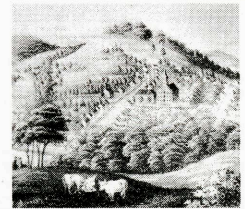


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The Canonsburg Jewish Community from Genesis to Exodus

by Arnold W. Cushner

In a July 25, 1919, issue of the *Pittsburgh Jewish Criterion* (JC) is an anonymous article entitled, "The Canonsburg Jewish Community." The first sentence asserts, "Thirty years ago [circa 1890] Morris Bernstein came to Canonsburg, and his is the distinction of being the first Jewish settler of that thriving and progressive community."¹

The actual date of Bernstein's arrival is uncertain. He and his family first appear in records in the 1900 *Federal Census* (FC 1900). Morris and his wife, Julia, lived in what was then the Borough of South Canonsburg, a separate municipality. He was a clothier. The *Stocking Directory of Washington County 1901-1902* (*Stocking 01*) lists his business as being on Central Avenue. By 1902 he was firmly enough established to erect a substantial building named after himself. The Bernstein Building, located at 51 West Pike Street, was three stories high and was the first in town to have a passenger elevator. The business, Bernstein's Department Store, sold men's, women's, and children's clothes.²

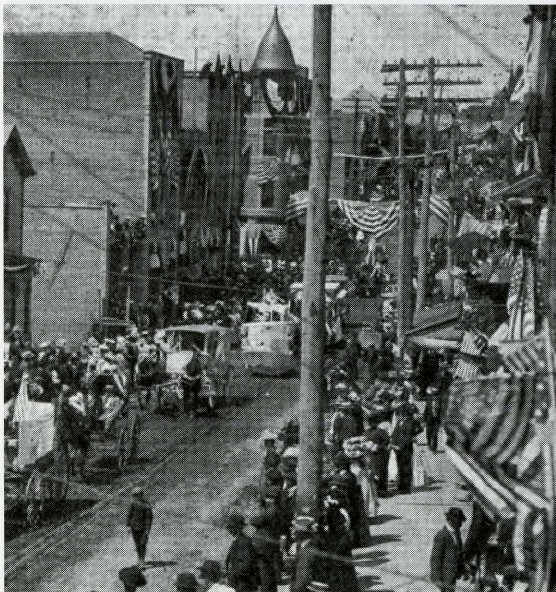
Another early merchant in FC 1900 is Joseph Auerbach. If the information found in his obituary in the Canonsburg *Daily Notes* (*Notes*) September 14,

1942, is accurate, he perhaps even predated Morris Bernstein. It reports, "He came to Canonsburg 49 years ago and founded the men's store which bore his name since long before the turn of the century." The business was at 58 West Pike Street where he and his wife, Fannie, also resided.³

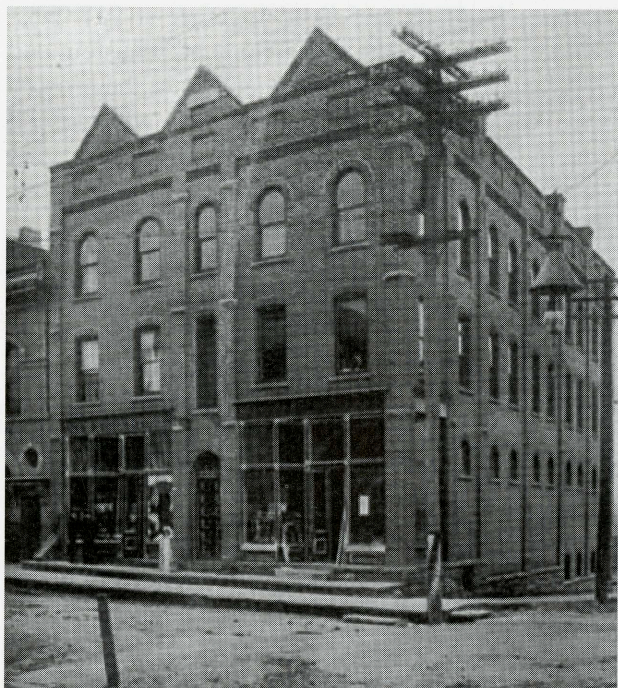
Also in the FC 1900 is the Louis Markowitz family. He and his wife, Jesse (or Esse), lived on Ridge Avenue. Louis was a junk dealer. He is subsequently listed in the *R.L. Polk & Co's Washington Directory, 1905-06* (*Polk 1905*) as living at 31 East College.

