, and one was a Bavarian.[3] It is of interest to note the identity of the officers of the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Los Angeles in this same period. Elected on July 5, 1868 were: Henry Wartenberg, president; Maurice Kremer, vice president; Charles Prager, secretary and treasurer; Wolf Kalisher, Samuel Meyer and Moritz Morris, trustees. They were Polish Jews born in that part of Poland (the province of Posen) which had been taken over by Prussia in the late eighteenth century, with the exception of French-born Maurice Kremer and the German-Prussian Samuel Meyer.[4]

Leon Loeb, the secretary and treasurer of the Alliance in Los Angeles, corresponded regularly with the Paris headquarters. He had arrived in Los Angeles in 1866 from France, and went to work in the large dry goods concern of Solomon Lazard with which his cousin Eugene Meyer was also associated. Later Meyer

2. *Los Angeles News,* August 21, 1868, p. 2; *Los Angeles Star,* August 22, 1868, p. 2; Eugene Meyer, "My Early Years," *WSJHQ,* January 1973, pp. 87-90; Francine Landau, "Solomon Lazard of Los Angeles," *WSJHQ,* April 1973, p. 141; Federal Census, 1870, Los Angeles.
3. *Los Angeles Star,* September 5, 1868, p. 2.
4. *Los Angeles News,* July 7, 1868, p. 2.

bought out Lazard's interest and operated the business under the name of City of Paris. In 1883, Loeb, with two partners, Emanuel Stern, formerly of Gold Hill, Nevada, and Nathan Cahn of San Francisco, bought out Eugene Meyer. The archives of the Alliance Israelite Universelle in Paris contain two letters of transmittal from Loeb. The first one, dated July 31, 1869, which referred to an earlier letter which Loeb had sent, conveyed a draft on Lazard Freres for 210 francs to the Alliance. This was the amount owed by the Los Angeles branch for dues for the quarter ending on June 6, 1869. The second letter, dated October 30, 1869, transmitted 342 francs.[5]

In 1872 Leon Loeb held office as the secretary of the French Benevolent Society of Los Angeles *and* the Hebrew Benevolent Society.[6] And in the fall of 1893, when the founding meeting of the Associated Charities of Los Angeles was held, Loeb "was unanimously elected chairman."[7] In 1879 he married Estelle Newmark whose father was the Prussian-born Harris Newmark. Their sons, Joseph P. and Edwin J. Loeb, were the founders of Loeb and Loeb, one of the largest law firms in the West.

On May 2, 1875, five years after the Franco-Prussian War, Leon Loeb sent a letter, written in French, to Isidore Loeb (apparently no relation), then secretary of the Alliance. The latter had sent a letter of inquiry asking about the status of the Los Angeles branch. In response Leon Loeb wrote:

> I regret to be obliged to inform you that since the unfortunate war of 1870 our branch of the Alliance has been dissolved for reasons which I shall explain in a few words. There are only a few French coreligionists here, the rest are all Germans, actually Prussians I would say, as before the war. The feelings between us and these gentlemen were not too fraternal. The society therefore dissolved.[8]

---

5. Alliance Israelite Universelle, Archives, Etats-Unis, II, B29. Our appreciation for copies of these letters is extended to Eugene Weill, Secretaire General of the Alliance, Paris.
6. *Los Angeles City and County Directory*, 1872, (Los Angeles, 1963, reprinted), p. 30.
7. *Report of the Associated Charities of Los Angeles, California*, 1893-1897 (Los Angels, 1897), p. 5. This organization was an early community chest or united way. For more on Leon Loeb see note no. 19.
8. Alliance Israelite Universelle, Archives, *op. cit.* Our appreciation for the translation of this letter from the French is extended to Mr. Samuel Fink of Santa Monica. Z. Szajkowski, *op. cit.*, mis-dated this letter in his reference, note no. 14, p. 395.

Leon Loeb's reference to the lack of brotherly regard between the French and Prussian Jews of Los Angeles due to the feelings aroused by the Franco-Prussian War will stand a bit more of historical scrutiny. On August 10, 1870 a mass meeting of Germans was held at the Teutonia Hall, Los Angeles, at which an organization was founded to collect funds for Prussian war relief. Two of the vice presidents elected were Samuel Meyer and Moritz Morris, and the treasurer was Isaac Cohn. Five men gave speeches in favor of the war efforts of the Prussians, one of them being Moritz Morris. $500 was collected at the meeting to aid the Prussian wounded.[9]

Moritz Morris was one of the most prominent Jews of Los Angeles. Morris' original family name was Oberzinsky, and Morris was adopted upon arrival in America.[10] He and his brother, Julius L., had arrived in Los Angeles in 1853 and they were retail merchants. In 1866, 1867, 1869 and 1870, Moritz Morris was a Los Angeles city councilman.[11] He and Joseph Newmark were credited with being the founders of Congregation B'nai B'rith, Los Angeles' pioneer congregation (now the Wilshire Boulevard Temple), and from the fall of 1875 to the fall of 1877, Morris was the president of the congregation. He was also a prominent Mason, a member of Los Angeles Lodge No. 42, F.&A.M.[12]

Two weeks after the meeting of the Prussians the French-born citizens of Los Angeles met and organized The Society Nationale Francaise, to collect funds to aid the Frenchmen wounded in the war. Over 100 members joined the new group, and among the officers elected were Leon Loeb, secretary; Eugene Meyer, treasurer; and Joseph Coblentz, one of the trustees.[13] Two or three days later the Franco-Prussian War came to Los Angeles.

---

9. *Los Angeles News,* August 12, 1870, p. 2; *Los Angeles Star,* August 11, 1870, p. 3. At San Bernardino, almost all of whose Jewish adult males were born in the Polish province of Posen, then a part of Prussia, the meeting of Germans for Prussian war relief was held at the "Hebrew and English Academy," an institution which had been founded in 1868 by the Hebrew Benevolent Society of that city. *Los Angeles News,* August 16, 1870, p. 2.
10. Herman Van Gelder, Los Angeles, interview, by Norton B. Stern, October 14, 1971. Van Gelder is a grandson of Herman Morris, brother of Moritz Morris.
11. *History of Los Angeles County, California* (Oakland, 1880), p. 115.
12. *Annual Publication of the Historical Society of Southern California,* Volume VI, 1903, p. 96; *Los Angeles Star,* October 21, 1876, p. 4.
13. *Los Angeles News,* August 25, 1870, p. 3.

Los Angeles merchants kept their stores open until 9:00 or 10:00 P.M. in those days. It was only in 1876 that they agreed on an 8:00 P.M. closing hour.[14] Thus, in order to make it through the period from the noon lunch to dinner after closing ones store, a late afternoon visit to the nearest bar for a light repast, solid and liquid, was a necessity. And it was at the Main Street saloon of Robert Mulloy that an impassioned argument between Moritz Morris on behalf of the Prussians and Eugene Meyer on behalf of the French took place that ended in fisticuffs. Each, it will be remembered, had been elected an officer of their respective war relief organizations, and Meyer was the president of the French Benevolent Society, having been elected in 1870.[15] The *News* presented a brief report of the incident.

> Emphatic Discussion. — Two well known citizens of this city, one of Prussian and the other of French birth, discussed the war news yesterday afternoon with such emphasis, that they came to blows. The matter, however, soon quieted down, and a better feeling prevailed.[16]

The *Star's* account of the affair was handled in a humorous manner.

> France vs. Prussia. — The war has at last reached our shores. The first collision between the hostile forces occurred last night. The Prussians in heavy force occupied the whole front of Bob Mulloy's saloon, threatening the French, who were strongly entrenched near the line of the cigar stand. General Morris, of the Prussian Army, exploded a bombshell in the headquarters of Marshal Meyer, of the Army of France. The Marshal immediately ordered an advance, and, after a terrific combat, and dreadful slaughter on both sides the Prussians succeeded in changing their base to a position behind the counter. At last accounts, all was quiet along the front, but a heavy engagement is expected tomorrow.[17]

At the time of this altercation Moritz Morris was forty-six years of age, Eugene Meyer was twenty-eight. Each was an American citizen, Morris having been naturalized on April 15,

---

14. *Evening Republican*, Los Angeles, June 3, 1876, p. 2.
15. Fernand Loyer and Charles Beaudreau, *Le Guide Francais De Los Angeles et Du Sud De La California* (Los Angeles, 1932, English Edition), p. 61. Meyer served as president of the French Benevolent Society for four years, 1870 to 1874.
16. *Los Angeles News*, August 27, 1870, p. 3.
17. *Los Angeles Star*, August 27, 1870, p. 3.

1854, Meyer on November 2, 1868.[18] Both had left the land of their birth to seek opportunities in the New World which were in large measure denied them in Europe because of the endemic anti-Semitism in both Prussia and France. Yet they retained enough fond memories of their homelands to bring them to a physical confrontation in far-off Los Angeles many years after leaving the Old Country. And the enmity produced by the clash of these two men and their compatriots brought to an end the brief existence of the Los Angeles branch of the Alliance Israelite Universelle.[19]

---

18. Federal Census, 1870, Los Angeles; *Great Register of Voters of Los Angeles County* (Los Angeles, 1875).

19. The continued interest in the welfare of France and the leadership in local relief activities evinced by French-born Los Angeles Jewry is indicated by the following report: "In January 1871, Constant Meyer [brother of Eugene Meyer] sent $161 to the National Defense Fund Committee. Of this sum $101 was realized from the raffle of a hunting rifle donated by Leon Loeb. . . . Later in the year (May 26), a picnic was held . . . under the auspices of the French Benevolent Society. . . . Messrs. Leon Loeb, P. N. Roth, Auguste Bouelle [a non-Jew], and Eugene Meyer [president of the society] . . . each addressed their compatriots. . . . Joseph Coblentz, a native of Lorraine, and Michael Levy [a business partner of Coblentz], a native of Alsace, rushed to the [speakers'] stand with a box of cigars which they started selling by themselves paying $5 for a cigar. The box of cigars brought $150 to the subscription list." Fernand Loyer and Charles Beaudreau, *op. cit.*, p. 61.

A YIDDISH TRANSLATOR FOR UPTON SINCLAIR

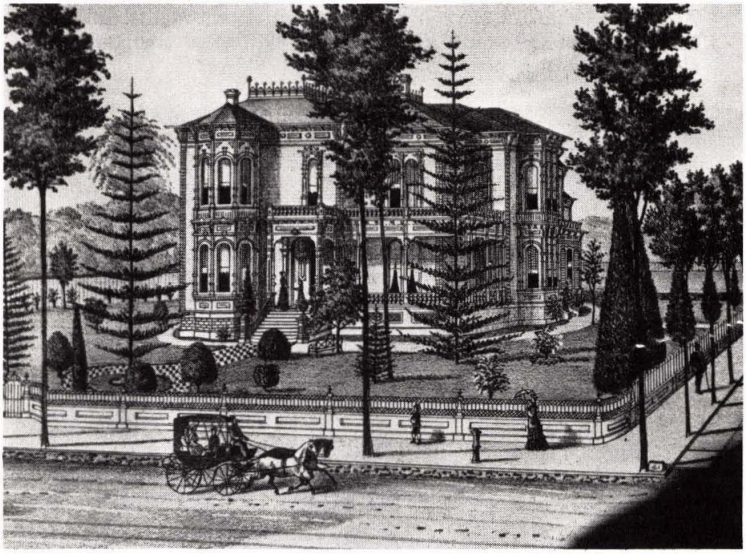
Rabbi Joseph Jasin, of Fort Worth, Texas, has been engaged by Upton Sinclair to translate *The Jungle* into Yiddish. The work will be done during the summer months while the rabbi is passing his vacation.

The American Israelite, Cincinnati, June 21, 1906, p. 3.

THE 1877 MANSION OF I. W. HELLMAN OF LOS ANGELES

An Architectural Story

The first of the grand homes of pioneer Los Angeles Jewry was that of Isaias W. Hellman, the first successful banker of the city. It was located at the southwest corner of Fourth and Main Streets, then a prime residential area. Hellman had arrived in Los Angeles just eighteen years before as a sixteen-year-old, from Bavaria.[1] As the two-story house was being completed in the fall of 1877, one newspaper observed that, "taken altogether, outside and inside, this is the most stately, elaborately finished and magnificent mansion in Southern California."[2]



The I. W. Hellman mansion, Los Angeles, 1877

1. For additional data on I. W. Hellman, see Norton B. Stein, "Toward a Biography of Isaias W. Hellman – Pioneer Builder of California," *WSJHQ*, October 1969, pp. 27-43.
2. *Los Angeles Star*, September 13, 1877, p. 3.

