Abraham Cohen Labatt

Mr. Labatt was born on 2 Jul 1802 in Charleston, Charleston Co., SC and was the son of David C. Labatt & Catherine Cohen.

His ancestry was Sephardic and his family had emigrated from Spain and Portugal, via the Netherlands and England.

In 1821, he married Caroline Hyams in Charleston. She was born on 18 Aug 1802 in Charleston.

Caroline was the daughter of Samuel Myers Hyams (FAG #19791199) and Miriam Levy (FAG #33896096). In 1795, Caroline's brothers were: Henry M. Hyams (Lt. Governor, Louisiana, 1860-1864) and Samuel M. Hyams, Jr. (Asst. Adjutant General & Lieut. Colonel, 3rd Infantry Regt., LA, Confederate Army)

In May 1823 at Cheraw, SC, Labatt was made a Mason. At the time of his death, the was the second oldest living Mason in the United States.

In 1831, Labatt is living in New Orleans, LA and in 1837, he took the steamship Columbia to Galveston, Republic of Texas. This was the first steamship to enter the Port of Galveston.

In 1849, Labatt participated as a merchant in the California gold rush. In San Francisco, he became the Worshipful Master of the Davy Crockett Lodge which was the West's first Masonic lodge, He helped to fund San Francisco's first synagogue, Shearith Israel and served as president of Congregation Emanuel. He was elected to serve as an Alderman for the City of San Francisco.

In the 1860's, he moved to Louisiana and is found as the Sutler, 2nd Infantry Regt., LA, Confederate Army.

In 1869, he was living in Waco, McLennan Co., TX. His wife Caroline died in Waco on 11 Oct 1878 and is buried in the Hebrew Rest Cemetery in that community. (FAG #16229554)

Some of the Labatt children: David Cohen Labatt (Captain & Quartermaster, 5th Infantry Regt., LA, Confederate Army; Judge), Samuel Kosciusko Labatt (Commander, Ringgold Lite Artillery, California Militia, 1853-1855), Henry J. Labatt (Attorney at Law; Texas House of Representatives; died in the 1900 Galveston Storm with his wife, two daughters, son, daughter-in-law & four grandchildren), Eliza E. Labatt (never married), Louise C. Labatt (died in the 1900 Galveston Storm), Jackson E. Labatt (Private, Co. G, 26th Infantry Regt., LA, Confederate Army), Joseph Isaac Labatt, Miriam Hyams Labatt Smith (Mrs. John B., Brigadier General; Louisiana Confederate Widow's Pension) and Leon Labatt.

After his wife's death, Labatt moved to Galveston, Galveston Co., TX where he died on 16 Aug 1898 and was buried with full Masonic honors. He rests in the Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery, Galveston. (FAG #34985838)
Officers

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Evan Snyder
Vice President & Webmaster
Max Heffler
Secretary/Treasurer/Publicity
Milton Gugenheim
Newsletter Editor
Lynna Kay Shuffield

Mailing address:
5231 Jason
Houston, Texas 77096-1320

Meeting Dates - 2016-2017

Dates:
Thursday - 1 September 2016
Thursday - 1 December 2016
Thursday - 2 March 2017
Thursday - 1 June 2017

Time: 6:45 p.m.

Location:
Board Room
Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care
6200 North Braeswood Blvd.
Houston, Texas

Membership Dues

Individual: $18 per year
Family: $20 per year

If you reside over 100 miles from Houston, membership is $12 per year.

Libraries & societies, membership is $12 per year.

Checks payable: GHJGS
Mailed to: Milton Gugenheim
(address above)

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Join Our Mailing List < https://goo.gl/ISx4eg >

Abbreviation use in newsletter: FAG = Find-a-Grave
Resources for Exploring Jewish American Heritage

The Jewish Heritage Center at the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) located in Boston, MA, is a resource for exploring and preserving the histories of Jewish families and institutions in New England and beyond.

< http://www.americanancestors.org/jewish-heritage >

There is a Digital Collection, Jewish Databases, a learning section on Using Jewish Resources, a section on books related to Jewish Heritage, and Lectures & Programs.

Archive Collections include records of synagogues, Jewish businesses, organization, families and individuals in and/or from the Greater Boston and New England region. The collections contain photographs, genealogies, artifacts, microfilms, correspondence, diaries and other records of historic value. The majority of these collections are cataloged as Institutional Records or Personal Papers.

One of the more interesting Institutional Records are related to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) which was founded in New York City in the 1880s and by 1914, had branches operating in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, DC. There are two sections of records of interest which include the Individual Case Files and Arrival Cards.

Databases include the Jewish Advocate (1905-1999) [accessible only at the NEHGS), the Boston Jewish Times (1945-1992), Organized Jewish Group Activity in 19th Century Massachusetts, Jewish Cemeteries in Massachusetts and Jewish Cemeteries of Western Massachusetts.

There is a very easy to following online instructions on how to use the collection and various databases.

< http://goo.gl/8p8fzw >

Suggested Reading


First American Jewish Families Database

< http://goo.gl/sdbqPu >

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives database First American Jewish Families contains 600 genealogies from 1654 to 1988. It is easy to use and was originally compiled by Rabbi Malcolm Henry Stern and is now in its 3rd Edition.
Beth Yeshurun Cemeteries - Allen Parkway & Post Oak Road

*Allen Parkway* - This cemetery was founded in 1891 and was originally known as the Adath Yeshurun Cemetery. It was owned by the Adath Yeshurun Synagogue, an Orthodox congregation.