A fourth family that appears in the FC 1900 is Jacob Morris, his wife Julia, and his brother-in-law, Louis Cahan (Cohen). They lived on West Pike Street. Jacob was a dry goods merchant. In *Polk 1905*, they are living at 138 Central Avenue, and the business was at 61-65 West Pike. Subsequently, Louis Cahan's father and mother, Jacob and Mary, came to Canonsburg as well.

By 1905-06 Canonsburg Jews began to gather for worship. *Polk 1905* lists a B'nai Israel Congregation⁴ in the McNary Building, corner of West Pike Street and Jefferson Avenue. The rabbi is Rev Hyman Lebeau. Lebeau (the spelling in *Polk 1905*) and his wife, Sarah, lived at 113 Murdoch Street.⁵



The Bernstein Building was only half finished at the time Of the 1902 Canonsburg Centennial, left. When the photo on the right was taken, in 1962, Kirby's Shoes was there.



The McNary Building at the corner of Pike and Jefferson was built after the Fire of 1898 for W. H. McNary's Furniture and Undertaking business. The photograph at left, from the 1902 Centennial photograph booklet, shows Jacob Morris's New York Store in the other half of the first floor. Rabbi Lebeau held services on the third floor of this building. At right is the same building in 2007. Artist Jim Sulkowski's salon is now in the rooms along Jefferson Avenue. Beneath is Alterio Catering.

Also in *Polk 1905* is Sam Finkel. Sam, his wife Mary, and his brother, Joseph, lived in a duplex house at 16 Iron Street. Both Sam and Joseph are listed as peddlers. At 15 Iron Street lived Sam's in-laws--Lena Weiner, a widow; her son, John, who was a grocer at that location; and another son, Louis, who was a clerk at the grocery store.

Among others who made up this influx of Jews between 1901 and 1906 were Markus Blaustein and wife, Bertha. Blaustein was a grocer with Blaustein and Miller (Henry Miller). The store and residence were at 180 East Pike Street.

Abraham Kletzk and his wife, Tillie, lived at 29 West Pike Street, and his cigar manufacturing business was at 44 West Pike Street.

Two Levin brothers--Jacob D. and Morris--and their cousin, Joseph, arrived. J.D. lived at the corner of East Pike and Ashland Avenue, and Morris lived with his wife, Sarah, at 209 East Pike Street. The two brothers appear to have had dry good stores in two locations, one at 40 West Pike Street and the other at 209 East Pike Street. The stores went under the name of J.D. Levin & Bro. The third Levin, Joseph, and his wife, Etta, lived at 142 Murdoch Street. He had a clothing store at 41 Jefferson Avenue.

Samuel Morris was a clerk at J.D. Levin's store and boarded there as well. He was Jacob Morris's brother.

Two of the three Skirble brothers who came to Canonsburg arrived. David A. (D.A.) Skirble lived at 31 West Pike Street. His business, D.A. Skirble & Co, was at the same location. Listed in business with him was Barney Rosenthal, his brother-in-law. D.A.'s brother, Charles E. Skirble, was a clerk in the business and lived at the same address.⁶

Samuel Rosenberg, a clerk at Blaustein and Miller and who boarded at the store's address, is first found in *Polk 1905*; by the next edition, *R. L. Polk & Co's Washington Directory, 1909-10 (Polk 1909)*, he was married to Minnie, was listed as a huckster, and was living at 17 Iron Street.