The Hellman family moved into their new home in the last week of September, 1877.[3] The description of the structure's interior gives an idea of the craftsmanship and artistry which was lavished on the home of this outstanding leader of the Southland:

> The residence of Mr. I. W. Hellman, which is now so near completion, contains some of the finest specimens of frescoing that we have ever seen in the city. The sides and ceilings of the halls are marvels of purity and simplicity of taste, the walls being divided into sections by pilastres. At convenient distances are pictures of rural life in Germany, one view on the Mississippi River, and a sketch of the Arroyo Seco, near the entrance to Sycamore Grove, all excellently finished. The dining room, is, however, the most attractive room in the house, the colors on the ceiling and walls being blended with most happy effect. A number of unequal circles of flowers and leaves surround the beautifully finished centre-piece, between which are representations of fruits and flowers in profusion. The most beautiful piece of workmanship is above the dining room door, where a still life picture of bottles of champagne, clusters of grapes, pears, etc., appear.



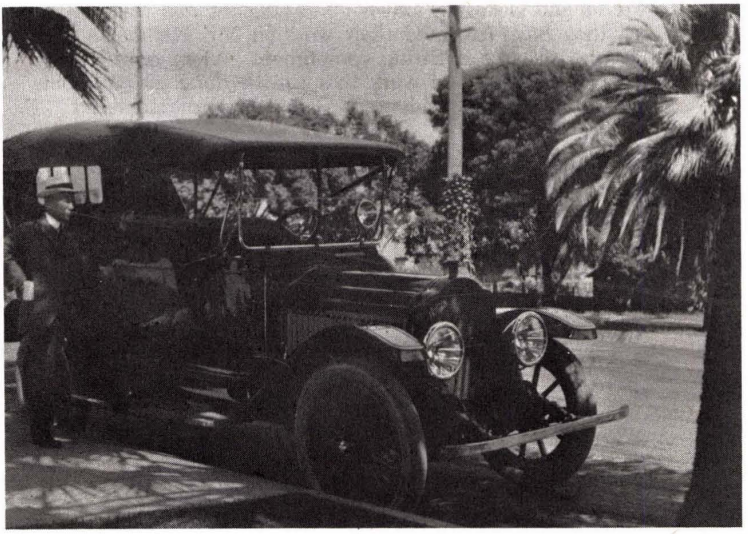
Rooftop view of Hellman mansion in 1887.

3. *Daily Herald*, Los Angeles, September 29, 1877, p. 3.

> We are glad to notice this innovation upon the old-time system of hard-finished rooms. Messrs. Schroeder & Sons have earned for themselves an excellent reputation by the manner in which they thus ornamented some of the rooms of Colonel Howard's and Governor Downey's residences, and the style in which they have executed their work in Mr. Hellman's residence and deserve a fitting compliment. When our wealthy citizens see the class of work that can be done by our home artists, all our finest residences will be thus ornamented.[4]

---

4. *The Daily Republican*, Los Angeles, July 11, 1877, p. 3.



Courtesy of Richard N. Kauffman

MAURICE H. NEWMARK OF LOS ANGELES AND HIS AUTOMOBILE, CIRCA 1920

The oldest son of Harris Newmark was born in Los Angeles in 1859, six years after his father had arrived in the city. Maurice Harris Newmark pictured here beside his latest automobile, a White model, was active in the wholesale grocery business, which had been founded by his father, and in a wide variety of civic affairs. He died in 1929. See Dudley Gordon, "Charles F. Lummis and the Newmarks of Los Angeles," *WSJHQ*, October 1974, pp. 32-38; *WSJHQ*, April 1977, p. 231.



GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE MAY COMPANY, LOS ANGELES, 1931

Asher Hamburger, who settled in Sacramento in 1850, came to Los Angeles with his family in 1881 and established the People's Store, later known as Hamburger's Department Store. In 1908 they built the retail structure at Eighth and Broadway, and sold out to the May interests (originally of Colorado) in 1924. The photograph above shows Tom May and his mother, Mrs. David May, at the left, presenting a golden key to Mr. and Mrs. David A. Hamburger, right, which was used to symbolically open the doors of the department store for its fiftieth anniversary sale, July 25, 1931. David Hamburger was one of the sons of the Asher Hamburgers and a major figure in department store retailing in Los Angeles.



CONCORDIA CLUB, LOS ANGELES

The Concordia Club of Los Angeles was a family social club organized in May, 1891. The most prominent of the old pioneer Jewish families were members, and it represented high Jewish society in the Southland. John Kahn (of the Oakland Kahn family) was the perennial president of the club. Rented quarters were used for a time, and from 1894 to 1902 these were in the Burbank Theatre Building at 542 South Main. The building pictured above was erected on Figueroa at Sixteenth Street (later Venice Boulevard) in 1902. At that time Kahn was president; Samuel M. Newmark, vice president; and Eugene H. Roth, secretary. The club was the scene of parties, fancy dress balls, purim affairs, weddings, etc. The Concordia Club was active until about 1916. The rare photo above was printed on a postcard, and is the only depiction of the building known. The Santa Monica Freeway soars over the site today, which is an automotive sales district.



COHN-GOLDWATER, FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY, 1939

Morris Cohn established a men's clothing jobbing firm in 1889, and in 1893 began to manufacture clothing. It was the first garment manufacturing firm in Los Angeles, and it became a leader in the development of the sportswear industry of Southern California. Boss Brand overalls were a major product in the early years. Lemuel Goldwater became a partner in 1899, and in 1909 they erected the first modern factory building in Los Angeles, at San Julian and East Twelfth Street. This structure was designated a landmark by the Cultural Heritage Board of Los Angeles in 1973 (see *WSJHQ*, October 1973, p. 33). In the photograph, Lemuel Goldwater is at the left, Morris Cohn, right. The bronze fiftieth anniversary plaque was mounted in the hallway of the first floor of the Cohn-Goldwater building in 1939, but had disappeared by 1967. Cohn died in 1941, Goldwater in 1942, and their heirs liquidated the company in 1964.



FANNIE BENJAMIN, PRESIDENT OF THE REBEKAHS

Fannie's parents, Simon and Jenny Benjamin, were Polish Jews who came to America in the 1850s. Fannie was born in 1860 in New Jersey and raised in Los Angeles, where she graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1877. Shortly afterwards the family moved to San Bernardino, where Fannie's brother Isaac was appointed official reporter of the Superior Court in 1879. Fannie became active in the Rebekahs, the women's branch of the Odd Fellows fraternal order, and held several state offices, becoming president of the California Rebekahs in 1896. At that time there were 180 Rebekah lodges in the state, with over 12,000 members. Fannie visited many of the lodges during her year as president. Her trip to Ventura and Santa Barbara counties for that purpose was reported in the January 2, 1896 issue of *The American Israelite*. Later, Fannie moved back to Los Angeles where she enjoyed a career as a ceramic artist. Her "China studio" was located in the Downey Building in 1902, and at 736 Alpine in 1905.

THE LADIES' HEBREW BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES IN 1892

By Virginia Katz

In March, 1892, the Historical Society of Southern California published a monograph edited by Mrs. M. Burton Williamson entitled *Ladies' Clubs and Societies in Los Angeles in 1892.* The story of the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society was written by its elected secretary, Virginia Katz, who had held that office since the organization was established in 1870.

In January, 1870, the proposition of forming a Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society was discussed among the Hebrew ladies of this city, and through the exertions of Mrs. Rosa [Joseph] Newmark, one of the pioneer Hebrew ladies of Los Angeles, the society was organized. Mrs. Rosa Newmark never accepted an office at the hands of the society, but lived many years untiring in her efforts in the cause of charity.

At the time of the organization of the society it was almost impossible to obtain nurses in cases of sickness, and it became the duty of members to act as such in all cases of sickness where assistance was required, whether the afflicted were rich or poor. The principles of the society are: to administer relief to the poor, the needy, the sick; to prepare the dead for interment; and to see that the dead receive every honor and rite the Hebrew religion accords.

The charities afforded by the society are devoted exclusively to the women and children of the Hebrew faith. From its inception the society prospered and flourished. A great interest has always been taken in its work by the officers and members, and it has been enabled to increase its field of usefulness and extend its charitable influences. It has gained in membership in proportion to the growth of the city, and has been enabled to care for the many calls for assistance with great promptness.

The society was the first ladies' benevolent organization instituted in Los Angeles, and from the time of its inception to the present it has expended over $20,000 in the prosecution of charitable work. There has never been a call for aid, in the history of the society, that has gone unanswered; some cases receiving assistance for a number of consecutive years. For the

past twenty years and more, whenever the voice of distress was heard among their coreligionists, whenever the silent messengers of death and disease entered their homes the members of the society were always found alleviating distress, nursing the sick back to health, burying the dead with all the sacred ceremonies of their religion, and comforting the afflicted ones with their sympathy.

The first officers of the society were: Mrs. W[olf] Kalisher, president; Mrs. H]arris[Newmark, vice president; Mrs. J[ohn] Jones, treasurer; Mrs. B [enjamin] Katz, secretary; Mrs. A[braham] Baer, collector. The adjuncta of counsellors were: Messrs. H[arris] Newmark, Henry Wartenberg, and I. M. Hellman.

The present officers are: Mrs. S[amuel] Hellman, president; Mrs. L[eopold] Harris, vice president; Mrs. H[arris] Newmark, treasurer; Mrs. V[irginia] Katz, secretary. Counsellors: Messrs. M[ichel] Levy and K[aspare] Cohn.

The original charter membership was thirty-nine, of which all but nine yet remain active members. Mrs. S. Hellman has been president for the past fourteen years, and has been one of the greatest factors in the society's prosperity. The present membership numbers ninety-seven.

While the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent is strictly sectarian in character, there has never been a public calamity where assistance was asked that the society did not respond, and its members have always been ready to cooperate with all other benevolent institutions in the cause of charity. The majority of the members belong to the various charitable organizations of other denominations of this city.

During a period of twenty-two years the society has given but four public entertainments for the benefit of their relief fund, and all classes of citizens have generously responded to their invitations.

This is the oldest ladies' benevolent institution in the city with members who have given over twenty years to the cause of charity; the same members are found today in the ranks, working with the same strong earnest effort as they did in years past, and the pages of this history will bear testimony to the universal spirit of benevolence and charity that has always prevailed in Los Angeles.

THE LOCATION OF LOS ANGELES JEWRY AT THE BEGINNING OF 1851

By Norton B. Stern

THE FEDERAL CENSUS agent for Los Angeles County for the census of 1850, was John R. Evertsen. He began filling out the forms enumerating the inhabitants of the city of Los Angeles on January 15, 1851, and finished the listing of its 1,610 inhabitants nine days later, on January 24.[1] Eight Jews, all males, were then living in Los Angeles and with but one interposition, all were in adjoining "Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation." These eight were listed in four groups as "Families numbered in the order of visitation." Jacob Frankfort lived in the ninety-first dwelling unit counted, with others of the Alexander Bell family; Moritz Michael and Arnold Jacobi lived in the ninety-second unit; Augustine Wasserman and Felix Bachman lived in the ninety-third unit; and Philip Sichel, Joseph Plumer and Morris L. Goodman lived in the ninety-fifth unit.[2]

These eight Jewish individuals were all merchants, and listed as such, excepting Jacob Frankfort, the oldest at age forty, who was listed as a tailor. Actually, he was a merchant-tailor.[3] Frankfort's listing as part of the dwelling unit of the Alexander Bell family has been a source of confusion, but also provides a hint as to the actual location of the eight Jews in January, 1851. Bell, a non-Jew, born in Pennsylvania, arrived in Los Angeles in 1842, and in 1844 or 1845, erected a substan-

1. Maurice H. and Marco R. Newmark, editors, CENSUS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA FOR THE YEAR 1850 (Los Angeles, 1929), pp. 23-24, 115.
2. *Ibid.*, pp. 27, 41-42. Spelling of names has been corrected, using a variety of sources, including contemporary newspaper advertisements and notices, the 1860 Federal Census, etc.
3. Los Angeles City Archives, Volume A, pp. 205-206, April 4, 1845, Volume I, pp. 199-205, December 24, 1949, December 26, 1849, Translated from the Spanish.

tial two-story adobe building, henceforth known as Bell's Row, at the southeast corner of Aliso and Los Angeles Streets. The building was constructed for Bell by William Nordholt, a carpenter, later a grocer, and James R. Barton, later sheriff and tax collector of Los Angeles County. The ground floor of Bell's Row extended beyond the two-story section, south on Los Angeles Street, and was divided up into a series of storerooms, each with its own door. The series of doors along both Los Angeles and Aliso Streets, must have given rise to the term "row" of Bell's Row. Alexander Bell and his family "for many years lived in the upper story" of the building.[4]

Jacob Frankfort, one of the most prominent merchants in Los Angeles, had arrived in the city with the Rowland-Workman party in 1841.[5] In January, 1851, he was undoubtedly occupying the corner store of Bell's Row, directly underneath the second-story residence of the Alexander Bell family. Census agent Evertsen, apparently listed his dwelling units and family units, which he numbered exactly the same, as one unit if they occupied the same ground space, even if separated in height, one above the other. Since the Bell family lived directly above the Frankfort store, Evertsen listed Frankfort as being in the same "dwelling-house" as Bell and even as part of Bell's family! Evertsen was somewhat less than careful with his listing of family units, best illustrated by his listing of the thirty-two guests of the Bella Union Hotel as one family and the twenty guests of another hotel as one family.[6]

As a result of the confusing of Jacob Frankfort's store with Alexander Bell's residence in the Evertsen 1850 census report, Vorspan and Gartner were led to surmise that Frankfort lived with the Bell family and that he "either was a guest or perhaps did the family's tailoring."[7] In a way, the census

4. An Illustrated History of Los Angeles County, California (Chicago, 1889), p. 384; Harris Newmark, Sixty Years in Southern California, 1853-1913 (Los Angeles, 1970, 4th edition), pp. 61, 244.
5. Los Angeles City Archives, Volume II, p. 334, February 26, 1842, Translated from the Spanish.
6. Maurice H. and Marco R. Newmark, *op cit.*, pp. 25, 39, 44-45.
7. Max Vorspan and Lloyd P. Gartner, History of the Jews of Los Angeles (San Marino, 1970), p. 6.

agent can be excused for listing those living on the first and second floors of a building as being in one dwelling unit, since there were only three two-story buildings in Los Angeles in 1851.[8]

All eight Jews living in Los Angeles in January, 1851, occupied stores in Bell's Row at Aliso and Los Angeles Streets, which is why they are listed next to each other, with one store in between, in the census report. And they slept in back or adjoining rooms, none of them being blessed with a wife and family at that time.[9] Moritz Michael and Arnold Jacobi were from Poland, the others from Germany.