It is the second oldest Jewish cemetery in Houston and has headstones dating back to 1892.

In the 1920s, Congregation Adath Yeshurun split into two groups and the Conservatives formed Congregation Beth El. After about 25 years, the two congregations rejoined and formed Congregation Beth Yeshurun.

The cemetery is operated by the Beth Yeshurun Cemetery Association which was formed in 1947. It is the largest Conservative synagogue in the country with a membership of approx. 2,500 families.

The cemetery is located at 3500 Allen Parkway between Tirrell St. and Dunlavy St. near downtown Houston and is abutted on two-sides and back by Buffalo Bayou Park operated by the City of Houston Parks & Recreation Dept. and the Buffalo Bayou Conservancy.

*Beth Yeshurun - Allen Parkway*

*North Post Oak Road* - This cemetery was founded in 1925 and was originally known as the Beth El Cemetery.

The cemetery is located at 1037 North Post Oak Road and Old Katy Road (off I-10 & 610)

Both cemeteries are open Sunday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and closed on Saturdays. No pets are allowed unless they are service animals.

Congregation Adath Yeshurun was founded in 1887 as an Orthodox alternative to Temple Beth Israel which in 1874 had moved from Orthodox to Reformed. It was a Russian-Polish congregation.

Congregation Beth El was founded in 1924 and was the first Conservative synagogue founded in Houston.

*Beth Yeshurun - North Post Oak Road*

Texas Jewish Cemeteries with Historic Texas Cemetery Designations

Adath Emeth Cemetery - Harris County
Adath Israel Cemetery - Harris County
Beth Israel Cemetery - W. Dallas - Harris County
Beth Yeshurun Cemetery - Allen Parkway - Harris County
Beth Yeshurun Cemetery - Post Oak - Harris County

Jewish Cemetery - Milam County
Jewish Cemetery - Gonzales County

You can find a list of burials at Find-a-Grave - - - <http://goo.gl/0W2Oub>
Sam Roosth (Sholem Rutzky) was born on 5 May 1888 in Koryein, Poland and was the son of Tanchum Mayer (T.M.) Roosth (ca.1869-1934) and Ester Kawalsky (ca.1862-1939). He arrived in the United States on 29 Dec 1907 at Galveston, Galveston Co., TX.

On 22 Nov 1908 in Marshall Co., TX, he married to Celia Wengrown (Tzeril Wengrowska). She was born in 1883 in Knyszyn, Poland and died on 2 May 1928 in Stafford Springs, MS.

In 1910, he and his bride moved to Tyler, Smith Co., TX, and opened a bakery. In 1924, he started a dry-goods store and in 1933, he and Aleck S. Genecov (1895-1971) started the Roosth & Genecov Production Co. and they began looking for "black gold."


The family appears in the Federal Censuses: Gilmer, Upshur Co., TX in 1910 and Tyler, Smith Co., TX in 1920, 1930 & 1940.


On 28 Dec 1917, Sam makes a $50 donation to the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee organized to aid Jews in Europe during World War I. The donation was made to support of his mother, Mrs. Esther Rutsky of Korytzyn, Sokolka, Grodno, Poland.

In 1942, Sam is listed on the World War II Draft Registration in Tyler, Smith Co., TX. His date of birth is given as: 25 Jun 1888, born Poland, Russia.

He was a fierce Zionist and worked hard for the creation of the Nation of Israel, travelling throughout the country to raise money. He was a member of Congregation Ahavath Achim in Tyler, Smith Co., TX.


Sam died of a heart attack on 25 Jan 1949 in Tyler and was buried with his first wife, Celia, in the Ahavath Achim Cemetery, Tyler, Smith Co., TX [Plot: Sec. A] (FAG 19803224 & 19803228)

Sources:
- Obituary: Corsicana Daily Sun (Corsicana, TX), Wed., 26 Jan 1949, p. 9, c. 3
- Obituary: Jewish Herald (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Thur., 28 Jul 1949, p. 4, c. 2
- Sources: Texas Death Certificate Numbers: 13796 (1918); 24579 (1934); 43806 (1939); 4116 (1949); 20004 (1952); 10346 (1957); 60855 (1961); 25655 (1962); 35403 (1964)

Thanks to Scott Fitzgerald, East Texas Genealogical Soc. & Texas State Genealogical Soc. for his kind assistance in obtaining obituaries from the Tyler Public Library, Tyler, Smith Co., TX.
The War Between the States