In the January 18, 1909, issue of the *Notes*, a meeting of the "Canonsburg Hebrew Association" is reported where building a synagogue was discussed. In favor of the project was B. Newmark described as the "new rabbi . . . having come about one month ago." Also reported was the association's purchase of a new Bible "at a cost of \$100." To pay for this purchase and to fund other incidental expenses, contributions were sought, and those contributing are listed in the story. This list gives additional insight into the Jewish popula-

tion in Canonsburg at the time. Included are Joseph Levin, M. (Morris) Levin, B. (Benny) Klee, L. (Louis) Sukolsky, Sam Burg, L. (Louis) Simon, Samuel Goldberg, Mr. (Ignatz) Greenfield, H. (Harry) Levin[e], N. Zucker, Peter Davis, Sam Rosenberg, Abe Kletz, N. (Nathan) Deemer, S. Levi (Levy), and D. Mintz. Mentioned in the article are officers of the organization: Joseph Levine (Levin), president; Maurice (Morris) Levine (Levin), vice president; B. Newmark, secretary; and B. (Benny) Klee, treasurer.

A follow-up story in the February 8, 1909, *Notes* reports on a meeting of the "Canonsburg Hebrew organization, in the McNary Building. The meeting's purpose was an auction fund-raiser for the erection of a synagogue during the present year." Mentioned in the article are officers of the organization: Joseph Levine (Levin), president; Maurice (Morris) Levine (Levin), vice president; B. (Benny) Klee, treasurer; Samuel Rosenberg and Harry Levine, trustees.

Many new names: Benny Klee and his wife, Dora, had the grocery store earlier operated by Markus Blaustein at 180 East Pike Street. They also lived there. Louis Sukolsky, and his brother, Samuel, were in

the produce business and lived together at 217 West Pike Street. Between the ownerships of Blaustein and Benny Klee, Sam Burg was the occupant of the grocery store at 180 East Pike Street in partnership with Joseph Brand and Hyman Apter. Samuel Burg and his wife, Bessie, lived at 105 Richland Avenue as did Apter; Brand was at 173 East Pike Street.

Louis Simon was a baker and lived at 324 South Central Avenue, the Cushnie Hotel. Samuel Goldberg and his wife, Essie, lived at 205 2nd Street, South Canonsburg; he was the treasurer of the Famous Mercantile Company, a company formed after Morris Bernstein sold his department store. Another resident of the Cushnie Hotel was Ignatz Greenfield. He was a shoemaker at 15 East Pike Street. Harry Levine and his wife, Ida, lived at 109 Richland Avenue, and he was a doubler in the steel rolling mill.⁷

Nathan Zucker and his wife, Anna, lived at 105 Richland Avenue. He was a peddler. A man with an All-American name, Peter Davis, lived with his wife, Elizabeth, at 155 East Pike Street, and he owned a tailor shop. Nathan Deemer was a clerk at Joseph Levin's store and lived as a boarder with the Levins at 142

TAFT, WILSON, ROOSEVELT

Are the three Presidential Candidates. The people will choose from these three who shall be their chief. It is pretty hard to tell who will be the people's choice. But it is one sure thing that

Bennie Klee's Sanitary Meat Market and Grocery

Is the choice of the people of Canonsburg, because it is a strictly Sanitary Meat Shop. Because, I handle the highest quality and sell at the lowest prices in Washington county. Because I give full measure and weight. Meat fresh every day. Orders delivered promptly at your home. Remember the White Front and look at our prices below:

MEATS

No. 1 Regular Hams.....	14½c	Chuck Roast.....	12½c
California Hams.....	11½c	Boiling Meat.....	8c and 10c
Bacon.....	15c	Pork Roast.....	12c
Dry Salt.....	12½c	Veal.....	12½c, 15c, 18c
Round Steak.....	14c	Lambs.....	10c, 12½c
Sirloin steak.....	15c	Bologna.....	3 lb 25c
Tenderloin steak.....	16c	Special small boil Ham.....	22c

GROCERIES

25 lb. sugar for 98c, with \$5.00 order

Don't Miss the White Front Meat Market, which will save you 25c on every dollar

We deliver goods to all parts of town

180 East Pike Street, Canonsburg

Phone 93R

The location of the White Front Meat Market, 180 East Pike, was later the site of Katz's Hardware (178-180 E. Pike.)