Bell's Row was known as Mellus' Row for a time, when Alexander Bell sold the property to Francis Mellus. Later, Bell repurchased the property and the name reverted to Bell's Row. The suitability of the ground floor for stores, but more important, the advantage of the location of the building, attracted the merchants to it. It was pointed out by Harris Newmark, whose older brother, Joseph P. Newmark, was a tenant of a store in the Row for a time that

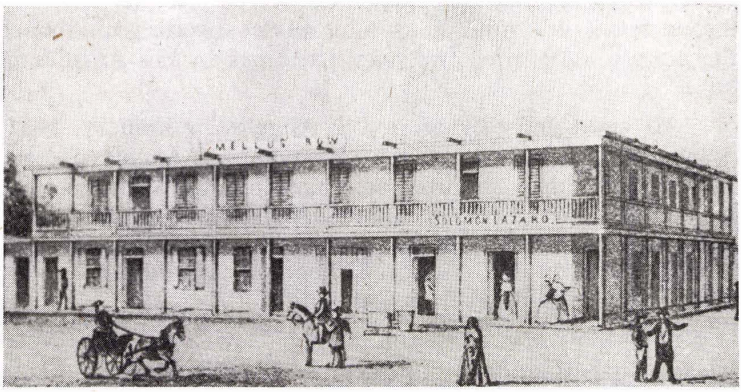
> . . . since nearly all the country development had taken place in districts adjacent to San Gabriel, El Monte and San Bernardino, travel through Aliso Street was important enough to make their situation one of the best in town.[10]

Prospective customers arriving from the inland ranchos as well as from the San Bernardino and San Gabriel areas, had to approach Los Angeles via Aliso Street and the impressive two-story Bell's Row must have exerted a powerful attraction on them.

Horace Bell, nephew of Alexander Bell, arrived in Los

---

8. Horace Bell, REMINISCENCES OF A RANGER (Santa Barbara, 1927, 2nd edition), p. 10.
9. This was not the case at the time the 1860 census was taken, which may account for several duplicate listings of Jewish families in the census for that year. Apparently census takers had no clear procedure to avoid double listings, one at the home and the other at the place of business of the head of the household. Thus in the 1860 census, for example, the Jacob and Jetta Weil family is listed twice, as is Julius Sichel.
10. Harris Newmark, *op. cit.*, pp. 60, 71.



BELL'S OR MELLUS' ROW, 1858



— Courtesy Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History

BELL'S ROW, ALISO AND LOS ANGELES STREETS, 1885



FEDERAL BUILDING

On the site of Bell's Row, 1972

Angeles in October, 1852, and he quickly became aware of the prosperity of the Jewish merchants who were principally ensconced as tenants in his uncle's building. He wrote: ". . . most of the merchants were Jews, and all seemed to be doing a paying business. The fact was, they were all getting rich."[11] While we may be permitted to doubt the claim of riches for all of these merchants, it was a fact that the adobe building "at the southeast corner of Los Angeles and Aliso Streets was the center of many of the most important activities of those early days."[12] One of Los Angeles' most reliable historians noted that Bell's Row was "one of the earliest business blocks

11. Horace Bell, *op. cit.*, p. 10.
12. Arthur M. Ellis, "Introduction," Horace Bell, *op. cit.*, p. xi.

of El Pueblo. Many of the early day merchants had their start here."[13]

Solomon Lazard (1826-1916), a French-born Jew, arrived in Los Angeles in the spring of 1851 and promptly formed a partnership with Samuel Arbuckle, an Irishman, who had already been operating a store in Bell's Row. The partnership broke up soon, with Arbuckle moving elsewhere, and Lazard took in Henry Bauman as his partner. This partnership too, was short-lived,[14] and in the spring of 1852, Lazard formed a partnership with his future brother-in-law, Maurice Kremer, also a French-born Jew. Lazard and Kremer advertised proudly that they were located at the "corner of A. Bell's Row," the same location which Jacob Frankfort had occupied in January, 1851, and unquestionably the best commercial location in town. Lazard and Kremer's advertisement informed the public that they featured drygoods, clothing, boots and shoes, groceries, etc. Lazard, with still other partners, occupied quarters in Bell's Row until he built his own brick building on Main Street in 1866.[15]

Arnold Jacobi and Moritz Michael, two of the eight Jews in Los Angeles at the beginning of 1851, and listed as occupying the ninety-second unit enumerated in the 1850 census, dissolved their partnership in August, 1853. Jacobi remained in Bell's Row and carried on the business on his own account.[16] Moritz Michael simply moved to another storeroom in the same building, this one fronting on Los Angeles Street, where

---

13. Ana Begue de Packman, "Landmarks and Pioneers of Los Angeles in 1853," *The Quarterly of the Historical Society of Southern California*, June-September, 1944, p. 94.
14. Notice of the dissolution of partnership of Solomon Lazard and Henry Bauman was dated October 24, 1851. *Los Angeles Star*, November 8, 1851, p. 2.
15. Marco R. Newmark, "Pioneer Merchants of Los Angeles," *The Quarterly of the Historical Society of Southern California*, September, 1942, p. 85; *Los Angeles Star*, May 1, 1852, p. 1, c. 2; AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, *op. cit.*, p. 534; *Los Angeles Semi-Weekly News*, July 10, 1866, p. 2, c. 1, November 23, 1866, p. 1, c. 5.
16. Jacobi was elected to the Los Angeles City Council on May 2, 1853. *Los Angeles Star*, May 7, 1853, p. 2, c. 1.

he advertised himself as a dealer in general merchandise in Mellus' Row, the alternate name for Bell's Row.[17]

Philip Sichel, one of the eight Jews of early Los Angeles, was still located in Bell's Row in September, 1853. By this time his partners were Felix Bachman, another of the eight, and Samson Laubheim. On the morning of September 2, 1853, at 3:00 a.m., Sichel and Laubheim were awakened by a fire raging amidst their merchandise. They had been peacefully sleeping in the back room of their store, as was the practice of these earliest Jewish residents of Los Angeles. Their loss from the fire was estimated at five to six thousand dollars.[18]

Other Jewish merchants who occupied space in Bell's Row during the 1850s and 1860s were Wolf Kalisher, Henry Wartenberg, Simon Ferner, H. Kraushaar, Jacob Rich, Isaac Schlesinger, Baruch Marks, Louis Schlesinger, Hyman Tischler and Samuel and Isaiah M. Hellman.[19] When Isaias W. Hellman arrived in Los Angeles from Bavaria in 1859, at age sixteen, he went to work in his cousin's (Isaiah M. Hellman) drygoods store located in the Row. Isaias also slept in the back room, although a later generation was to romanticize it to "a bunk under the counter."[20]

There is a southeast corner of Aliso and Los Angeles Streets today, though not quite where it was in 1851. It has been pushed south a short distance to allow for "The Slot," the

17. *Los Angeles Star*, August 6, 1853, p. 2, c. 5; *Southern Californian*, Los Angeles, July 20, 1854, p. 3, c. 6. An earlier name for Los Angeles Street was Vineyard Street, and still earlier, it was known as La Calle de la Zanja.
18. *Los Angeles Star*, September 3, 1853, p. 2, c. 3. On Laubheim, see *Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly*, July, 1969, p. 195. Samson Laubheim is erroneously listed by Harris Newmark, *op. cit.*, and Vorspan and Gartner, *op. cit.*, and elsewhere as Samuel Laubheim. See Federal Census, 1860, for Los Angeles, p. 47.
19. Harris Newmark, *op. cit.*, pp. 61, 75, 248; HISTORY OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (Oakland, 1880), p. 115.
20. Robert Glass Cleland and Frank B. Putnam, ISAIAS W. HELLMAN AND THE FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK (San Marino, 1965), pp. 9-10; E. S. Heller, *In Memoriam — Isaias W. Hellman* (San Francisco, 1921), p. 5; on Isaias W. Hellman, see Norton B. Stern, "Toward a Biography of Isaias W. Hellman — Pioneer Builder of California," *Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly*, October, 1969, pp. 27-43.

freeway, to pass between Aliso and Arcadia Streets,[21] which after bridging the Los Angeles River not far to the east, bifurcates into the San Bernardino and the Santa Ana Freeways. On that southeast corner site where Los Angeles' total Jewish population lived in mid-January, 1851, is a large Federal building. And "The Slot" carries thousands of automobiles and trucks along a route which for a short distance follows the path of old Aliso Street which made Bell's Row the ideal place for a Los Angeles businessman to be, over one hundred and twenty years ago.

---

21. William Mason, Los Angeles County Museum, Department of History, Interview, by the writer, July 21, 1971.

WILLIAM R. BLUMENTHAL ON JEWS COMING TO LOS ANGELES IN THE EARLY 1920s

I find that thousands of Jews that are moving in . . . (to) Los Angeles . . . form the new American gypsies and they say, "What have I got to lose?" And that is the cry of the 30,000 or 40,000 Jews who have come from the East to Los Angeles in the last four or five years.

That seems to be the prevailing note. A Jew comes to Southern California on a Ford with his entire family, deposits them in the charity office and says, "You take care of them" and when we tell them they ought to apply to Chicago or New York or Philadelphia, they say, "Ain't I an American citizen? You in Los Angeles have got to take care of us and if you don't take care of us, I will go to the police and tell them that the Jews don't take care of their own." We have to combat that irresponsibility . . .

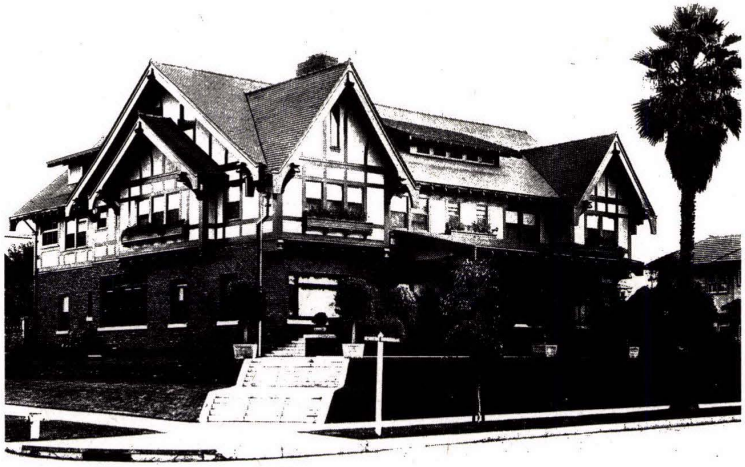
I want to mention the thousands of Jews who are becoming gypsies, the same as tens of thousands of Americans (who) are becoming gypsies due to the automobile and to other disintegrating influences in American social life.

— Statement made June 23, 1924. From: *Proceedings of the National Conference of Jewish Social Service*, (held in Toronto, Canada, June 22-25, 1924), (New York, 1925), pp. 36-37.