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<tr>
<th>War</th>
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<tr>
<td>World War I, 1917-1918</td>
<td>Isidor N. Greenberg</td>
<td>William M. Nathan</td>
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<td>John Hahlo</td>
<td>Harry B. Prince</td>
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<td>Nathan B. Halporn</td>
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<td>Louis Jacobs</td>
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<td>Raymond Jacobs</td>
<td>Louis G. Rosenberg, Sr.</td>
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<td>Dan Kahn</td>
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<td>Alexander Kiam</td>
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<td>Louis M. Landa</td>
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<td>Charles A. Landau</td>
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<td>George W. Larendon, M.D.</td>
<td>Harry H. Silber</td>
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<td>Gilbert C. Lechenger, M.D.</td>
<td>Raphael Simon</td>
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<td>Lawrence Lewis</td>
<td>Julian A. Weslow</td>
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<td>Lawrence Lipper</td>
<td>Leon Weinberg</td>
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<td>Mike Mesinger</td>
<td>Harry W. Wilk</td>
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<td>Jeffrey C. Michael, M.D.</td>
<td>Ben Weinberg</td>
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<td>Milton Morris</td>
<td>Harry Wolf</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Morris Nathan</td>
<td>(64 names)</td>
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Notation at bottom of p. 85: These lists have been compiled from all available records in the Archives. Those listed were affiliated with Congregation Beth Israel when they entered the service.

Source: Cohen, Anne Nathan, The Centenary History: Congregation Beth Israel of Houston, Texas, 1854-1954 (Houston, TX: privately published, s.n. 1954) p. 85-86

The Congregation's minute book dated 21 Aug 1917, records that "U.S. Flags were ordered to be placed at the seats of all members absent doing service for the Government, as a mark of appreciation." The clippings of the Congregation indicated individuals serving by rank: "Majors 2, Captains 4, Lieutenants 15, Lieutenant Adjutant 1, Sergeant Majors 2, Sergeants 11, Corporals 2, Cadet 1, Mechanic 1, Yoeman 1, Privates 22, Sailor 1." In 1919, it was reported by the Congregation's President, Emil Lipper, that the individuals who volunteered in the service of our government, are all returning to us in safety and in health. [The Centenary History, p. 39]
Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR)

The JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry is a searchable database of more than 5,900 cemeteries located worldwide and contains 2.75 million names and other identifying information.

< http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/ >

This database is also searchable through Ancestry.com.

< http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1411 >

Local Jewish Oral Histories - HPL

The Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Julia Ideson Building, Houston Public Library, located in downtown Houston at Smith & Lamar is home to the Houston Area Digital Archives

< http://digital.houstonlibrary.org/cdm/ >

The Houston Area Digital Archives has a number of Oral Histories taken from members of the local Jewish Community. These include:

Alessandra, Dorothy
Daily, Ray Karchmer, M.D.
Frenkil, Rose Radoff
Goldstein, Albert
Herskowitz, Mickey
Hibbert, Mary Taub
Kaduri, Esther
Karff, Samuel, Rabbi
Kaplan, Barry
Lack, Abe
Levy, Nat & Jill
Libby, Phillip
Loewenthal, Goldie Rose Geller
Ruth, Fred
Sakowitz, Robert
Samuels, Vic
Weiner, Freida
Wiesenthal, Harold
Zeidman, Fred

Instructions: (1) Go to the URL link above and enter the individual's name. (2) A thumbnail with the name will appear - click on the name. (3) A Description page will appear and you will see a green dot next to the individual's name and you - click on the name. (4) Another webpage will pop-up and you will need to go to the bottom of the DISCLAIMER box and click - I have read and accept the terms of the disclaimer. (5) A box will appear that you can click on the button to listen to the oral history. To the right, you will see a typed transcription of the Interview.

Locating Volunteers Who Will Do Look-ups

Gen Gathering is a global network of researchers and genealogists that "give and take." You can obtain a free membership to find a volunteer who is willing to assist you with a local look-up.

Do you have resources in your home or are you willing to do searches at your local courthouse, library, cemetery, etc.? If so, considering volunteering to give back and help someone else who needs a local look-up!

< http://www.gengathering.com/ >
Wolf Bacharach, Private, Co. A, 5th Infantry Regt., Hood's Brigade, TX - Confederate
Enlisted: 11 Mar 1862, Houston, Harris Co., TX by Lt. J. E. Clute - Age: 28 (born ca. 1834)
Absent: 16 Sep 1862, since this date without leave
Absent: 17 Sep 1862, fell to the rear sick
Deserted: 17 Sep 1862, Sharpsburg, MD
Absent: 23 Feb 1863, Texas Hospital, Register, Medical Doctor's Office, Richmond, VA

Isaac Billig, Private, Co. A, 5th Infantry Regt., Hood's Brigade, TX - Confederate
Enlisted: 11 Mar 1862, Houston, Harris Co., TX by Lt. J. E. Clute - Age: 34
Bounty: $50
Absent: 7 Aug 1862, left at sick camp
Absent: 13 Mar 1863, Texas Hospital, Register, Medical Doctor's Office, Richmond, VA
Deserted: 3 May 1863, to the enemy on retreat, Suffolk
Census: 1880 Federal Census, Leadville, Lake Co., CO
Census: 1900 Federal Census, Manhattan, New York Co., NY
Occupation: mining
Spouse: Helena Richter (married: 19 Jan 1872, LA) (born: ca. Feb 1848, Germany)
Children: Tersa/Teresa G. Billig (born: ca. Sep 1880, CO) (Mrs. William A. Muir & Mrs. Louis J. DuMuhaut, married: 20 Apr 1903, NY)
Jerome G. Billig (born: 28 Nov 1883, Manhattan, NY; Died: 28 Jul 1897)
Alice Florence Billig (born: 3 Mar 1886, Manhattan, NY; Died: 7 Jun 1886)
Born: ca. 1828, Baden, Germany
Died: 23 Nov 1909, Brooklyn, Kings Co., NY
Burial: Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, NY (Lot A, Range 193, Grave 47)

