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of the endowment fund and president of the court of appeals; Mr. Henry Jackson, of the district court of appeals, and Mr. Joseph Stadtfeld, of the committee on intellectual advancement. Mr. M. Brilles, now deceased, was also prominently identified with the important committees of the Grand Lodge.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF OFFICIALS.

Joseph D. Coons, Esq., the president, was born in Wilkesbarre, Pa., in 1849. He is a graduate of the public and high schools of that city. After leaving school he entered the office of a large manufacturing concern where he remained for about a year. He then studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1874. He has been identified with the various Jewish orders, including the B'nai B'rith, the Free Sons of Israel and the "Keshet Shel Bazel." He has been president of lodges in all three orders, and also representative in the grand lodge. He has for a number of years been the representative of Rodef Sholem Lodge, B'nai B'rith, of Wilkesbarre, Pa. In 1890 he was a delegate to the Richmond convention of the Constitution Grand Lodge, which was made memorable by the vigorous fight over the appointment of a commission for the union of all Jewish lodges. In the same year he had been vice-president of the Washington convention of the supreme lodge, K. S. B. Mr. Coons was appointed a member of the commission on union of Jewish orders of the Constitution Grand Lodge, I. O. B. B. and has rendered able and efficient services as presiding officer.

Charles Hoffman is a native of the City of Brotherly Love. His early education was received in the public schools and Rugby academy; after

which he took a course at the University of Pennsylvania and graduated with the degrees of L. L. B., M. A. and B. A. From his boyhood days he took an interest in Jewish affairs. He was an instructor in the religious school of Rodef Sholem congregation and was one of the founders of the Jewish Culture Association, of which he was twice elected president. He is an eloquent and fluent speaker and writer. The "Jewish Exponent," of Philadelphia, was founded by him and others. He has held the position of editor of that journal since 1881. His history in connection with the B'nai B'rith began when he joined Har Neboch Lodge, No. 12, shortly after his twenty-first birthday. In 1890 he was elected a representative to the Grand Lodge, of which organization he is now first vice-president. He was also one of the delegates to the last Constitutional convention, and as a member of the ritual committee, co-operated in the making of the present ritual. He is also the author of the resolution adopted by district No. 3, to establish an industrial school. He is a gentleman of great literary and scholarly attainments.

Marcus K. Cohen, the secretary of the District Grand Lodge, came to this country from Germany in 1854. After living in other cities for several years he settled in Philadelphia in 1862. Mr. Cohen has been very active in the order. In 1864 he joined Joshua Lodge, Philadelphia, and almost at once became prominent. He passed through the chair and was elected representative to the Grand Lodge, where too, he was honored with high offices. Mr. Cohen has been identified with many movements of a charitable, educational and elevating nature. Together with Abraham Sulzberger he was instrumental in the establishment of the Jewish Hospital, Philadelphia. When Jewish immigration to Philadelphia became extensive a general relief association was formed, of which he was elected secretary. Employment was found for several hundred people in the shirt factory at Norristown and the cigar factory at North Wales, Pa.

Upon the death of Alfred T. Jones, the Grand Lodge secretary, in 1888, Mr. Cohen was elected to the position and has held it ever since, ably assisting the other officers in all movements and particularly aiding in the establishment of the Manual Training School.

The treasurer of District Grand Lodge, No. 3, is Mr. M. C. Hirsch. He is native of Bensheim, Germany, where his early education was received. Since his residence in Philadelphia, he has associated himself with all organizations tending for the uplifting of his co-religionists. He has been an officer of the Reform Congregation, Keneseth Israel, of Philadelphia, since 1869, serving for ten years as chairman of the finance committee, and served one year as its president, during which term he broke ground and presided at the laying of the corner-stone of the new magnificent edifice at the corner of Broad street and Columbus avenue. For several years he was a member of the board of managers of the Jewish Hospital, and for twenty years a member of the board of managers of the United Hebrew Charities, for twenty years a member of the board of managers of the Orphans' Guardians, and their treasurer for ten years. He has been a member of Joshua Lodge for over twenty-five years, and represented the lodge for many years in the Grand Lodge, serving there no numerous committees, and is now treasurer of the district.