A LOS ANGELES HOME OF THE LEON LOEBS, 1886

Leon Loeb had been born in the French city of Strassburg, and came to Los Angeles in 1866. In 1879 he married Estelle Newmark, daughter of the Harris Newmarks. Mrs. Loeb and her oldest child, Rose (later Mrs. Herman Levi), can be seen in the photo above standing at the entrance gate to the front walkway. Leon Loeb worked in Solomon Lazard's dry goods store for a time, and later was a partner in the same firm which was then called the City of Paris store. He was very active in Jewish and fraternal life. Loeb succeeded his relative, Eugene Meyer, as the French consular agent of Los Angeles in 1883, serving until 1898, when he resigned because of the attitude of the French government in the Dreyfus case (*The American Israelite*, Cincinnati, October 13, 1898, p. 3). The house pictured above was located one lot north of the northwest corner of Seventh and Grand, Los Angeles (see *WSJHQ*, October 1977, pp. 68-73).



Courtesy of Carol A. Halperin

LOUIS M. COLE HOME, LOS ANGELES, 1920s

The house pictured above was the home of Louis and Freda (nee Hellman) Cole, located at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and New Hampshire. Cole had been born in Chicago in 1870, and after several years in business in a number of towns in California's San Joaquin Valley, he came to Los Angeles in 1903. There he bought into the Simon Levi Company, and he also engaged in other business pursuits involving insurance, real estate and warehouses. In 1915, when the cornerstone for the Shrine Auditorium was laid, he was the president of the Al Malaikah Shrine. Cole was active in Jewish affairs. In 1919 he was the president of the Los Angeles B'nai B'rith Lodge. He died in 1930. (See *WSJHQ*, January 1978, p. 154, for a photograph of and additional material on Louis M. Cole.)



Courtesy of Mona Colman

KLEIN - NORTON COMPANY, LOS ANGELES, 1905

The wholesale clothing and notions firm pictured above was located at 131-133 North Los Angeles Street. It had been established in 1898 by Simon F. Norton (born Poland, 1842) and his sons Isaiah (born Los Angeles, 1880) and Aaron (born Newark, N.J., 1874), and his son-in-law Henry Klein (born Hungary, 1858). Simon F. Norton was a cousin of Moses, Samuel and Isaac Norton, the first two of whom came to California in the 1850s. Simon arrived in Los Angeles in 1878. Henry Klein had come to Los Angeles in 1888, and he married Mina, a daughter of Simon. Isaiah F. Norton was confirmed in 1894 at Congregation B'nai B'rith, by Rabbi Abraham Blum. The Klein-Norton firm was one of Los Angeles' prominent clothing manufacturers and jobbers for many decades.



HARRIS & FRANK, LOS ANGELES, 1903

Leopold Harris was born in 1836 at Loebau, Prussia, the town from whence came so many pioneer Jewish families of Los Angeles. Originally Lewin Hirschkowitz, Harris arrived in Los Angeles in 1854. He engaged in a number of business ventures in Los Angeles, San Gabriel and San Bernardino. In 1870 he took over a Main Street stationery store which had been operated by Herman W. Hellman. In the 1880s he established a men's clothing firm known as the Quincy Hall Clothing Company, then as the London Clothing Co. By 1903, Harris' two sons-in-law, Herman W. Frank and M. C. Adler, and his son, Harry L. Harris, were running the business, which was known as Harris & Frank. The store pictured above, completed at the turn of the century, was located on Spring Street at Franklin, near Temple Street. Its floor area was 17,000 square feet and it was said to contain by far the largest stock of men's and boys' clothing in the city. The name of the firm was sold by the family in the 1920s.



Courtesy of Carol A. Halperin

ISAIAS W. HELLMAN'S WINE LABEL

Hellman had purchased vineyards at Cucamonga in Southern California, in 1870, bidding for the property at a bankruptcy sale. This land was near Pomona, just east of Los Angeles County, in San Bernardino County. Isaias W. Hellman (1842-1920) had arrived in Los Angeles in 1859 to join cousins who had arrived five years earlier. From a clerk in his cousin's firm he became a successful dry goods store proprietor, then entered banking to become the first successful banker in Los Angeles. In 1890 he took over the Nevada Bank in San Francisco, which became today's Wells Fargo Bank. There are a few bottles of this 1875 vintage left, in the possession of a great granddaughter of Hellman. It was bottled in 1921, the year after Hellman's death. In his diary entry for March 26, 1911, Hellman, on a visit to the Southland from San Francisco, wrote that he ". . . drove to Cucamonga. What great changes have taken place in that section of the country. My own lands have increased much in value." He also visited the ranch in February of 1915.

THE FIRST JEW TO RUN FOR MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES

By Norton B. Stern

Though the citizens of Los Angeles have never elected a Jew as mayor of the city, one of our people did serve briefly as mayor pro tem of the metropolis of Southern California during 1878, and in that same period he was nominated and ran for mayor, for the first time. Bernard Cohn had been born in Prussian-occupied Poland on November 7, 1835.[1] He left home at the age of sixteen, arriving in New York in 1852. After two years in that city Cohn came to San Francisco. There he found employment hauling merchandise from the wharves to various business firms utilizing a cart he had acquired. In 1855 he came to Los Angeles and went to work in the dry goods store of Isaac Schlesinger, located at Bell's Row, at Aliso and Los Angeles Streets.[2] He soon became Schlesinger's partner, but two years later dissolved this partnership and opened his own store at the corner of Los Angeles and Commercial Streets. This business was not very successful, so Cohn established a brokerage business in "Nigger Alley," just off the Plaza.[3]

The gold discoveries in Arizona Territory near La Paz on the Colorado River in 1862 and 1863 gave Cohn an opportunity to set up a general merchandise business there. He placed the Goldwater brothers, Michel and Joseph, in charge of the operation. The Goldwaters had been in business in Los Angeles, but economic reverses had led to their bankruptcy.[4] The brothers later became Cohn's partners in the La Paz venture and much of the news from the Arizona gold fields came to the Los Angeles press as a result of correspondence between the Goldwaters in La Paz and Cohn in Los Angeles, or when one of the brothers conveyed

1. The *Los Angeles Tribune*, November 2, 1889, p. 4, identified Bernard Cohn as "a Polish Jew."
2. See Norton B. Stern, "The Location of Los Angeles Jewry at the Beginning of 1851," *WSJHQ*, October 1972, pp. 25-32.
3. *Evening Express*, Los Angeles, November 2, 1889, p. 5.
4. See William M. Kramer and Norton B. Stern, "Early California Associations of Michel Goldwater and His Family," *WSJHQ*, July 1972, pp. 181-184. Michel's grandson, Barry, is the Arizona Senator, and Barry's son is a California Congressman, serving a San Fernando Valley constituency.

gold dust to the Angel City on its way to the mint in San Francisco.[5] The La Paz operation also included a profitable business in supplying and transporting supplies for the United States Army in Arizona Territory. The Bancroft interviewer who spoke to Cohn on November 18, 1887, noted that the Los Angeles merchant "underbid the rest [of the contractors for supplying the troops] and still made money."[6] Cohn had an interesting and profitable relationship with the famous Vulture gold mine near La Paz.

> He began to furnish supplies to the owners of the mine, and after advancing goods on credit for some time he found that he would have to attach the mine to get his money back. The owners induced him to take the mine and run it while they went to New York to negotiate a loan; he did so and during their absence he found a pocket out of which he took $110,000. He took money due him out of this and turned the balance over to the owners.[7]

On June 18, 1867 the Goldwaters bought out Bernard Cohn's interest in the La Paz establishment for, as one source indicated, the sum of $30,000.[8] Cohn then went into the grocery business with John Jones, one of the early Jewish settlers of Los Angeles. This partnership lasted until 1871, when Cohn retired from that arrangement to become one of the organizers of Hellman, Haas and Company, a wholesale grocery firm. This firm, which existed under its later name of the Haas-Baruch Company until 1956, was established by Herman W. Hellman, Jacob Haas, Abraham Haas and Bernard Cohn. In 1877 Cohn retired from active commercial life, selling out to his partners.[9] Following this his business affairs were concerned with tending to his investments. In the city directory for 1878, he was listed as "capitalist," his office being at 10 Commercial Street.[10]

In the 1870s Cohn and two other Angelenos loaned money to Pio Pico, who had been the last governor of California under

5. See *Los Angeles News,* September 9, 1863, p. 2, October 15, 1865, p. 2, May 1, 1866, p. 2.
6. B. Cohn, dictation, Bancroft Collection, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, p. 1.
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Los Angeles News,* August 6, 1867, p. 3; *Evening Express,* November 2, 1889, p. 5.
9. Marco R. Newmark, "Pioneer Merchants of Los Angeles," Part II, *The Quarterly, Historical Society of Southern California,* March-June 1943, pp. 20-21.
10. *Directory of Los Angeles City 1878,* p. 32.

Mexican suzerainty. A good deal of legal controversy surrounded this affair, which was not settled until 1891. The final action in the case, taken by the California Supreme Court, resulted in a victory for the estate of Cohn and the two investors associated with him. While the affair was still being adjudicated, one of the Los Angeles newspapers summarized the case as follows:

> Some years ago Mr. Cohn, together with Charles Prager and W. J. Brodrick,[11] assumed the liabilities of the Pico Estate. Pio Pico was in financial difficulty, having the Pico House and the Ranchito Rancho heavily mortgaged. The ex-governor of California offered to turn over all his estate for $10,000, if anyone would assume the liabilities. After considerable difficulty Don Pio Pico was relieved of his burden by the acceptance of his proposition by the gentlemen above named. At the eve of the real estate excitement [mid-1880s], Pico put in a claim against the estate and a law suit followed, which has resulted so far in favor of B. Cohn, et al.[12]

Another version, penned by Harris Newmark, who was an active Los Angeles businessman during the period, provides a few more relevant details.

> In his old age the Governor – who, as long as I knew him, had been strangely loose in his business methods, and had borrowed from everybody – found himself under the necessity of obtaining some thirty or forty thousand dollars, even at the expense of giving to B. Cohn, W. J. Brodrick and Charles Prager, a blanket mortgage covering all of his properties. These included the Pico House, the Pico Ranch on the other side of the San Gabriel River . . . and property on Main Street, north of Commercial, besides some other holdings. When his note fell due Pico was unable to meet it; and the mortgage was foreclosed.[13]

Bernard Cohn was active in a number of organizations. One of them was the Odd Fellows fraternity, another was the Los Angeles Social Club, which had been organized in 1870. Like so many Jewish merchants he was a member of the volunteer fire

---

11. Prager, a merchant, was Jewish; Brodrick, an insurance agent, was not.
12. *Evening Express*, November 2, 1889, p. 5.
13. Harris Newmark, *Sixty Years In Southern California 1853-1913* (Los Angeles, 1970, Fourth Edition), p. 180. For another version, which omits Prager's and Brodrick's participation in the transaction, see Max Vorspan and Lloyd P. Gartner, *History of the Jews of Los Angeles* (San Marino, 1970), p. 74.

department. This was a civic and practical necessity as there were no professional fire fighters in those days. Cohn was an exempt member of Confidence Engine Company No. 2.[14]

Cohn's Jewish organizational affiliations covered all of the important groups. In the 1870s he served as president of Congregation B'nai B'rith (now the Wilshire Boulevard Temple).[15] Before that congregation came into being in 1862, there had been a High Holy Days congregation, named Beth El, and in 1861 Bernard Cohn had been elected its president.[16] At the time of his death on November 1, 1889, Cohn was the president of both the Semi-Tropic Lodge No. 341, B'nai B'rith and the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Los Angeles.[17] He also had served as the president of the benevolent society in 1880, and was the founding vice president, in 1870, of the Gan Eden Lodge. No. 8, of the Kesher Shel Barzel order.[18]

In 1861 Cohn married Esther Norton, a sister of Samuel and Moses Norton. She was two years his junior, and had been born in Russian Poland.[19] Three children were born to them: Julius B., Caesar (later called Casper), and Carrie (later Mrs. Simon Cahen).[20]

Cohn's political career began with his election to the Los Angeles city council on December 4, 1876. He was elected for a two-year term, representing the second ward.[21] He was elected chairman of the city council, and when Mayor Frederick A. MacDougall died on November 16, 1878, Cohn "was unanimously

---

14. *Evening Express,* November 2, 1889, p. 5; J. Albert Wilson, *History of Los Angeles County, California* (Oakland, 1880), p. 123. At his death in 1889, it was noted by one newspaper that "Mr. Cohn had always taken great interest in the fire department. . . ." Unidentified clipping, November 4, 1889.
15. *Los Angeles News,* November 12, 1870, p. 2, adv.
16. *Los Angeles Star,* September 7, 1861, p. 3.
17. *Evening Express,* November 2, 1889, p. 5. Cohn had been a member of the Orange B'nai B'rith Lodge No. 224, from 1874, but joined the Semi-Tropic Lodge when it was instituted as Los Angeles' second B'nai B'rith lodge in 1883. He had served as president of the Orange Lodge in 1882. *Proceedings of the . . . Annual Session of the M. W. Grand Lodge No. 4, I.O.B.B.* (San Francisco, 1883), p. 106; *Ibid.,* 1884, p. 181; *Ibid.,* 1890, p. 39.
18. J. Albert Wilson, *op. cit.,* pp. 122-123.
19. Federal Census, City of Los Angeles, 1870.
20. *Evening Express,* November 2, 1889, p. 5, November 12, 1889, p. 5.
21. *Los Angeles Star,* December 5, 1876, p. 4. He was naturalized in the Los Angeles District Court on March 18, 1858. *Great Register of Los Angeles County 1882,* p. 9.

elected Mayor pro tem to fill the vacancy. . . ."[22] He served as mayor of Los Angeles from November 21 until December 19, 1878. It was with this background of two years as a member of the city council, part of that time as chairman, and just prior to his being selected as mayor pro tem of the city, that Bernard Cohn was nominated as the candidate for mayor of the People's Party.