Louis Colman, Private, Co. A, 5th Infantry Regt., Hood's Brigade, TX - Confederate
Note: Name also found as: Lewis Coleman
Enlisted: 11 Mar 1862, Houston, Harris Co., TX by Lt. J. E. Clute - Age: 26
Absent: 2 Jul 1863, wounded at Gettysburg, PA during Pickett's Charge; sent to hospital;
vulnus sclopeneticum (multiple flesh wounds, commonly written as vul sclopet or V.S.) of the right arm & shoulder, eye
Furloughed: 22 Feb 1864, 60 days from Receiving & Wayside Hospital or General Hospital No. 9, Richmond, VA
Absent: 10 Apr 1864, transferred from Chimborazo Hospital No. 5, Richmond, VA to Chimborazo Hospital No 2
Other Duty: 28 Oct 1864, ambulance driver, Texas Brigade
Prisoner of War & Paroled: 9 Apr 1865, Appomattox Courthouse, VA
Texas Confederate Pension No. 1779 - (Lewis Coleman)
Pension: Applied: 17 Aug 1899, Houston, Harris Co., TX; Approved: 12 Oct 1899
Born: ca. 1836, East Prussia, Germany
Died: 21 Feb 1910, Houston, Harris Co., TX
Burial: Beth Israel Cemetery (West Dallas), Houston, Harris Co., TX
Sister: Fredericka Colman Rich (Mrs. Louis Maximillian Rich)
Obituary: Houston Post (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Wed., 23 Feb 1910, p. 16, c. 4
Obituary: Jewish Herald (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Thurs., 24 Feb 1910, p. 8, c. 1
Other: Tri-Weekly Telegraph (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Wed., 23 Sep 1863, p. 2, c. 2

- - cont. p. 9 - -
Isaac Elsasser (Elssasser), Private, Co. A, 5th Infantry Regt., Hood's Brigade, TX - Confederate
Description: height: 5' 11"; complexion: fair; eyes: gray; hair: black; occupation: merchant
Enlisted: 19 Jul 1861, Houston, Harris Co., TX by Maj. W. B. Botts - Age: 27
Absent: Sept & Oct 1861, sick in Richmond, VA
Discharged: 9 Dec 1861, Surgeon's Certificate of Disability due to rheumatism
Naturalized: 25 Apr 1860, Harris Co., TX
Mason: Holland Lodge No. 1, A.F. & A. M.
U.S. Passport: 14 May 1866, New York, NY
U.S. Patent No. 253991: 21 Feb 1882, fertilizer consisting of bat-guano, cotton-seed, crude pulverized shell (Gnathadon cuneate) and bone-dust
Spouse: Sarah Kaiser
Child: Meyer Elsasser (born: 16 Mar 1867, Mobile, AL; Mining Engineer; died: 15 Jan 1935, Los Angeles, CA)
Born: 2 Jan 1835 Rohrbach, Baden, Germany
Died: 5 Dec 1895, Houston, Harris Co., TX
Original Burial: Beth Israel Cemetery (West Dallas), Houston, Harris Co., TX
Disinterred
Re-Burial: San Luis Cemetery, San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo Co., CA (Plot: B-D)
Obituary: Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Galveston Co., TX), Fri., 6 Dec 1895, p. 3, c. 2
Obituary: Houston Post (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Sat., 7 Dec 1895, p. 6, c. 3-4

G. H. Simon, unknown person or military information
Source: Cohen, Anne Nathan, The Centenary History: Congregation Beth Israel of Houston, Texas, 1854-1954 (Houston, TX: publisher not identified, s.n. 1954) p. 85-86

Other Jewish members of 5th Infantry Regiment (TX), Hood's Brigade
Angel, Albert, Private, Co. A (Bayou City Guards, Harris Co., TX) - Wounded at Second Manassas & Died of Wounds (30 Aug 1862)
Ash, Henry, Co. C - unknown person or military information
Auerbach, Emil/Emoury, Private, Co. B (No Company Name, Colorado Co., TX) - Killed at The Wilderness (6 May 1864)
Auerbach, Jacob, Private/Medical Doctor, Co. A - Medical Discharge (28 Nov 1861)
Cohen, S., Private, Co. A - Killed at Gettysburg (2 Jul 1863)
Lachman, Earnest, Private, Co. D (The Waverly Confederates, Huntsville, Walker Co., TX) - Wounded at Second Manassas (30 Aug 1862); Wounded at Gettysburg & Died of Wounds (2 Jul 1863)
Levy, Robert, Private, Co. A - Deserted (10 Jul 1862, Richmond, VA)
Lewis, Isaac, Co. C - unknown person or military information
Mass, Louis/Lewis, Private, Co. D - Killed at Second Manassas (30 Aug 1862) (surname also found as: Maas)
Pickard, H., Co. H - unknown person or military information
Shanoski, Charles, Co. D - Wounded at Gettysburg (2 Jul 1863); Prisoner-of-War (Point Lookout, MD); Deserted (1 Dec 1864) (surname also found as: Showlski)
Wolf/Woolfe, Aug. F., Drummer, Co. A - Wounded at Seven Pines (9 Jun 1862); Wounded at Sharpsburg, MD (17 Sep 1862); Died of Wounds (1 Oct 1862); Burial: Washington Confederate Cemetery, Hagerstown, Washington, Co., MD [FAG 26444124]
Wolf/Woolfe, Benjamin, Private, Co. A - Medical Discharge (date unknown)
Source: Rosen, Robert N. The Jewish Confederates (Columbia, SC: Univ. of South Carolina Press, 2000)
Source: Muster Roll of the Bayou City Guard, Weekly Telegraph (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Wed., 14 Aug 1861, p. 4, c. 3
Thirteen Jewish Astronauts and One Cosmonaut