THE B'NAI B'RITH IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

The B'nai B'rith started its organization in Allegheny county with the institution of Jericho Lodge, No. 44, in 1862. Judaism in this district was not as united as it should have been, and it was hoped that through the union of all Jews in so splendid an organization that great good could be accomplished and the advancement of our people intellectually, morally and otherwise would surely follow. Jericho Lodge met with considerable success from its very inception and continued to increase in membership and financial strength until now it is one of the leading lodges in the country. It numbers on its roster many of our leading citizens. The success of Jericho Lodge and the augmentation of Jewish population in Allegheny county gave rise to the organization of more lodges. Six years later Ibn Gabirol Lodge, No. 114, secured a charter. It, too, met with varied success and stands quite prominent in B'nai B'rith circles. Saar Sholem was the next lodge instituted (in 1870), and has certainly performed its functions well. It has grown in strength in

every way and has a large membership and a well-filled treasury. The last of the local lodges to be organized was Iron City Lodge, eleven years afterwards. Like the other lodges in Allegheny county it has thrived well and is a representative organization. Below is given a brief resume of each lodge from which can be gleaned their early histories, charter members, finances, etc.:

JERICHO LODGE, NUMBER 44.

The charter for Jericho Lodge was granted December twenty-second, 1862. The signatures on that important document were Messrs. M. Roman, R. Teller and B. Burgauer. The charter members, some of whom are now not living, were Messrs. Wm. Armhold, M. Hanauer, J. Adler, J. Cohen, J. Coblens, M. Oppenheimer, A. Greenwald, G. Grafner, L. Jonas, S. Baerman, J. Stern, M. Kraus, M. Good, J. Baum, M. Brilles, M. Amberg, E. Bernstein, M. Weille, H. Rosenbach, L. Einstein, L. Heilbronner. In the initiation book Mr. Simon Straus is recorded as the first secretary.

Jericho Lodge pays five dollars per week sick benefits extending over a period of thirteen weeks. In case of death the lodge pays to the brother's nearest relative the sum of twenty-five dollars and provides for the funeral. At present the lodge has a sinking fund of five thousand dollars with a membership of sixty-eight. The officers of the lodge at present are, Charles Zugsmith, president; M. Pink, vice-president; _____, treasurer; Marcus Marx, recording secretary; Herschell N. Benedict, financial secretary; N. Nachman, inside guard; S. Baerman, outside guard. The office of treasurer is vacant due to the death of Mr. M. Brilles, January 14, 1898.

IB'N GABIROL LODGE, NUMBER 114.

The institution of I'bn Gabirol Lodge occurred November 22, 1868. Among the large number of charter members were Messrs. Joseph Benedict, Solomon Bickart, Joseph Borchard, George Cohen, Iseman Kahn, Wm. Cohen, Abram DeRoy, Moses Frank, Louis Frank, Simon Goldsmith, Abram Goldsmith, M. Goldstein, Meyer Harris, Levy Israel, Solomon Loewenthal, Sam Loewenthal, Solomon New, Sam Prager, Jacob Rosensweig, Moritz Streng, H. Silverman, M. Stadtfeld, Meyer Weil, Simon Zeugschmidt, Asher Koch, S. Hohenstein, I. Gelder, H. Hirsh, H. Oppenheim, H. D. Goldman, Isaac Stern, I. Crown, I. Baum. The first meeting was largely attended and a plan of work in the noble cause outlined. An efficient corps of officers were chosen to administer the first affairs of the society, who were as follows: L. Kahn, president; H. Oppenheim, vice-president; P. D. Susman, treasurer; I. M. Simon, secretary; Jos. Benedict, assistant secretary; Geo. Cohen, monitor; M. Harris, inside guard; S. Zeugschmidt, outside guard; trustees—Messrs. H. Silverman, Geo. Cohen and M. Streng.

The lodge from its very institution became a power in Jewish circles and in 1880

its membership had increased to one hundred and six members. Shortly afterwards the endowment assessment was made which bore heavily on the treasury, finally causing the membership to dwindle somewhat. At present the finances are in a very satisfactory condition.

The officers for the current term are, Mr. M. Hiller, president; N. H. Feldman, vice-president; A. Green, recording and financial secretary; S. Levin, treasurer.

SAAR SHOLEM LODGE, NUMBER 154.