On the evening of November 16, 1878, the People's Party convention was held at the county courtroom. Mr. C. C. Lips, a member of the city council, "nominated B. Cohn, seconded by Colonel [John O.] Wheeler. Mr. Lips, in presenting the name of Mr. Cohn, eulogized the devotion of that gentleman in all matters in which the interests of the taxpayer was involved. . . ."[23] Judge B. L. Peel was nominated by J. S. Slauson. In the balloting Cohn received twenty-one votes to ten for Peel, and Cohn "was declared the choice of the convention for mayor."[24] Upon this announcement being made, Cohn was called for and "stepped forward and returned thanks for the honor conferred." That the nomination was not unexpected and that Cohn had been actively seeking it for some time was indicated by a line in a Chicago Jewish newspaper over three months before! In a prideful review of the municipal offices held by Los Angeles Jews, the paper referred to Isaiah M. Hellman, the city treasurer and Charles Prager, a county supervisor, then stated that "Mr. B. Cohn is running for mayor. . . ."[25] The day before the nomination, the *Star*, no friend of Cohn, noted: "Mr. Cohn complacently rubs his adipose abdomen, smiling as though he already held in his pocket a lease of the mayoralty."[26]

In San Francisco the news of Cohn's nomination for mayor called forth prompt comment by a leading Jewish newspaper.

> It will be a matter of considerable interest to learn, that a Jewish gentleman has been nominated a candidate for the highest office in the administration of one of California's most important cities, Los Angeles. The People's Party of that place

22. *Los Angeles Herald*, November 22, 1878, p. 3; *Los Angeles Star*, November 22, 1878, p. 3; *Evening Express*, November 2, 1889, p. 5.
23. *Los Angeles Herald*, November 17, 1878, p. 3. It is of interest to note that Cohn, a Democrat, was nominated by Lips, a Republican! *Ibid.*, November 18, 1878, p. 3.
24. *Los Angeles Star*, November 17, 1878, p. 3.
25. *The Jewish Advance*, Chicago, August 9, 1878, p. 3.
26. *Los Angeles Star*, November 15, 1878, p. 3.

> which comprises the best and most influential element of the population, has namely chosen Mr. B. Cohn as candidate for mayor. Mr. Cohn, though young in years, enjoys an excellent reputation and his sterling qualities have made him exceedingly popular with Jew and gentile. If elected he will be the first Jewish mayor in California.[27]

Concerning the statement on Cohn's supposed popularity, the editorialist of the San Francisco Jewish paper was something less than accurate. In fact, though his qualities of civic concern and leadership were widely recognized, Cohn's personal popularity was not too great, and this worked against him in the subsequent election. His strongest supporter among the Los Angeles press, the *Herald*, observed in part that: "While we cannot say that Mr. Cohn is personally very popular, he has elements of strength which are not to be despised."[28] The *Star's* comment was also indicative: "There are plenty of good men who would make worse mayors than Mr. Cohn, but the city will glory in a better one even than he."[29] Cohn himself, in the 1887 interview mentioned above, referred to the enemies he had made during his 1876 to 1878 term as city councilman when he bid up the price of the municipal bonds the city issued "in order to put in a system of water-works," so that the municipality would get as much capital as possible.[30]

The qualities and record which brought the nomination for mayor to Bernard Cohn, were best summarized by the *Herald*.

> Mr. Cohn is one of our leading Hebrew citizens, and has been a successful merchant and is a man who for nearly two years has given his attention to the affairs of the good people as a member of the city council. . . . Not a man who has cooperated with Mr. Cohn in the city council, from Mr. Lips who nominated him, to other members who do not love a bone in his body, will withhold their testimony to the fact that Ben [sic] Cohn has been the vigilant and unceasing enemy to anything like jobbery in our municipal affairs. No African in the woodpile could conceal himself so thoroughly

27. *The Hebrew*, San Francisco, November 22, 1878, p. 4.
28. *Los Angeles Herald*, November 18, 1878, p. 3.
29. *Los Angeles Star*, November 15, 1878, p. 3.
30. B. Cohn, dictation, *op. cit.* There are a number of other references to Cohn's lack of personal popularity in the contemporary press. See *Los Angeles Herald*, November 27, 1878, p. 3; *Los Angeles Star*, November 19, 1878, p. 3.

> as to escape his lynx-eyed watchfulness. . . . . The chances of his being elected mayor of Los Angeles are excellent, because he will receive the support of our leading businessmen, irrespective of party, who confide in his integrity of purpose.[31]

On the same evening that the People's Party had nominated Cohn for mayor, the Workingmen's Party, meeting at Military Hall, had nominated James R. Toberman. This gentleman had served previously as mayor, from 1872 to 1874.[32] The main argument advanced against Cohn's candidacy was that he was a part of a powerful group of men who were trying to control local politics. They were called the "ring," by some. It was held against Cohn that this group advocated greater centralization by electing city councilmen by the voters at large rather than by each of the wards. It was noted that the group had proposed that substantial bonds be filed by the mayor and members of the city council, which it was felt would rule out the less affluent from running for municipal offices. The political opposition to Cohn implied that he and his party did not deserve support, since their candidacy was "only for the purpose of gaining power in order to betray those who trust them."[33]

As for the matter of a "ring," the *Herald* answered that attack by observing that: "If there is such a thing as a Ring it is a good thing that Cohn belongs to it, for he has stood in the breech and prevented, whenever in his power, its ever doing any mischief."[34] Cohn was active in his own defence and wrote a long letter to the *Express*, which had attacked his candidacy. He stood firmly on his two-year record in the city council. His closing statement provides a good summary of his attitudes.

> And, finally, I desire to say, that I have stood by the city in all her contracts, as against gas, water or any and everything else. My official action is on record. If you can point to anything therein calling for unfavorable criticism, you are free to do so. I ask no favors, other than that common justice due from man to his fellow. I believe that the acts of

---

31. *Los Angeles Herald*, November 18, 1878, p. 3.
32. *Los Angeles Star*, November 17, 1878, p. 2.
33. *Ibid.*, November 19, 1878, p. 3, November 27, 1878, p. 3.
34. *Los Angeles Herald*, November 18, 1878, p. 3.

PEOPLE'S TICKET.

ELECTION, MONDAY, DEC. 2d, 1878.

FOR MAYOR.....B. COHN
CITY TREASURER.....I. W. LORD
CITY ATTORNEY.....B. C. WHITING
CITY TAX COL'CT'R.....T. A. SANCHEZ
CITY ASSESSOR.....A. N. HAMILTON

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

JOSEPH KURTZ, ALFRED JAMES,
WALLACE WOODWORTH.

FOR COUNCILMEN:

First Ward.....LOUIS MEINZER
do .....JOSEPH MULLALLY
do .....SANTOS BAUCHETIE

Second Ward.....WALTER S. MOORE
do .....J. KUHRTS
do .....S. REES

Third Ward.....S. HALEY
do .....E. K. GREEN
do .....G. H. MATFIELD

Fourth Ward.....S. J. BECK
do .....G. E. GARD
do .....W. H. WORKMAN

Fifth Ward.....N. R. VAIL
do .....J. M. McDONALD
do .....J. M. CARTER

People's Party candidates for Los Angeles municipal election, 1878.

> officials are fair subjects of criticism, and my own are the property of my fellow citizens to judge upon both now and at the day of election.[35]

As to the question of whether anti-Semitism was a factor in the election, there are one or two bits of evidence that this was the case with at least some of the electorate. In a letter to the editor of the *Star* signed "X," it was clearly implied that Los Angeles Jews were controlling too much of the city. After mentioning one non-Jew, T. D. Mott, a court clerk who had several relatives on the city and county payrolls, the writer listed a number of Jews whose positions of influence, in his opinion, gave Los Angeles Jewry too much power.

> Mr. Myer J. Newmark, occupying the distinguished position of chairman of the County Democratic Central Committee, takes great delight, perhaps regards it his duty to run the Democratic Party so that Mr. [Maurice] Kremer, his brother-in-law, shall hold office perpetually,[36] that Mr. [Emil] Harris shall be chief of police of the city,[37] Mr. Charles Prager shall be the member of the board of supervisors and chairman of the committee on hospital supplies,[38] Mr. B. Cohn, the mayor [pro tem] of the city, and Mr. I. W. Hellman, the custodian of the funds of the city and county to bank on — all of kindred race.[39]

Additionally, in a cryptic remark included in the fullest biographical account of Cohn written at the time of his death, it was said that "his defeat [as mayor] was attributed to other than political reasons."[40] This could well have referred to some anti-Semitic prejudice which the writer would only allude to in this veiled way.

---

35. From the *Evening Express,* November 20, 1878, as reprinted in the *Los Angeles Herald,* November 21, 1878, p. 3.
36. Maurice Kremer had been Los Angeles County Tax Collector for the previous two years, and prior to that had served as the county treasurer from 1860 to 1865, and as city clerk from 1871 to 1875. J. Albert Wilson, *op. cit.,* pp. 51, 114. Kremer was married to Matilda, Myer J. Newmark's sister.
37. See Norton B. Stern and William M. Kramer, "Emil Harris: Los Angeles Jewish Police Chief," *Southern California Quarterly* (Summer 1973), pp. 163-192.
38. Prager was serving his first year on the county board of supervisors when this was written.
39. *Los Angeles Star,* November 27, 1878, p. 3. The writer inadvertently omitted another Jewish official, Isaiah M. Hellman, the city treasurer, who had been elected in 1876. J. Albert Wilson, *op. cit.,* p. 114.
40. *Evening Express,* November 2, 1889, p. 5.

The Workingmen's Party candidate for mayor, James R. Toberman, was a curious nominee for a party by that name. The city directory listed him as a "capitalist,"[41] and the *Herald* declared that he was no workingman at all. "Our elegant and distinguished friend has hands as white as any lady's. We have examined them, and find that there is absolutely nothing horny about his palms."[42] A couple of letters to the editor of the *Herald* stressed the idea that Toberman, "of the gold-headed cane and Workingmen's pretensions," was a questionable candidate for mayor as he made "a fortune without doing any work and without letting anyone know how" this was accomplished.[43] But the principal objection to Toberman's candidacy was the claim that he was an employer of Chinese workmen, seen as a substantial political liability in that period. He was accused of having "gotten wealthy by their labor." One letter writer insisted that he be informed as to how Toberman stood on the Chinese question before he would vote for him. Another wrote that Toberman had favored the Southern Pacific Railroad which was responsible for having brought 5,000 Chinese laborers into Southern California.[44]

Cohn's candidacy for mayor was opposed by the *Star* and *Express*, and favored by the *Herald*. The latter gave firm editorial support to the People's slate.

> We don't think any dispassionate man can look it [People's ticket] over, compare it with the so-called Workingmen's ticket and fail to concede the fact that it embraces elements which will commend themselves to the average voter in preference to a ticket which is not what it assumes to be. The Workingmen's ticket, with workingmen ignored for mayor, and the principal offices, is like the play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out.[45]

Less than a week before the election the *Herald* offered a few positive remarks on the desirability of Cohn as mayor.

---

41. *Directory of Los Angeles City 1878*, p. 110.
42. *Los Angeles Herald*, November 18, 1878, p. 3. See also *Ibid.*, November 20, 1878, p. 3.
43. *Ibid.*, November 30, 1878, p. 3, December 1, 1878, p. 3.
44. *Ibid.*, November 18, 1878, p. 3, November 22, 1878, p. 2, November 27, 1878, p. 3, November 30, 1878, p. 3.
45. *Ibid.*, November 21, 1878, p. 2.