Houston is home to the Johnson Space Center, a NASA training facility. There have been 12 American Jewish astronauts and one Israeli astronaut who have flown in U.S. Space Program.


**Ilan Ramon** (born: Ilan Wolferman), was the first Israeli astronaut. He died on 1 Feb 2003 in the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster. He flew on Space Shuttle mission STS-107 on 16 Jan 2003.


**Judith Arlene Resnick, Ph.D.**, was the first Jewish American and the second woman in space. She died on 28 Jan 1986 in the Challenger Space Shuttle disaster. She flew on Space Shuttle missions STS-41-D on 30 Aug 1984 and STS-51-L on 28 Jan 1986.


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**Jewish Cosmonaut - Soviet Union**

**Boris Volynov, Ph.D.**, flew aboard Soyuz 5 on 15 Jan 1969 and Soyuz 21 on 6 Jul 1976. He was the first Jewish individual in space.
Republic of Texas & Texas War of Independence - 1836

Chimene, Eugene Joseph - Served with Sam Houston
Proven DRT Ancestor #29712-R
Born: 6 Mar 1820, Bordeaux, Dept. de la Gironde, Aquitaine, France
Died: 4 Oct 1875, Houston, Harris Co., TX
Burial: Beth Israel Cemetery, Houston, Harris Co., TX [FAG 141423443]
Spouse: Mathilde Esther Chimene (nee Chimene)
Children: Alfred Chimene; Alyda Chemene Carl (Mrs.); Alphonse Chimene; Caroline Chimene Loeb (Mrs. Armand L.); Leah J. Chimene Gordon (Mrs. Hyman O.); Ferdinand Chimene; Albert J. Chimene; Casiste I. Chimene; Armand Chimene

Dyer, Isidore - Citizen of the Republic of Texas
NOT a proven DRT ancestor - No family members have applied to join on his service
Born: 25 Oct 1813, Dessau, Germany
Died: 9 Aug 1888, Waukesha, Waukesha Co., WI
Burial: Oleander Cemetery, Galveston, Galveston Co., TX [FAG 124618725]
Children: Edmund Dyer; Louis Dyer; Joseph O. Dyer; Isadore Dyer, Jr., M.D.; Roseann Dyer Torbest (Mrs. Alfred C.)

Dyer, Leon - Appointed Major, Texas Army; Quartermaster-General, State of Louisiana; served Gen. Winfield Scott
NOT a proven DRT ancestor - No family members have applied to join on his service
Born: 2 Oct 1807, Dessau, Germany
Died: 14 Sep 1883, Louisille, Jefferson Co., KY
Burial: Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery, Galveston, Galveston Co., TX [FAG 102014558]
Texas Historical Marker - placed at grave - Texas Historical Commission
Spouse: Sarah Nachman (they were 1st cousins)
Children: John Maximilian Dyer, Dr. Joseph Osterman Dyer, M.D., Isabella Deyer (Miss); Dr. Alexander Abraham Dyer, D.D.S.

Ehrenberg, Herman - New Orleans Greys; joined at New Orleans, LA (1835); Siege of Bexar (Dec 1835); escaped the Goliad Massacre
NOT a proven DRT ancestor - No lineal descendants
Born: ca. 1816, Prussia
Died: 9 Oct 1866, Dos Palmas, near what is today Palm Springs, CA (robbed & murdered)
Burial: unknown
Spouse: Never married

Emanuel, Albert - Private, Capt. William Kimbro’s 8th Company, 2nd Regt.; Battle of San Jacinto
NOT a proven DRT ancestor - No family members have applied to join on his service
Born: ca. 1808
Died: 8 Aug 1851, New Orleans, LA
Burial: Dispersed of Judah Cemetery, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA [FAG 31859046]
Spouse: Louisa Clarentine Hart (b.ca. 1814, SC)
Children: Jeannette Emanuel Lyons (b.ca. 1841) (Mrs. Robert E.); Sybol Emanuel (b.ca. 1843, New Orleans, LA); Myurah Emanuel (b.ca. 1846, New Orleans, LA); Albert Emanuel (b.ca. 1851, New Orleans, LA)
Obituary: The Daily Picayune (New Orleans, LA), Fri., 8 Aug 1851, p. 1, c. 2

- - cont. p. 12 - -
Republic of Texas & Texas War of Independence - 1836
- cont. from p. 11 -