The ad appeared in the Daily Notes, July 5, 1912.

Pike Street looking East during the 1912 Flood. The Klahr store is beyond the utility pole, the building with the people on the balcony.

The name on the sign is spelled Klar; a 1915 ad in the Daily Notes has the spelling, Klarr.

Bennie Klee's White Front Meat Market probably is in the frame building with the shed roof on the right.



Martin Estep photograph

Murdoch Street. Simon Levi (Levy), a butcher, lived with his wife, Rachel, at 109 Spring Street. D. Mintz's identity remains unknown.

Polk 1909 adds some more names to the growing Jewish community. Hyman and Rachel Klahr are listed. Hyman had a furniture store at 182 East Pike Street, and the couple resided there. Hyman's brother, Joseph Klahr, had a restaurant at 188 East Pike Street and lived at that location. David Abraham came to town and listed his occupation as a pickler. He and his wife, Mary, lived at Adams Avenue near 2nd Street. Sam Benowitz was a clerk at Sam Burg's grocery store and probably lived with the Burgs. Still another grocer came, Louis Bernstein. His store and residence were at 114 Richland Avenue.

A peddler of dry goods, Adolph Kornfield, lived with his wife, Dora, at 113 Murdoch Street. Harry Lebowitz and his wife, Lena, lived at 203 (rear) East Pike Street; he was a clerk at Benny Klee's grocery store. Ben Levin worked in the tin mill. He and his wife, Julia, lived 310 East Pike Street. Albert Levy was another officer of the Famous Mercantile Co., the secretary. He and his wife, Marsella, lived at 38 West College. Another clerk for J. D. Levin was Rose Simon who also boarded with the Levins.

Three more names appear in the *1910 Census*. Max Cushner, a baker, and his wife, Anna, lived at 407 South Central Avenue. Morris Mankowitz and his wife,

Annie, settled at 201 (rear) East Pike Street, behind the J. D. Levin residence. He was a dry goods merchant. And the third Skirble brother came to town. George Skirble and his wife, Ada (Ida), lived at 339 West College Street, and he joined his brother, D.A., in the clothing business.

By 1910, approximately 40 Jewish families had settled in Canonsburg. Whatever enthusiasm was generated at the 1909 meetings for building a synagogue, however, was not converted into action. Not until five years later, February 1914, was a lot purchased on Ashland Avenue. The community was still meeting on the third floor of the McNary Building.⁸

A month later a Bar Mitzvah, that of Emanuel Morris, son of Jacob and Julia Morris, then living at 147 West College Street was reported in the *Notes*.⁹ This event was at the Odd Fellows Hall located in the Gown Building on the southwestern corner of Pike Street and Jefferson Avenue.

On October 22, 1914, ground was broken for the synagogue. The *Notes* reports, "It will be of brick, and modern in every particular, and will cost in the neighborhood of \$7,000."¹⁰ The officers are president, Samuel Burg; vice president, B. (Benny) Klee; secretary, Samuel Finkel; treasurer, Jacob Morris.

On June 21, 1915, the first day of summer, the synagogue was dedicated. New names among the participants in the ceremony included William Brand, proba-

APRIL 1st, 1904

APRIL 1st, 1912

D. A. SKIRBLE & CO.



D. A. SKIRBLE

THE STORE THAT DOES THINGS Yesterday, Today, All the Time

The methods of this store must be pretty near right to bring to it the great patronage we enjoy. They must be sound, reliable and attractive. The principles must be just, liberal and honorable. Were they not, this establishment would not have grown from its unpretentious beginning to its present magnitude. It is all due to our methods and principles.