> We have not heard it asserted that the present mayor [pro tem], B. Cohn, has ever proved derelict to the best interests of Los Angeles. His enemies admit that he is a keen and intelligent businessman and that his career in the city council has been characterized by public spirit and by a vigilant regard for the interests of his fellow citizens. With the issues narrowed down as to whether Cohn or Toberman would make the most industrious and vigilant guardian of the interests of the taxpayer, the contest would be ended at once. We are informed, by those who have marked his official career from the beginning, that Cohn has been at all times a "brake" to the municipal vehicle, bringing extravagant legislation to a stop at the very top of the disastrous declivity. Such a man is needed by the people of Los Angeles in the office of mayor.[46]

But all the *Herald's* arguments were in vain. In a major municipal upheaval every member of the city council was replaced, and Cohn was defeated. The vote was 860 for Toberman, 562 for Cohn.[47] Toberman, who had served previously for two years as mayor, served for the second time in four years, from 1878 to 1882.[48]

In 1880 Cohn made his political comeback, being elected to the city council from the fourth ward on December 6.[49] In 1882 he decided to run for mayor again, but this time he ran with the support of an independent citizens group, and he didn't receive any newspaper backing. The *Herald,* which had supported him so strongly four years before, attacked him for his party inconsistency in such severe fashion,[50] that the newly established *Times* stated: "This line of attack on the part of the *Herald* is neither decent nor dignified. . . . We are not making Mr. Cohn's fight . . . but . . . the *Times* proposes to see that its (Citizens' Party) selection for Mayor has at least a fair show. . . ."[51] Cohn ran a poor third in the election, with Cameron E. Thom being elected mayor.[52]

Five years later Cohn ran for city council again and was easily elected, along with all of the Democratic slate. He again

---

46. *Ibid.,* November 27, 1878, p. 2.
47. *Los Angeles Star,* December 3, 1878, p. 3.
48. *Mayors of Los Angeles* (Los Angeles, 1966), p. 28.
49. *Los Angeles Herald,* December 19, 1880, p. 3.
50. *Ibid.,* December 1, 1882, p. 2.
51. *Los Angeles Times,* December 2, 1882, p. 2.
52. *Los Angeles Herald,* December 5, 1882, p. 3.

served, at this last of his incumbencies, as president of the city council.[53]

When Bernard Cohn died on November 1, 1889, there was an outpouring of regard and appreciation expressed for his civic and political contributions to the life of the city. His passing was headline material in all of the Los Angeles newspapers. Cohn had died of a heart attack while paying a condolence call. He had been the guardian of Louis Schlesinger, son of his former partner, and was visiting the youth's mother, Mrs. Mary Schlesinger, shortly after Louis' burial, when he was stricken. He died before medical assistance could arrive.[54]

An editorial in the *Express* observed that "The death of Mr. B. Cohn removes one of the pioneers of the city, a man who was perhaps better informed on city affairs than any other resident of Los Angeles, an upright and honorable businessman through a long and successful career here and one who will be kindly remembered by all."[55] The *Times* referred to the "public services rendered by the deceased" and to the tribute paid "to the memory of a man who has been a public spirited and successful citizen."[56] The *Tribune* noted that Cohn "has always been prominent in politics," and that "he was always known as the 'Watch Dog of the City Treasury,' owing to the fact that he opposed every unlawful or illegal appropriation of the city's money." Finally, that "Mr. Cohn was a keen and sagacious politician, and his judgment as to matters political was always regarded as the best in the city."[57]

The funeral, which took place from the Cohn residence at 66 South Main Street (near Second), was the largest that had taken place in the city, and the funeral procession from the home to the Jewish cemetery in Chavez Ravine was the longest which had been seen in Los Angeles.[58] The funeral was on Sunday, November 3. The pallbearers were Mayor Henry T. Hazard; ex-Mayor

53. *Evening Express,* December 6, 1887, p. 2, December 12, 1887, p. 3, December 19, 1887, p. 5.
54. *Ibid.,* November 2, 1889, p. 5.
55. *Ibid.,* p. 4.
56. *Los Angeles Times,* November 4, 1889, p. 2.
57. *Los Angeles Tribune,* November 2, 1889, p. 4.
58. *Los Angeles Times,* November 4, 1889, p. 2; *Evening Express,* November 4, 1889, p. 5.

Edward F. Spence; ex-Mayor William H. Workman; W. J. Brodrick; Solomon Lazard, president of the Hebrew Benevolent Society; L. Sanders, treasurer of the benevolent society; Samuel Prager, past president of Orange Lodge of B'nai B'rith; J. L. Morris, a former county supervisor; Isador E. Cohn, M.D., son of Rabbi Elkan Cohn of San Francisco; and Ephraim Greenbaum.

The funeral procession took place in the following order: Chief of Police John M. Glass, mounted, with a squad of mounted men; three platoons of mounted police; foot patrolmen headed by Sergeant John R. Fletcher; Chief of the Fire Department Thomas Strohm and Assistant Chief Charles Miles; fifty uniformed fire department exempts led by Dan Moriarty and Walter S. Moore; forty uniformed members of the fire department; carriage with Rabbi Abraham W. Edelman and family; carriage with Rabbi Abraham Blum and family; the hearse, drawn by four black horses; the pallbearers; carriages containing members of the Cohn family; the city councilmen in carriages; the ex-city councilmen in carriages; forty members of the Hebrew Benevolent Society; the members of the Orange and Semi-Tropic lodges of B'nai B'rith; and numerous friends of the deceased.[59]

The service at the Cohn home was conducted by Rabbi Edelman for the relatives and intimates of the deceased, with a large crowd assembled about the house. Then the long procession marched slowly north on Main Street, and as it passed Fire Engine House No. 2, the fire bell was tolled. At the Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery (later called Home of Peace Cemetery) "Rabbi Edelman delivered a short address in honor of the departed, in which he dwelt upon his virtues both as a public man and citizen, and also as a husband and father. Rabbi Blum then performed the ceremonies of the Hebrew rites of burial in a feeling manner, and the mourners left the cemetery."[60]

---

59. *Los Angeles Times,* November 3, 1889, p. 3, November 4, 1889, p. 2; *Evening Express,* November 2, 1889, p. 5, November 4, 1889, p. 5; Unidentified clipping, November 4, 1889.

60. *Ibid.* For details of the lawsuit which resulted from the fight over the estate left by Bernard Cohn, see *Evening Express,* November 12, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, December 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, etc., and October 29, 1892 (all on p. 1, except the first reference p. 5). The affair was in the courts from November 11, 1891 until January 12, 1892. The estate of Bernard Cohn was valued at $300,000. *Ibid.*

JEWS IN THE 1870 CENSUS OF LOS ANGELES

By Norton B. Stern

Perhaps due to the widespread nature of the Jewish settlement in the West, a myth has developed regarding the low number and proportion of Jews in the pioneer period.[1] Yet the contemporary accounts of Jews embarking for the new Eldorado indicate very substantial numbers.[2] And the persistent reports of Jewish predominance in business, their leadership in civic affairs and their prominent role in cultural and fraternal life in the new West, would seem to show that the proportion of Jewish people was rather high. But there has been no detailed population study of a significant Western town during the pioneer period which would help establish the basis for broad demographic generalizations of Jews in the frontier West. Hence this review.

The Federal Census of 1870 in Los Angeles revealed a total population for the city of 5,728. A detailed study of the handwritten pages of that census to determine the number of Jewish residents, has shown that in July and August of 1870 when the census was taken, there were 330 Jewish individuals in the city. Thus, at that period, 5.76 percent of the population of Los Angeles was Jewish.

The significance of this five and three-quarters percentage of Jews in the 1870 Los Angeles population may be put in perspective by noting that the proportion of Jews in the population of New York City at the same time is estimated as being slightly over five percent.[3] The writer has good reason to believe that

1. Daniel Levy, writing from California in 1855, noted that, "Among all the areas in the world, California is possibly the one in which the Jews are the most widely dispersed." See "Letters About the Jews of California: 1855-1858," *WSJHQ*, January 1971, p. 93.
2. See Rudolf Glanz, *The Jews of California from the Discovery of Gold until 1880* (New York, 1960), pp. 20-21.
3. Ira Rosenwaike, letter, to the writer, June 7, 1976. Mr. Rosenwaike, a statistician and demographer, pointed out that the Jewish population of New York in 1859 was estimated at 5.1 percent, and in 1877, it could be computed as 5.4 percent. See Hyman B. Grinstein, *The Rise of the Jewish Community of New York* (Philadelphia, 1947), p. 471, and Board of Delegates, *Statistics of the Jews of the United States*, p. 9.

the high proportion of Jews in Los Angeles over 100 years ago was duplicated in many other towns and urban centers in the early West.

It is felt that the figure of 330 Jewish residents in the city is a conservative one, and it is likely that any further refinement would show a somewhat higher figure. Six years later, in 1876, a member of the Jewish community (probably Rabbi Abraham W. Edelman) estimated that the Jewish population of Los Angeles was 600.[4] This would tend to verify the number of Jews we found in the 1870 census, since the city's growth was such as to take the entire decade of the seventies to reach a total population of 11,183 found in the census for 1880.

In our enumeration of Jews from the 1870 census, we listed only those known to be Jewish or those reasonably likely to be Jewish. We have omitted a substantial number of individuals and families who might have been included solely on the basis that their surname was commonly borne by Jews. In addition, we have omitted the names of the non-Jewish wives of John Jones and Joseph Leventhal, and the three children of the former and the one child of the latter.

It was on July 25, 1870, when the census enumerator listed the first Jewish family on his forms. The family was that of Moritz Morris, his wife and four children, and his brother, Julius L. Morris. The last Jewish entry was Samuel Levi, listed on August 27, who was a resident of the United States Hotel. For a variety of reasons a number of Jews positively known to be residing in Los Angeles in the period were omitted from the census. Also missing were a few who were very probably residents during the period. Some of these individuals omitted from the census sheets are likely to have been out of town for business reasons, and others were apparently overlooked by the census agent.

Among those known for certain to have been Los Angeles residents during the summer of 1870, but whose names are not to be found in the census, are: Henry Wartenberg, a merchant very active in Jewish community leadership, who had been born

4. Benjamin Hayes, *An Historical Sketch of Los Angeles County California* (Los Angeles, 1936 reprint of the 1876 edition), Chapter II, p. 89.

in Prussia and naturalized in Los Angeles on January 9, 1861;[5] Charles Gerson, a merchant, born in Germany, whose wife and children were listed, who lived in Los Angeles most of his life, and who died in the city in 1907;[6] Charles Jacoby, a business partner of Leopold Harris, who had been born in Prussia and was naturalized in Los Angeles on August 28, 1871;[7] Mrs. H. Cohen, a dressmaker;[8] and H. C. Lewis, one of the trustees of Congregation B'nai B'rith who was listed on the deed for the lot purchased on August 9, 1869 for the proposed synagogue structure.[9]

Herman W. Hellman, a resident of Los Angeles who arrived from Bavaria in 1859 as a fifteen-year-old, was in Europe during the summer of 1870 seeking a bride. Succeeding in that endeavor, he returned in the fall to help establish the wholesale grocery firm of Hellman, Haas and Company, with Jacob Haas and Bernhard Cohn. Other Jews who probably were living in Los Angeles at the time, but who were not included in the census records, are Casper Behrendt, Aaron Smith and Eugene Germain. We are aware of the possibility that some of those we have listed may not have been Jewish. But we are reasonably certain that these are more than offset by those we have inadvertently omitted and by those unaccountably missed by the census itself.

Due to the great mobility of the population of the West in the nineteenth century, many of the individuals present in Los Angeles in the summer of 1870 do not appear in the first directories of the city (1872 and 1875), or in the *Great Register* (of voters) for 1875. It must be pointed out that the early city directories were notoriously incomplete and far from accurate, and the *Great Register* only listed adult males who were native born or naturalized, and who had registered to vote.

---

5. See *WSJHQ*, October 1970, p. 62, for Wartenberg material.
6. *Great Register of Los Angeles County 1875;* Home of Peace, Los Angeles, interment records.
7. *Los Angeles Star*, August 7, 1870, p. 3; *Great Register, op. cit.*
8. For her presence in the city in 1867, see *WSJHQ*, July 1973, p. 277 and note no. 9.
9. Los Angeles County, Deed Book, No. 13, p. 434. This synagogue building was dedicated on August 8, 1873. See Tom Owen, "The First Synagogue in Los Angeles," *WSJHQ*, October 1968, pp. 9-13.

We know of at least one Jewish visitor who was listed in the census. He was Rabbi Hyam Zvee Sneersohn, who had arrived in late July, 1870, and who delivered two lectures to the community on August 11 and 16. This Jewish traveler, a great grandson of Shneor Zalman, the founder of the Habad movement of Hasidism, remained in Los Angeles long enough to be enumerated on August 20 by the census agent.[10]

The lists below summarize some of the basic data on the age, place of birth, and occupation of the adults of the Jewish community in 1870. That the Jewish population was predominantly young can readily be seen from the fact that of the 330 individuals composing the community, only fifteen were over the age of forty-five. Though most of the families were still growing, of those which included at least one child, the median number of children was four.