**Harby, Levy** - (U.S. Navy, U.S. Cutter Service & Confederate Army)
NOT a proven DRT ancestor - No family members have applied to join on his service
Born: 21 Sep 1793 Georgetown, Georgetown Co., SC
Died: 3 Dec 1870, Galveston, Galveston Co., TX
Burial: Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery, Galveston, Galveston Co., TX [FAG 93721916]
Texas Historical Marker - placed at grave - Texas Historical Commission
Spouse: Lenaora Rebecca D'Lyon [2nd spouse: Dr. Edward Randall]
Children: Henry J. Harby; Rebecca Sarah Harby Frank (Mrs. Jacob W.); Jacob De La Motta Harby

**Isaacs, Samuel** - Co. D, 10th Infantry, Texas Army (1836-1837)
NOTE: THERE IS VERY LITTLE KNOW ABOUT THIS INDIVIDUAL AND REGRETFULLY, MOST OF HIS PERSONAL HISTORY HAS BEEN LOST. THERE IS SERIOUS SCHOLARLY DEBATE IF IN FACT HE WAS JEWISH. *Lone Stars of David*, p. 21
Old Three Hundred - Austin’s Colony (1821) - Considered one of the earliest settlers
Texas Land Grant - Fort Bend Co., TX

**Johnson, Edward J.** - Capt. Duval’s Co., captured & executed at Goliad (Kentucky Mustangs - 1st Regt. Volunteers from Bardstown)
NOT a proven DRT ancestor - No lineal descendants
Born: 1816, Cincinnati, OH
Died: 27 Mar 1836, Goliad Massacre
Siblings: Selina Johnson Abrams (Mrs.); David I. Johnson; Hon. Edgar M. Johnson

**Kokernot, David** - fought at Anahuac; also at the Grass battles, 1835
Proven DRT Ancestor - over 25 DRT members have filed for membership on his service
Captain; Commanded: Capt. D. L. Kokernot’s Co.; Fought at Anahuac, the Grass Battles (1835)
Captain of Scouts at Battle of Cibolo & Battle of Concepcion [later converted to Christianity]
Born: 28 Dec 1805, Amsterdam, Holland
Died: 10 Dec 1892, Big Hill, Gonzales Co., TX
Spouse: Caroline Josephine Dittmar (b. 15 Feb 1815, Hesse Castle, Germany - d. 8 Dec 1898, Gonzales Co., TX. She is a proven DRT Ancestor #028317 & #014573 (married: 30 May 1829)

**Levy, Moses Albert** - Appointed Surgeon General; Schooner *Brutus*; enlisted: 15 Mar 1836; discharged 24 Feb 1837
Proven DRT Ancestor
Born: 7 Jul 1811, Amsterdam, Holland
Died: 23 May 1848, Matagorda, Republic of Texas
Spouse: Maria Bishop Payne (unk-1835) (married: bef. 1831)
Children: Rachel Cornelia Levy Levy (Mrs. Abraham Levy)
Spouse: Claudinia Olivia Gervais (1816-1858) (married: 11 Apr 1838, Matagorda, Republic of Texas)
Children: Catherine Olivia Levy Barrett (Mrs. William J.); Albert Gervais Levy; Laura Virginia Levy; Charles Gillette Levy; Lewis/Louis Fisher Levy

**Mordecai, Benjamin** - Bullock’s Co.; escaped the Goliad Massacre; detained Gen. Urrea, escaped
NOT a proven DRT ancestor
Born: unknown
Died: 1840, killed by Indians