COMPARISON IS THE REAL TEST

Merchandise, Prices, Service, Treatment---all determine the character of a store, and help to make or break it. In these stirring days it is a fitting time to observe closely what you get and what you pay for it; how you are treated while you are getting it--and, likewise, what happens in the event of your wishing to return or exchange what you buy. This store from the very outset offered one golden rule---The "Best Merchandise for what you pay." We dispose of price competition by meeting it with goods superior. Let your shopping be the real test.



B. ROSENTHAL

Canonsburg Daily Notes, April 27, 1912



Daily Notes, June 24, 1927

Tree of Life Synagogue, Ashland Avenue, Canonsburg, from the issue of the Daily Notes celebrating Canonsburg's 125th Anniversary.

bly a brother of Joseph. In the 1920 Census, William and his wife Lena lived at 153 East Pike Street, and he was a fruit merchant. Another name was Charles Spitzer, a member of the building committee and the congregation's recording secretary. He was Marcus Blaustein's son-in-law and is found in the *FC 1910* as a boarder with the Blaustein's at 114 North Central Avenue. He is listed as a manufacturer of soft drinks. Sometimes around 1914-15 he married Rebecca Blaustein.¹¹ A third name was Max Bernstein, who with his wife, Annie, lived at 153 West College Street. He had a shoe store.¹²

Officers at the time of the dedication were the same as those at the ground breaking with the addition of trustees Max Bernstein, Joseph Levin, Morris Levin, and Hyman Klahr. The local rabbi, whose role in the dedication is not reported in the *Notes* story, is Hyman Lebeau.

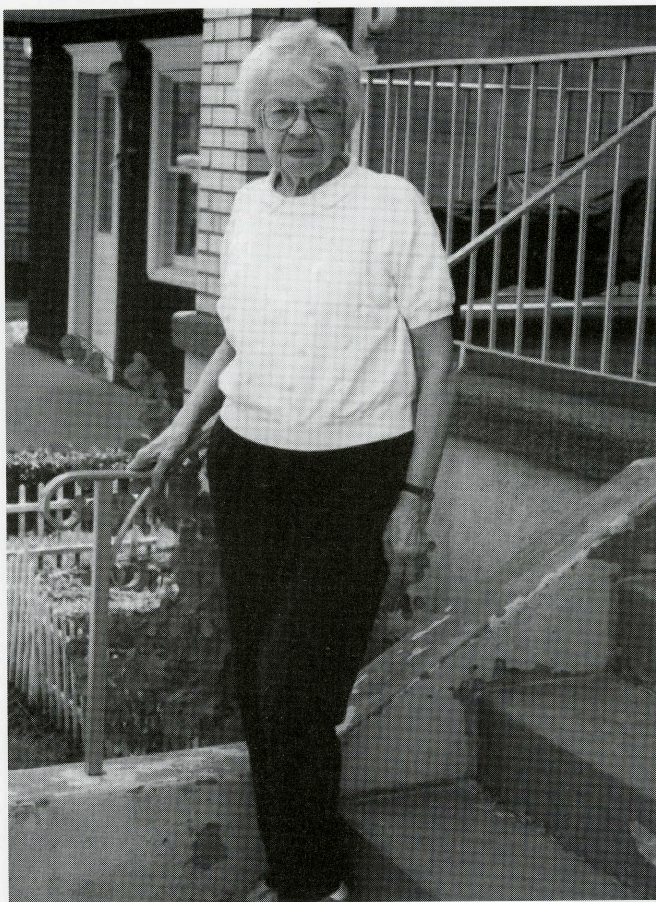
The *FC 1920* reveals many more arrivals. As was the case with previous arrivals, many of the newcomers were merchants and grocers. Samuel Balbersky came to town and by the 1920 was a widower with 7 children.¹³ He lived at 127 East Pike Street and had a furniture store. Nathan Berman [Bergman] and his wife,