The adult community consisted principally of Polish Jews, which included not only those listed as having been born in Poland, but those born in Prussian-Poland, such as the province of Posen, which had been annexed by Prussia in 1772. These areas are again part of Poland today. It is quite probable that some of those who listed themselves as being from Germany, were also of Polish Jewish origin. Much of the large Jewish population of Western Poland found itself a part of the kingdom of Prussia. Their substantial ties to Germanic culture stemmed from their desire to identify with Western civilization.[11]

There were also a number of adults from Bavaria and other parts of Germany, from France and the United States, and from a variety of other places. In some cases, individuals were born in that part of Poland which was ruled by Russia. Samuel and Isaac Norton, Adolph Portugal and Rabbi Abraham W. Edelman are examples of this, as indicated by noting the data in both the census and the *Great Register*.

---

10. *Los Angeles Star*, July 21, 1870, p. 2, August 5, 1870, p. 3, August 12, 1870, p. 2. For a study of Sneersohn in America, including his activities in Los Angeles and San Francisco, see Norton B. Stern and William M. Kramer, "A Pre-Israeli Diplomat on an American Mission, 1869-1870," *WSJHQ*, April 1976, pp. 232-242.
11. The reader is referred to the study by Norton B. Stern and William M. Kramer, "The Major Role of Polish Jews in the Pioneer West," *WSJHQ*, July 1976, pp. 326-344.

Occupationally, it is clear that the predominant field was that of wearing apparel merchandising, though Jews were involved in a wide variety of businesses or worked for those who owned such firms. The latter listed themselves principally as clerks and laborers.

AGES OF ADULTS AND WORKING PERSONS

15 — 2	25 — 8	34 — 6	44 — 6
16 — 1	26 — 6	35 — 6	46 — 4
18 — 2	27 — 5	36 — 7	48 — 3
19 — 4	28 — 2	37 — 4	52 — 1
20 — 5	29 — 3	38 — 9	56 — 2
21 — 4	30 — 8	39 — 3	57 — 1
22 — 9	31 — 9	40 — 9	62 — 1
23 — 2	32 — 6	41 — 3	63 — 1
24 — 5	33 — 3	42 — 10	68 — 1
			71 — 1

PLACES OF BIRTH OF ADULTS AND MARRIED PERSONS

Prussia	62	Wurtemberg	4
Germany	26	Bohemia	3
Poland	18	Russia	2
France	14	Jerusalem	2
United States	13	Baden	1
Bavaria	8	Saxony	1
England	5	Hungary	1

OCCUPATIONS

Dry goods & clothing merchant	24	Grocer	2
Clerk	21	Furniture dealer	2
Laborer	14	Retired	2
General merchandiser	9	Jeweler & watchmaker	2
Shoemaker & shoe merchant	5	Housekeeper	1
Tailor	4	Stationer	1
Liquor merchant	3	Butcher	1
Wholesale merchant	3	Banker	1
Peddler	3	Tobacco merchant	1
Saloonkeeper	3	Paint dealer	1
Drayman	2	Sign painter	1
Rabbi	2	Painter	1
		Bookkeeper	1

A good deal of carelessness is evident in the sheets filled out by the census gatherer in 1870. He apparently was not always careful to ask for the exact spelling of names, trusting to a phonetic orthography. Thus, a considerable variation was found

in some cases between the spelling of names in the census and those listed in other sources. However, not all of these variations were the fault of the census agent. Many individuals were in the process of firming up the spelling of their names in this period and making changes in their given name. Max Marks and Max Rusick began using Marcus for their first name. Benjamin Katz decided that Bernard was more to his liking. Herman Neubauer preferred to use Henry. Leopold Loeb was later known as Leon. In cases where a faulty spelling is obviously the result of phonetic interpretation, corrections have been made, so that the individual is identifiable. The following list of Los Angeles Jewish residents from the census of 1870 indicates the individual's age, sex, occupation (that of housewife has been omitted) and place of birth. Some names are followed by the letters a, b, c or d. These indicate listings in the following sources:

a — *The First Los Angeles City and County Directory 1872* (Los Angeles, 1963 reprint).
b — *Directory of Los Angeles for 1875* (Los Angeles, 1875).
c — Home of Peace Cemetery, Los Angeles, interment records.
d — *Great Register of Los Angeles County 1875.*

Notations accompanying items a and b indicate the pages in the directories in which the individuals are listed, and any clarifying information on their occupation. The date of death is indicated with listings of c. With d are listed the date of naturalization, or if American-born, the date of voter registration, and any clarifying data on name, place of birth or occupation.

Aaron Arnold 22 M Clerk in store Prussia
b — p. 5, clerk for E. Laventhal. d — Aron Arnold, reg. 10/27/74.

Abraham Baer 56 M Tailor Bavaria
a — p. 2 b — p. 17. c — 11/29/82.
Isabel Baer 35 F Bavaria
Henry Baer 13 M California
Oscar Baer 8 M California
Edward Baer 6 M California
Charles Baer 3 M California

Isaac Benjamin 38 M Boot maker Prussia
Sarah Benjamin 38 F Prussia
Isaac Benjamin 12 M Pennsylvania
Fanny Benjamin 10 F Pennsylvania
Solomon Benjamin 6 M Pennsylvania

Simon Benjamin 37 M Boot maker Poland
a — pp. 3, 28, 29, 30. b — p. 13, shoemaker. c — 5/6/15.
Jenny Benjamin 42 F Prussia
Isaac Benjamin 13 M New Jersey
Fanny Benjamin 10 F New Jersey
Solomon Benjamin 8 M Pennsylvania

Simon Berg 35 M Laborer Baden
d — 4/3/58, clerk, Germany.

Isaac Berwin 41 M Tailor Prussia
c — 8/2/72.

Louis Beswinger 27 M Jeweler Wurtemberg

Harry Brush 19 M Clerk in store New York

Leopold Brust 25 M Laborer Germany
Augusta Brust 22 F Germany
I. D. Brust 1/12 F California

Nathan Cahn 31 M Clerk in dry goods store France
a — p. 3. d — 7/22/71.

Rachel Cahn 24 F Housekeeper [for Herman Fleishman] Germany

Joseph Coblentz 30 M Liquor merchant France
a — p. 3. b — p. 37. d — 9/14/68.

Adolph Cohen 31 M Clerk in store Prussia
a — p. 4. b — p. 37, clerk of I. Norton. c — 4/25/71. d — 7/26/71.

Caspar Cohen 20 M Merchant Prussia
d — 8/18/73.

Herman Cohen 46 M Laborer Prussia
a — p. 4. b — p. 37.
Flora Cohen 40 F Prussia
Max Cohen 18 M Clerk in store Prussia
Jenny Cohen 14 F California
Hannah Cohen 6 F California

Isaac Cohen 22 M Dry goods merchant Prussia
b — p. 37. c — 7/18/33.

Isadore Cohen 44 M Dry goods merchant Prussia
a — p. 4. b — p. 35 c — 12/29/95.
Paulina Cohen 44 F Prussia
Davida Cohen 17 F Prussia
Mary Cohen 10 F California
Nellie Cohen 8 F California
Manuel Cohen 5 M California

Joseph Cohen 25 M Dry goods merchant Prussia
a — p. 3. b — p. 35, dealer in general merchandise.
David Cohen 15 M Clerk Prussia

Simon Cohen 39 M Drayman France
d — reg. 8/14/71.

Bernhard Cohn 32 M Wholesale merchant Prussia
a — p. 4. b — p. 35, Hellman, Haas & Co. c — 11/1/89.
d — 3/18/58.
Esther Cohn 30 F Russia
Julius Cohn 10 M California
Carrie Cohn 8 F California
Caesar Cohn 6 M California
c — 5/2/17.

Kaspare Cohn 31 M Wine merchant Prussia
a — p. 4. b — p. 29, H. Newmark & Co. d — 9/2/67.

Louis Cohn 31 M Dry goods merchant Prussia
a — p. 4. b — p. 35, dry goods, clothing. c — 12/29/12. d — Lewis Cohn, 8/15/61.

Mayer Cohn 18 M Clerk in store Prussia
c — 10/19/12. d — Mac Cohn, reg. 12/1/74.

Samuel Cohn 32 M Merchant Prussia
d — 8/8/59.
Fanny Cohn 20 F New York

Simon Cohn 35 M Drayman Germany

Rowland Davidson 32 M Fruit peddler England
a — p. 4.
Hannah Davidson 30 F England
Samuel K. Davidson 4 M England

Abraham Edelman 40 M Jewish Rabbi Russia
a — pp. 29, 30. b — p. 47. c — 7/24/07. d — Prussia, 12/7/74.
Hannah Edelman 40 F Prussia
Benjamin Edelman 16 M New Jersey
Rachel Edelman 14 F New York
Abram Edelman 8 M California
Henry Edelman 6 M California
David Edelman 1 M California

John Einstein 36 M Shoemaker Prussia
Louisa Einstein 36 F Wurtemberg
Louisa Einstein 6 F New York
Emma Einstein 2 F New York

Herman Fleishman 42 M Stationer Bavaria
a — p. 5. b — p. 53, Tobacco & stationery merchant. c — 9/2/82, Helena Fleishman 6/9/69. d — 4/7/55.
Isadore Fleishman 14 M California
Frederick Fleishman 12 M California
Henry Fleishman 10 M California
Marian Fleishman 9 F California
Leopold Fleishman 7 M California
Nathan Fleishman 6 M California
Emma Fleishman 5 F California

Isaac Gach 32 M Tailor Poland
Fanny Gach 22 F Germany

Caroline Gerson 30 F Grocery & dry goods Germany c — 8/3/93.
Herman Gerson 14 M California
Bertha Gerson 11 F California
Samuel Gerson 10 M California
Edward Gerson 9 M California
Hersilla Gerson 6 F California
Fanny Gerson 4 F California

Simon Goldbaum 21 M Clerk in store Prussia

Sophia Goldstein 37 F Prussia. a — p. 5. b — p. 61, Widow.
Sarah Goldstein 13 F California
Samuel Goldstein 6 M California

Ephraim Greenbaum 42 M Dry goods merchant retail Poland
a — p. 5. b — p. 63, Loan & pawnbroker's office. d— 12/3/56, Russia
Tina Greenbaum 40 F Poland
b — p. 61, Proprietor White House Hotel.
Bertha Greenbaum 15 F California
Tenny Greenbaum 7 F California
Abby Greenbaum 3 F California
Eva Greenbaum 11/12 F California

Abraham Harris 25 M Clerk in store Prussia a — p. 6.

Adolph Harris 31 M Dry goods merchant Prussia
a — p. 6. d — 8/7/69.

Emil Harris 27 M Keeps saloon Prussia
a — p. 30. b — p. 65, Detective. c — 4/28/21. d — Reg. 6/25/69.
Lida Harris 27 F Louisiana
Busta Harris 3 M California

Leopold Harris 34 M Merchant Prussia
a — p. 6. b — p. 67, Harris & Jacoby, Cash store, general merchandise. c — 9/6/10. d — 7/29/57.
Minnie Harris 22 F Prussia
c — 9/24/26.
Tena Harris 1 F California

Albert Heller 44 M Butcher Germany
a — p. 6. b — p. 73. d — 11/2/68, Austria.
Caroline Heller 40 F Germany
Samuel Heller 12 M Kansas
August Heller 8 M Kansas
Betty Heller 13 F Iowa
Paulina Heller 6 F Oregon
Fanny Heller 1 F California

Isaiah M. Hellman 39 M Merchant retail dry goods Bavaria
a — p. 6. b — p. 73, Capitalist. c — 12/30/90. d — 12/13/56.
Caroline Hellman 30 F Bohemia
c — 8/28/78.
Emma Hellman 7 F California
Bertha Hellman 6 F California
Camilla Hellman 2 F California
Marco Hellman 3/12 M California

Isaias W. Hellman 27 M Banker Bavaria
a — pp. 28, 30. b — p. 73, Cashier of Farmers & Merchants Bank.
d — 9/2/67.
Estelle Hellman 18 F Bavaria

Samuel Hellman 31 M Merchant fancy goods Bavaria
a — p. 6. b — p. 73, dealer in books, stationery, fancy goods,
toys, etc. c — 7/4/96.
Hattie Hellman 26 F Bohemia
c — 9/18/31.
Mary Hellman 6 F California
Eugene Hellman 4 M California
Estella Hellman 2 F California

Bernard Isaac 36 M Laborer France
Chasem Isaac 25 F France
Louis Isaac 1/12 M California

John Jones 68 M Wholesale merchant Germany
a — p. 6. b — p. 81, Wholesale grocer. d — 8/22/59, Prussia.