- - cont. p. 13 - -

Abbreviation use in newsletter: DRT = Daughters of the Republic of Texas
Seeligson, Michael - 1828, moved to Texas from Philadelphia, PA with wife; 1840 & 1848, elected Alderman, Galveston City Council; 1853, elected Mayor of Galveston
NOT a proven DRT ancestor - No family members have applied to join on his, his wife’s or any child’s citizenship of the Republic of Texas
Born: 1797, Holland
Died: 9 Oct 1867, Goliad, TX
Burial: Oleander Cemetery, Galveston, Galveston Co., TX [FAG 125480758]
Children: Adelaide Seeligson Von Dohlen (Mrs. George); Henry Seeligson (Confederate Veteran, 1st Sgt., Co. E, Waller’s Cavalry Regt., TX); George Lee Seeligson (Confederate Veteran, Private, Co. E, Waller’s Cavalry Regt., TX); Lewis/Louis Seeligson (Confederate Veteran, Private, Co. G, Benavides’ Cavalry Regt., TX); Edward Seeligson (Confederate Veteran, Private, Co. E, Waller’s Cavalry Regt., TX); Rebecca Seeligson Darrow (Mrs. John F.); Henrietta Seeligson (Miss); Jane Seeligson (Miss)
Article: Flake’s Weekly Galveston Bulletin (Galveston, Galveston Co., TX), Wed., 16 Oct 1867, p. 6, c. 4 - The Epidemic at Goliad - Private information was received that the yellow fever has appeared and was raging fearfully at Victoria and Goliad. At the latter place Mr. M. Seeligson, formerly Mayor of Galveston, was down with the fever. This is the more remarkable as Mr. Seeligson passed an epidemic season in Galveston.
Obituary: Flake’s Weekly Galveston Bulletin (Galveston, Galveston Co., TX), Sat., 19 Oct 1867, p. 6, c. 2 - Death of Ex-Mayor Seeligson - Mr. Michael Seeligson, formerly Mayor of Galveston, died in Goliad on the 9th instant. Mr. Seeligson had reached the psalmists limit, being three score years and ten [70 years]. He first came to Texas while it was an infant Republic and knew Galveston when it was but a village. In 1853, he was elected Mayor of Galveston, resigning the following year, after which he removed to Goliad, where he continued to reside until the time of his death. He leaves a wife and seven children to cherish his memory. His remains will be brought to this city for interment in the Jewish Cemetery.
Obituary: Public Ledger (Philadelphia, PA), Mon., 5 Sep 1870, p. 2, c. 3 - Died - At Goliad, Texas, on Saturday, the 13th ultimo [Aug], Mrs. Adelaide Seeligson, relict of M. Seeligson, in the 71st year of her age.
See: Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Galveston Co., TX), Thur., 26 Apr 1877, p. 2, c. 2 - Goliad County
Sterne, Adolphus - Served in the House of Representatives & Senate of the Republic of Texas; Aide-de-Camp to General Sam Houston; participated in the Fredonian War
Proven DRT Ancestor
Born: 15 Apr 1801, Cologne, Germany
Died: 27 Mar 1852, New Orleans, LA
Spouse: Eva Ruff Alcalde
Wolf, Anthony (Avram) - Siege at Bexar; Capt. William R. Carey’s Artillery Company
NOT a proven DRT ancestor - No lineal descendants
Born: 1782, Spain
Died: 6 Mar 1836, Alamo, San Antonio, Bexar Co., Republic of Texas
Spouse: Sarah (unknown maiden, died in England)
Children: Benjamin (age 11), killed at the Alamo; Michael (age 12), killed at the Alamo
See: Pioneer Jewish Texans, p. 30
Family Recipes

Whenever you see a traditional recipe, you will generally hear a loud course of, "That's not like my mother made it" almost drowns out the few small "That's just like my mother's." This is not surprising, because there are almost as many variations to many traditional recipes as there are mothers who have made it!

Start collecting your family recipes to add a little flavor to your genealogy and preserve the unique holiday traditions that are celebrated throughout the year. Remember, grandmother's egg custard or great-aunt Ida's Gefillte Fish?

Take the time at your next family gathering to collect these recipes so that future generations can appreciate the marvelous cooks of your family. Remember, men cook too! My great-uncle made some of the best Mustang grape wine in Central Texas but he died over 40-years ago and it is lost to our family because no one took the time to stop and write it down.

Keeping your family recipes and traditions is as important as collecting the genealogical facts.

Dr. Max Urwitz

Dr. Urwitz was born in 1847 in what was then called Eastern Prussia but is now known as Germany. He had a brother named Julius Urwitz who lived on River St. in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne Co., PA.

He immigrated to the United States and entered Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, PA. He attended Tulane University Medical Dept., Class of 1881. He provided assistance during several yellow fever epidemics in New Orleans. He was became a citizen on 17 Dec 1881 in New Orleans.

Later he moved to Victoria, Victoria Co., TX where he established a medical practice in an office located over Kleine's Saddlery Shop. Before Dec 1880, he married Marie Bennett, daughter of Miles S. Bennett and Bathsheba Gibson. They had no children.

He moved to Houston about 1887 and during his lifetime, he was recognized as one of Houston's foremost citizens. He served as Vice President of the School Board (1902-1903) and the Houston Board of Health.

On 2 Oct 1905, Dr. Urwitz died without warning of apoplexy (cerebral hemorrhage) at his home located at Fannin and Preston in Houston, Harris Co., TX. His funeral was conducted by Rabbi Dr. Henry Barnstein of Temple Beth Israel, the Houston Turnverein, the Saengerbund, the Magnolia Lodge No. 7, Sons of Hermann and Houston Lodge No. 151, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Turner Hall in Houston. His remains were buried in the Hillside Cemetery, Cuero, DeWitt Co., TX. (FAG 167669971)

His brother was Julius was born ca. May 1856, Germany and died on 6 Mar 1910 in Wilkes-Barre, PA. He was buried in the Mount Lebanon Cemetery, Glendale, Queens Co., NY. (FAG 126022790) His obituary states he was survived by siblings: Jacob Urwitz and Mrs. Jacob Brown of New York, NY and Mrs. M. Finberg of Syracuse, NY. The only sibling mentioned in Dr. Urwitz's obituary was J. Urwitz of Wilkes-Barre, PA.

The thread that binds one generation to the next are the stories families tell. In the case of Dr. Urwitz, without descendants, his story has been forgotten in the 110+ years since his death.

He comes to this country and is a respected doctor, is active in politics, promotes education, raises funds for various charities and then is forgotten by time.

Is there a Dr. Urwitz in your family?