Alice, were living at 18 North Central Avenue; he was a clothing salesman. Jacob Feld had a shoe store and lived at 189 East Pike Street. He was married to Kate. Max Graditor, another shoe store merchant, lived with his wife, Jennie, at 21 Iron Street. Isadore and Eva Katz lived at 24 South Central Avenue. Isadore was a furniture salesman.¹⁴ At the same address was a boarder, Harry Finkelstein, a grocery store clerk. Also arriving some time before *FC 1920* was Abe Katz, who had a clothing store; he and his wife, Hannah, lived at 100 Smith Street. His brother, Jacob Katz also had come to town. He operated a 5 & 10 store, and he and his wife, Fannie, lived at 177 East Pike Street.¹⁵ And there was a tailor, Charles Weiss, who lived at 155 East Pike.

The new grocers included Samuel Horowitz and his wife, Rosie, who lived at 9 South Central Avenue. Samuel Fargostein and his wife, Dora, lived at 344 Ridge Avenue. John Klein and wife, Tillie, lived at 155 Smith Street. Sam Karwan was a worker in a grocery store. He and his wife, Sophia, lived at 172 Smith Street. The Popover brothers, Morris and Samuel, came to town. Morris, also a worker at a grocery store, was a boarder at the Karwans.¹⁶ His brother, Samuel, lived at 17 South Central Avenue and was a partner with David Abraham in a meat and grocery business. Sam Margolis was a lodger at the Abraham residence and was a clerk in the store. Jacob Slone (Slonimsky in the *1920 Census*), a wholesale produce merchant, and his wife, Mollie, lived at the Sam Benowitz residence at 8 Iron Street. Joseph Braunstein and his wife, Sadie, lived at 177 East Pike Street, and he worked as a grocery clerk. Meyer Lebowitz was not a grocer, but a baker. He and his wife, Pepie, lived at 115 South Jefferson Avenue.

Between 1920 and 1930, Canonsburg continued to attract new Jews. Samuel Harris had a working men's store. He and his wife, Nell, lived at 34 Archer Street. Isser and Annie Horowitz lived at 124 Van Eman Street. He was a wholesale merchant. Sam Marcus (E.L.) and wife, Rose, came to town some time prior to May of 1926.¹⁷ Sam was a wholesale tobacco and candy merchant. A dentist, Lou Kantor, arrived in Canonsburg some time before December 1927.¹⁸

And still more grocers came. Tom and Rose Penner lived at 103 Bluff Street. Morris Petchenik and his wife, Bella, lived at 235 Orchard Avenue. Meyer and Rose Potashman lived at 400 West Pike Street. He was a butcher. Abe Friedfeld and his wife, Kate, lived at 110 Murdoch Street. He was a huckster with truck. Some time during the mid-1920s, Theodore Moscov



Arnold Cushner photo, 1996

Jennie Lalli, daughter of Sam Benowitz, at her Iron Street home in 1996. She was the last member of the Canonsburg Jewish Community.

Samuel's daughter, arrived to work as a salesman for his brother's furniture store. He and his wife, Gus, lived on Spruce Street. Gerson Chertoff, I presume a brother of Ted, came to town.

Milton Pinsker and his wife, Sarah, arrived. He had a clothing store. Al Sheffler, proprietor of a women's shop, also came to town during this time. And Irwin (Mize) Bales and his wife, Gert, lived on Bluff Street. He operated a restaurant at Donaldson's Crossroads. Morris Feldhorn, an operator of a dry cleaning business, and his wife, Dora, arrived and lived at 182 Smith Street. Adolph Schonfeld, a salesman, lived at 124 Van Eman Street, the residence of Isser Horowitz. He married Isser's daughter, Clara. Albert (Abe) Fickman and his wife, Minnie, took up residence at 329 North Jefferson Avenue. He had an auto supply store. And another dentist arrived: David K. Finkel, and his wife, Margaret. They lived at 310 West Pike Street. Isaac and Sarah Caplan come to town and lived at 175 Smith Street. He had a feed store.