Wolf Kalisher 44 M Dry goods merchant Prussia
a — p. 7. b — p. 83, dealer in clothing, dry goods, groceries, etc.
c — 1/26/89. d — 7/11/55, Russia.
Louisa Kalisher 34 F Prussia
Fanny Kalisher 8 F California
Simon Kalisher 4 M California
Rosa Kalisher 1 F California

Benjamin Katz 38 M Keeps saloon Prussia
a — p. 7. b — p. 83. c — Bernard 10/4/1885. d — Reg. 10/16/73.
Virginia Katz 31 F Louisiana
c — 1/31/27.
Cecilia Katz 15 F California
Henry Katz 13 M California
Marcus Katz 8 M California
Herman Katz 6 M California
David Katz 2 M California

Maurice Kremer 42 M Dry goods & millinery France
a — p. 7. b — p. 85, city clerk. c — 3/7/07. d — 10/14/52.
Matilda Kremer 33 F New York
c — 3/5/07.
Rachel Kremer 11 F California
Emily Kremer 6 F California
Eda Kremer 2 F California
Agnes Kremer 1/12 F California

Henry Labes 41 M Laborer Germany
Carrol Labes 29 F Germany
Jenny Labes 12 F California
Isadore Labes 9 M California
Julius Labes 7 M California
Lillie Labes 4 F California
Esther Labes 1 F California

Mary Lachs 48 F France
Mary Lachs 10 F California

Rosina Lang 38 F Wurtemberg
Albert Lang 2 M British Columbia

Elias Laventhal 40 M Dry goods merchant Prussia
a — p. 7 b — p. 89, dealer in dry goods, clothing. d — 8/15/57.
Bertha Laventhal 38 F Prussia
Teny Laventhal 10 F California
Edward Laventhal 9 M California
Rebecca Laventhal 7 F California
Isador Laventhal 4 M California
Johana Laventhal 3 F California
Sarah Laventhal 3/12 F California

Solomon Lazard 42 M Merchant dry goods France
a — p. 7. b — p. 87, President, Chamber of Commerce. c — 1/13/16.
d — 10/5/52
Caroline Lazard 24 F Missouri
c — 11/23/20.
Jeannette Lazard 4 F California
Alexander Lazard 2 M California
Louisa Lazard 1 F California

Louis Lehman 52 M Furniture dealer Germany
a — p. 7. b — p. 91. d — Reg. 8/14/71, Baden.
Charlotte Lehman 42 F Germany
Sarah Lehman 20 F Louisiana
Martin Lehman 18 M Clerk in store Louisiana
Hattie Lehman 13 F California
Louisa Lehman 6 F California

Ralph Leon 34 M Tobacco store England
a — p. 7. b — p. 93, dealer in cigars tobacco and periodicals.

Joseph Leventhal 35 M Dry goods merchant Germany
a — p. 7. b — p. 89. d — 6/19/67, Joseph Laventhal, Prussia.

David Levi 20 M Clerk in store London
a — p. 7.
Lewis Levi 57 M Laborer Poland
c — 2/28/87. d — 3/23/60, saloonkeeper, Prussia.
Augusta Levi 48 F Poland
Amelia Levi 12 F California
Rafael Levi 10 M California
Alfie Levi 8 M California
Jenny Levi 5 F California

Noah Levi 38 M Dry goods merchant Prussia
d — 8/14/73, Noah Levy.

Samuel Levi 21 M Peddler Germany
a — p. 7.

Michel Levy 34 M Liquor merchant France
a — p. 7. b — p. 91, Levy & Coblentz.
c — 3/27/05. d — Reg. 10/10/68.
Rebecca Levy 19 F Prussia
c — 9/11/18.

Joseph Libes 37 M Laborer Germany
Maria Libes 27 F Germany
Joseph Libes 3 M Iowa
Otto Libes 2 M Iowa

Leopold Loeb 26 M Clerk in dry goods store France
a — p. 30. b — p. 91, salesman for Eugene Meyer & Co.
c — 7/22/11. d — 12/3/70.

Isadore Louis 34 M Boot & shoe merchant Prussia
c — 12/5/95, Isidor.
Valentine Louis 21 F Prussia
Heinrich W. Louis 3 M Prussia
Emanuel Louis 2 M Prussia

Hilliard Lowenstein 42 M Dry goods store Prussia
c — 12/22/94.
Rosa Lowenstein 34 F Prussia
c — 2/21/77.
Emanuel Lowenstein 12 M Prussia
Rosetta Lowenstein 4 F California
Eva Lowenstein 2 F California

Lola Lowenstein 25 F Prussia

Marcus Marks 16 M Clerk in store Prussia
b — p. 97, clerk with Mendel Meyer. d — Max Marx, 10/13/74.

Louis Mayer 37 M Laborer Germany
b — p. 99, proprietor Wigwam. d — 8/31/71, Tailor.
Caroline Mayer 5 F California
Francis Mayer 4 M California
Louisa Mayer 3 F California

Abram Metz 24 M Peddler Poland

Constant Meyer 31 M Clerk in dry goods store France
a — p. 28. b — p. 105, clerk for Eugene Meyer & Co. d — 8/24/69.

Eugene Meyer 29 M Merchant dry goods France
a — p. 8. b — p. 105. d — 11/2/68.
Harriet Meyer 19 F New York
Rosalie Meyer 1 F California

Julius I. Meyer 22 M Clerk in store Pennsylvania
a — pp. 8, 28. d — Reg. 12/3/70.

Mendel Meyer 30 M Dry goods merchant Prussia
a — p. 8. c — 8/31/98. d — 8/31/71.

Samuel Meyer 41 M Crockery store Prussia
a — p. 8. b — p. 103. c — 3/24/03. d — 7/11/55.
Johanna Meyer 24 F Prussia
c — 9/4/14.
Eva Meyer 7 F California
Laura Meyer 5 F California
Mary Meyer 2 F California
Viola Meyer 5/12 F California

Joseph Meyers 18 M Clerk in store New York

Herman Morris 33 M Laborer Prussia
a — p. 9. c — 10/24/08. d — 6/8/67, clerk.

Julius L. Morris 42 M Merchant Prussia
a — p. 9. c — 8/29/09. d — 11/18/56.

Moritz Morris 46 M Merchant retail Prussia
a — p. 9. b — p. 109. c — 7/10/03. d —4/15/54, farmer.
Lylia Morris 30 F Massachusetts
Hugo Morris 10 M California
Laura Morris 6 F California
Sigmund Morris 4 M California
Leo Morris 1 M California

Charles Moshwitz 63 M Laborer Saxony
b —p. 111.

Herman Neubauer 38 M Furniture dealer Bohemia
a — p. 9. b — p. 113. c — 12/24/76. d — Reg. 12/2/70, Austria.
Henrietta Neubauer 28 F Germany
Emma Neubauer 8 F California
Abbie Neubauer 4 M California
Hattie Neubauer 3 F California
Joseph Neubauer 1 M California

Harris Newmark 36 M Wholesale merchant Prussia
a — p. 9. b — p. 113, wholesale grocer & hardware merchant.
c — 4/4/16. d — 8/21/69.
Sarah Newmark 29 F New York
c — 4/25/10.
Maurice Newmark 11 M California
Estella Newmark 9 F California
Emily Newmark 6 F California
Ella Newmark 3 F California
Edith Newmark 1 F California
Phillip Newmark 2/12 M California

Joseph Newmark 71 M Merchant retired Prussia
a — p. 9. c — 10/19/81. d — 2/3/34.
Rosa Newmark 62 F England
c — 11/6/76.

Max N. Newmark 15 M Clerk in store Prussia
a — p. 9. c — 1/5/32.

Morris A. Newmark 20 M Clerk in store Prussia
a — p. 9. b — p. 113, H. Newmark & Co. d — 9/5/71.

Simon Nordlinger 25 M Watchmaker & jeweler France
a — p. 9. b — p. 115. c — 4/5/11.

Isaac Norton 25 M Clerk in store Poland
a — p. 9. b — p. 115, The Bazaar, general merchandise.
d — 7/26/70.

Moses Norton 42 M Merchant dry goods retail Poland
a — p. 9. b — p. 115, dry goods, clothing. d — Reg. 3/21/68.
Dorenaugh Norton 44 F Poland
Julius Norton 15 M California
Abraham Norton 13 M California
Isaac Norton 9 M California
Simon Norton 2 M California

Samuel Norton 36 M Dry goods merchant Poland
a — p. 9. b — p. 115, dry goods & clothing. c — 1/23/02.
d — 11/21/59, Russia.
Anna Norton 22 F Prussia
Marks Norton 6/12 M California

Jacob Phillips 32 M Keeps saloon Prussia
a — p. 29. b — p. 123. d — Liquor dealer, 6/21/67.
Minnie Phillips 23 F Wurtemberg

Louis Polaski 40 M Dry goods merchant Poland
a — p. 9. b — p. 135. c — 4/29/00. d — 10/18/67.
Sarah Polaski 40 F Poland
c — 5/18/96.
Samuel Polaski 17 M New Jersey
Annie Polaski 14 F California
Augusta Polaski 13 F California
Isadore Polaski 10 M California
Meyer Polaski 9 M California

Adolph Portugal 38 M Merchant Poland
a — p. 9. b — p. 123, dealer in general merchandise. c — 1/6/01.
d — 7/28/55, Russia.

Charles Prager 35 M Dry goods merchant Prussia
a — p. 9. b — p. 135, dealer in general merchandise. d — 7/21/58.

Samuel Prager 39 M Dry goods merchant Prussia
a — p. 9. b — p. 135, dry goods, clothing, boots, shoes.
c — 6/6/07. d — 4/3/55
Rosalia Prager 26 F Prussia
c — 2/13/05
Eva Prager 8 F California
Regina Prager 5 F California
Fanny Prager 4 F California
Celia Prager 2 F California

Susan Rackfalski 18 F Prussia

Rosette Rafalsky 18 F Prussia

Charles Raphael 26 M Paint store Prussia
b — p. 135, dealer in paint, oils and glass. c — 5/26/05.

Louis Rich 42 M Tailor Prussia

Marcus Rusick 20 M Clerk in store Prussia
b — p. 135, dealer in dry goods, clothing. d — Max Russeck, 7/22/73, Russia.

Frederick Sampson 56 M Laborer France

Herman Schindler 22 M Boot maker Germany
a — p. 11. b — p. 141, manufacturer & dealer in boots & shoes.
d — 8/31/69, Prussia.

Isaac Schlesinger 32 M Dry goods store Prussia
a — p. 11. b — p. 141. c — 12/12/73.
Mary Schlesinger 22 F Maryland
b — Mrs. M. Schlesinger, widow.
Louis Schlesinger 2 M California

Albert Shubert 46 M Laborer Prussia
a — p. 11.
Lydia Shubert 17 F Prussia

Urich Simon 28 M Laborer Poland

Sigesman Simond 33 M Merchant Germany
b — p. 145, confectioner.
Pauline Simond 26 F New York
Pilar Simond 10 F New York
Georgia Simond 6 F New York
Ida Simond 3 F New York

H. Z. Sneersohn 38 M Rabbi Jewish Jerusalem [sic]

David Solomon 46 M Dry goods merchant Poland
a — p. 11. b — p. 149, tailor. d — 9/5/55.
Minnie Solomon 31 F Poland
Sarah Solomon 16 F California
Simon Solomon 10 M California
Lillie Solomon 5 F California
Millie Solomon 3 F California
Isador Solomon 1 M California
Bernard Solomon 18 M Clerk in store Poland

JGS
F
869
.L89
J5
The Jews of Los Angeles

Gustav Stark 19 M Clerk in furniture store Bavaria

David A. Stern 40 M Sign painter Germany
d — 10/28/53.

Jacob Strelitz 35 M Painter Prussia
b — p. 151, merchant tailor. d — 9/6/59.
Esther Strelitz 21 F Pennsylvania
Bertha Strelitz 2 F California

Simon Tishler 26 M Clerk in store Poland
b — p. 157. d — 1/2/73.

Jacob Vogelsdorf 36 M Laborer Prussia
Rosa Vogelsdorf 23 F Hungary
Rebecca Vogelsdorf 5 F California
Isadora Vogelsdorf 3 F California
Samuel Vogelsdorf 1 M California

Jacob Weil 36 M Merchant retail dry goods Germany
a — p. 12. b — p. 165, merchant at Bakersfield. c — 1/16/12.
d — Reg. 9/2/73, Bavaria.
Yette Weil 30 F Germany
c — 12/11/93.
Amelia Weil 10 F California
Nathan Weil 8 M California
Alice Weil 6 F California
Maria Weil 2 F California

Ezra Wineshank 48 M Merchant retired Germany
Regina Wineshank 44 F Germany
b — Mrs. R. Weinshank, widow.
Frank Wineshank 17 M Apprentice turner Alabama
Jenny Wineshank 12 F California
Elizabeth Wineshank 9 F California
George Wineshank 4 M California

Joseph Witkowsky 24 M Bookkeeper New York

Moses Wolfenson 25 M Grocer Jerusalem