Obituary: Houston Post (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Tues., 3 Oct 1905, p. 5, c. 1-2
Obituary: Wilkes-Barre Times (Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne Co., PA), Sat., 14 Oct 1905, p. 12, c. 4
Obituary: Wilkes-Barre Times (Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne Co., PA), Mon., 7 Mar 1910, p. 11, c. 6-7

Note: Rabbi Barnstein later changed his surname to, Barnston
Newspaper microfilm available at the Texas Room of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center located, Houston Public Library (HPL), 1st Floor, Julia Ideson Building (Smith & Lamar) across the plaza from the Jesse Jones Main Downtown Library. Note: All of these rolls of newspaper microfilm have missing issues and/or damaged pages.

Southwestern Jewish Sentiment - Dallas - 1 roll - Dates range from 5 Jul 1901 to 8 Aug 1902.

Jewish Monitor - Fort Worth - 1 roll - Dates range from 10 Aug 1917 to end of 1917 & 1928 to 29 Nov 1929.

Jewish Beacon - Houston - 2 rolls - Dates range from 20 Mar 1947 to 20 Oct 1949

Jewish Herald-Voice - Houston - (various titles)
  Jewish Herald - 3 rolls - Dates range from 24 Sep 1908 to 19 Nov 1914
  Texas Jewish Herald - Dates range from 26 Nov 1914 to 4 Apr 1935

Note: The Jewish Herald Voice microfilm is not listed in the HPL online catalog … If you personally do not know it is at the Texas Room, then, you’re out of luck trying to find it …

San Antonio Jewish Weekly - two rolls - Dates range from 6 Apr 1923 through 29 Apr 1927 & 29 Sep 1923 to 24 Apr 1925

Jewish Record San Antonio - four rolls - Dates range from 27 Jun 1924 through 1 Jan 1932

Jewish Newspaper Hardcopies at Texas Room, HPL

Southwestern Judaist - Dallas - Date range from 4 Sep 1908 to 6 Nov 1908

Jewish Herald-Voice - Houston - Date Range from 20 Jan 1938 to 29 Jun 2002; 2003 to 2910

Vertical Files at Texas Room, HPL

There are Subject Vertical Files available at Texas Room. This is an excellent planning resource for your research visit to this archival collection library.

The link to the Index is: <http://www2.houstonlibrary.org/hmrc/docs/VerticalFiles.pdf>.

Subject Vertical Files related to Jewish topics include: (1) Ethnic groups - Jewish; (2) Jewish Community Center; (3) Jewish Temples, general; (4) Jewish Temples, Congregation Beth Israel; and, (5) Newspapers - Jewish Herald-Voice.

Jewish Genealogy Portal

Facebook has many groups related to genealogy including surnames, locations and ethnic research. There are two Jewish Genealogy Portal groups and both have open membership.

Discussion Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/JewishGenealogyPortal/>

Announcements & Research Suggestions: <https://www.facebook.com/JewishGenealogyPortal/>
"A Third Synagogue for Houston"

The Jews of Houston are certainly a restless set of people and be it said to their credit. For a city of 100,000 population to have three houses of worship is setting a religious example that many places twice the size would be glad to boast of.

The congregation that is now coming to the front is that of Adath Israel. It has been in existence for several years and used Turner Hall for their holiday services. The synagogue will be located on Elysian between Liberty and Providence streets. The building is to be a frame structure, 35x54 feet, with a gallery in the auditorium, and will cost between $4,000 and $5,000. The style of architecture will be Graeco-Roman.

Some twenty-five families are supporting the movement, nearly all of whom live on the north side of the bayou. There are a number of other Jewish families living in that section of the city who now attend services on the south side and whom, it is expected, will join in with this congregation when the building is erected.

The president of the congregation is Moses Ditch (ca. 1846-1934), Max Rosenstock (ca. 1866-1931) is vice president, Henry Wertheimer (1851-1928) is treasurer and Jacob H. Jacobson (1874-1925), secretary.

In a Houston Post newspaper article on 23 Jan 1904, it states that Rev. G. Halprin, formerly the Rabbi of an Orthodox congregation in Toledo, OH and NY, now being an itinerant preacher, will occupy the pulpit of Adath Israel as a guest to present a lecture in Yiddish. He is a scholarly man who devotes his time to preaching only.

In 1905, the Adath Israel Congregation was established because the Orthodox Jews who had settled in Houston’s 5th Ward, lived too far from any other Temple. Originally, the members met in the home of their president, Henry Wertheimer.

In 1909, the officers were: Max Abramson (1865-1925), president; L. Zionfeld, vice president; Jacob H. Jacobson, secretary; and, Henry Wertheimer, treasurer.

In May 1910, their new synagogue was dedicated with an elaborate cornerstone laying ceremony at 1010 Elysian St. By 1916, they had 60 members.

From 1910 until his death, Rabbi Yaakov (Jacob) Geller (1863-1930) led the congregation. [FAG 45434416]

In 1911, the member recognized the necessity for a Jewish cemetery and acquired land from Henry Wertheimer and established a cemetery that has been in continued use by the community.

In 1919, Abraham Schlosser (1882-1937) served as secretary and their school had 50 pupils. In Aug 1919, they dedicated a new community building which housed an assembly hall, school room, swimming pool, shower, tub baths and four living rooms. The cost was $10,000 (approx. $210,000 in 2016).

In the mid-1960s, three small congregations, Adath Emeth, Beth Jacob and Adath Israel merged to form the United Orthodox Synagogue (UOS).