And, of course, grocers came. One was David Cohen and his wife, Eva, who lived at 119 Smith Street. Another was Hyman and Anna Hoffman. The Hoffmans previously had a grocery store at Manifold, South Strabane Township. They moved from there to 607 South Central Avenue, where they bought the residence and grocery business operated by Louis Galtz, who had married Isser Horowitz's daughter, Eva. Anna Yortes, a widow, moved to Canonsburg and lived at 216 South Central Avenue. In *FC 1920*, she and her husband, John, a fruit huckster, lived in Stockdale.

The Jewish Community perhaps reached its zenith in the 1930s, and this was captured in a picture of the B'nai Brith taken January 15, 1939. The picture shows 50 men. Among them are some of the very earliest settlers--Sam Morris, George Skirble, J. D. Levin, and Hyman Klahr. Most, however were the children of those early settlers along with those who came subsequently.

After this, the new arrivals slowed to a trickle while the departures increased because of death, of relocation, and of abandonment by a succeeding generation leaving for places larger and more promising. In the '40s, Bert and Edith Adler arrived. He had a men's store, and they lived on Hutchinson Avenue. Sydney Safran, a physician, came to town. Louis Stein, an optometrist, and his wife, Inez, came in the '50s, as did Jack Teitleman and his wife, Mary. He had a cut-rate store.

Life at the Tree of Life synagogue remained active through the 1940s, but by the 1950s it became more a place for nostalgia than worship. Some of this is reflected in the gathering in October 1951 literally under the banner of "Welcome Tree of Life Synagogue Alumni." Those attending included some of the earliest arrivals but also included far more of the children of these, and many of these were from out of town.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kipper services continued at the Tree of Life Synagogue into the 1950s. The last Bar Mitzvah there, on January 31, 1953, was that of Marvin Lalli, whose grandfather, Sam Benowitz, had come to Canonsburg some time before 1909.

The Jewish population continued to dwindle until there was only one member--Jennie Lalli, Sam Benowitz's oldest daughter and Marvin Lalli's mother. Jennie died January 24, 1997. From beginning to end the Jewish community lasted in Canonsburg for almost 100 years. The synagogue dedicated in 1915 was sold in the 1960s and was razed for redevelopment in the 1980s. Its life was 65 years, just about the Biblical three score and ten.



Notes

1 In his article, "Reminiscences of the Jewish Community of Canonsburg," in the November 1991 issue of the *Jefferson College Times (JCT)*, William M. Katz wrote: "It was the second year of the twentieth century, 1901, when young Sam Finkel and his lovely bride, Mary, rode with their horse and buggy into Canonsburg. There they pulled up reins to become the first Jews to settle in our town." While Mr. Katz's prose has its charm, he offers no factual basis for his assertions. As I indicate in the text, the first record of Sam Finkel in Canonsburg is in the *R. L. Polk & Co. Washington Directory, 1905*.

2 A fuller discussion of the Bernstein Building, by James T. Herron, Jr., can be found in *JCT*, May 1996 in an article entitled, "Rapid Reconstruction: Part 1, The Borough and Canonsburg Hotel Lots."

3 In the *FC 1900*, the Auerbach family is found indexed under Aninbach; in *FC 1910* under the name Auerbach. I have not been able to find them in the *FC 1920*; and in the *FC 1930*, they are indexed under Amsbaugh. Auerbach at some point became a Presbyterian and was buried as such in 1942. His daughter, Sue, married a non-Jew, J. Benjamin Cowan and never was a practicing Jew. She was a long time photographer in Canonsburg.

4 Why it was named B'nai Israel at this point is not known. When a more formal congregation is established the name chosen is Tree of Life.

5 Among the Lebeau children in *FC 1910* is Adolph Lebeau (subsequently Adolph Zeman). How this came about is contained in a biography of Adolph Lebeau Zeman found in Earle Forrest, *History of Washington County* (S.J. Clarke Publishing Company: Chicago, 1926), II, 613. "Bereaved of a mother's care in the hour of his birth, Adolph Lebeau Zeman was tenderly cared for by an uncle and aunt, Rev. Hyman and Sarah Lebeau." Sarah Lebeau was a sister of Adolph's father, David Zeman. In *FC 1910*, David Zeman, a widower, was living with his brother, Joseph, and his family in Evans City, Butler County.

Rabbi Lebeau's clerical role is unclear. The 1919 *JC* article about the Canonsburg Jewish community states: "At that time, [around 1905-06] the services were held in a small hall known as McNary's. Even though the congregation was so small, services were conducted by Rabbi Ginsburg, who remained with the Canonsburg community until four years ago [around 1915]." No first name is given for Rabbi Ginsburg, and I cannot find him in *FC 1910*.

A story in the *Notes*, February 8, 1909, "Local Hebrews Dedicate Bible" contains the statement, "Addresses were made by Rabbis Cochen [later in the story, Cohn] Pittsburg (sic), Perlman of Carnegie, and Newman of Canonsburg. . . ." (emphasis mine) No mention is made in the story of either Rabbi Lebeau or Rabbi Ginsburg. I cannot find Rabbi Newman in the *FC 1910*.

6 The Skirbles' sister, I believe, was Morris Bernstein's wife. An obituary of Sarah Skirble, the Skirbles' mother, in *JC*, August 25, 1924, lists among the children, Mrs. M. Bernstein.

7 The *Notes* in the February 8 story, reported that, "Announcement was made at the meeting of the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Levine of Richland Avenue, South Canonsburg. The **christening** will take place next Sunday. [emphasis added]" Sadly, by the following year in the *FC 1910*, Harry had died, and his wife and children were boarding in the household of Samuel Rosenberg.

8 *Daily Notes*, 11 February 1914.

9 *Daily Notes*, 3 March 1914.

10 *Daily Notes*, 22 October 1914. The *Notes* story reports, "It is also proposed to put a swimming pool in the basement." Also in the report was that the seating capacity was to be 650. Actual seating capacity was perhaps one-third of that.

11 In *FC 1920*, Rebecca is a widow with three children, living with her parents at 141 North Central Avenue.

12 Max may be the brother of the original Canonsburg Jewish settler, Morris Bernstein. In an obituary for Max's mother in the *JC* February 9, 1923, a brother Morris is listed.

13 In *FC 1910* Samuel Balbersky is living in Pittsburgh and married to Rebecca. His second marriage to Kate Striker is announced in the *JC* February 25, 1921.

14 Isadore worked at Klahr Furniture. Hyman Klahr was Eva Katz's brother.

15 I could not find Jacob and Fannie in *FC 1910* or *FC 1920*. I did find his WWI draft registration which had him living at 177 East Pike.

16 Many of the families in the grocery business or working in the grocery stores were related to Sam Burg. Anna Zucker, Nathan Zucker's wife, was Sam Burg's sister. Sam Benowitz was his first cousin. Sam Burg's wife, Bessie, was the sister of Morris Popover, Sam Popover, Sophia Karwan, Tillie Klein, Mary Abraham, and Sarah Caplan.

17 Their son, Isadore, is mentioned as participating in a Jewish youth group conference in the *JC* May 14, 1926.

18 He is mentioned prominently in the *JC* December 16, 1927, as an adult participant in a Jewish youth group production.

19 They are noted as living in Canonsburg in announcements in issues of *JC* October 8, 1926, and December 2, 1927.

20 Sol Toder, their son, in a letter to me said, "When they moved from Carnegie to Canonsburg in 1927, they lived at the corner of East Pike and Ashland above Buffalo Confectionary, which we all called Tom's candy kitchen."



Joseph Solobay, December 1980

The former Tree of Life Synagogue seen shortly before its demolition as a part of Canonsburg's redevelopment. It had been used as a janitorial supply house since the early 1960s. Adjacent is the former Italian Club, also razed.