In 1870 was instituted Saar Sholem, of the last of the local lodges, by Messrs. M. K. Cohen, of Philadelphia, Alfred T. Jones, a prominent worker in the order, and Geo. Jacobs. The institution took place on October thirtieth in Strassburger and Joseph's Hall, Allegheny. The charter members included the following gentlemen: Messrs. Lewis Bear, Louis Cohn, Sam'l S. Fell, E. M. Greenwald, Herman Hirsh, M. Joseph, Elias Katz, Simon Kaufman, Solomon Kaufman, Morris Kraus, Max Levy, Rev. Dr. L. Mayer, Joseph Myers, Henry Rosenberg, Sol Schamberg and S. Strassberger. Since organization the lodge has sustained but twelve death losses. Its present membership numbers seventy, of whom forty-two are participating. Its receipts during the year 1897 amounted to \$1,287.25. The total amount of its cash on hand, December thirty-first, 1897, was \$1,195.05. Saar Sholem expended during the year for endowment fund, \$746; for sick benefits, \$65; for dues to Grand Lodge, \$67.25; for Constitution Grand Lodge, \$19.50. Its present officers are, Mr. Emanuel Kaufman, president; Harry Hollander, vice-president; Louis Cohn, secretary; Max Sheitkin, financial secretary; S. Strasburger, treasurer; Sidney L. Kaufman, warden; Joseph Arnold, guardian. The representatives are Messrs. Jacob Eiseman and Louis Goldsmit. The trustees are Messrs. Moses Himmelrich, Herman Hirsh and S. Trauerman.

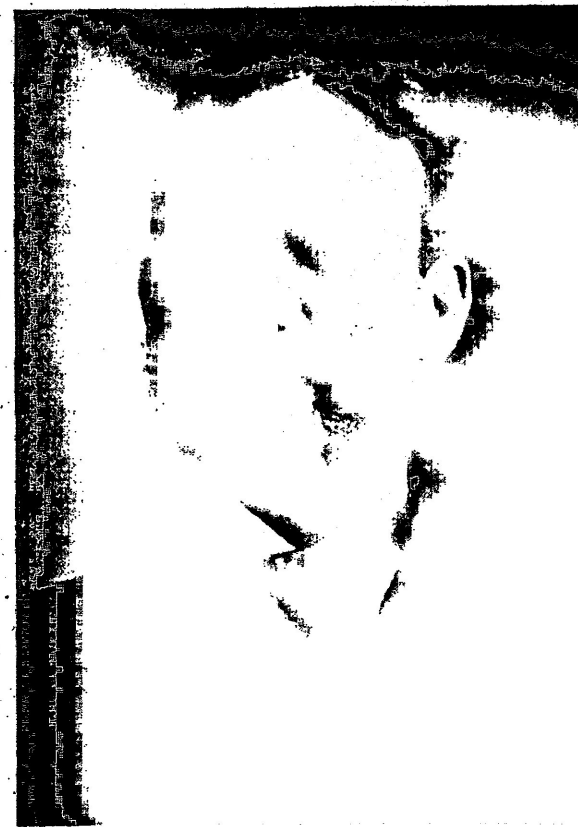
IRON CITY LODGE, NUMBER 324.

Iron City Lodge was instituted on the second of January, 1881, by Alfred T. Jones, Grand Secretary. The charter members included Messrs. Chas. Ruben, Louis Van Ullem, Marcus Arnfeld, Abram Guttman, Jacob M. Gusky, S. H. Silverman, Isaac Adolph, Eliazer Ehrlich, Josiah Cohen and Leopold Kahn. During the existence of the lodge there have been two deaths, namely, Messrs. J. M. Guskey and Benj. Feigenbaum. The present membership numbers thirty brethren. Those conducting the affairs of the lodge at present are, Mr. Sam'l Roessler, president; Abraham Cooper, vice-president; Louis Van Ullem, secretary; Henry Jackson, assistant secretary; Adolph Lotheim, treasurer; Abraham Guttman, inside warden; trustees, K. Wolkowsky, M. Arnfeld and Abe Guttman.

The total receipts of Iron City Lodge from its institution to December 31, 1897, amounted to \$14,965.28. The total sum disbursed was \$13,565.62 of which \$7,557.55 was expended account endowment fund, \$380.50 for donations, \$700.00 for sick benefits, \$245.00 for entertainment and \$4,100 for funeral benefits.

HON. JOSIAH COHEN.

Hon. Josiah Cohen is one of the best-known co-religionists in the country. Mr. Cohen came to Pittsburg from England in 1860, when but a boy twenty-one years of age, and almost immediately identified himself with the Jewish community. For five years he was a teacher in the Hebrew school. During that time he was reading law and in 1866 was admitted to the bar which profession he has since followed. During Mr. Cohen's residence in Pittsburg he has been and is interested in all organizations tending for mental and moral improvement and is connected with all Jewish movements, charitable and communal, not only locally but in the country. At one time he was chairman of the Republican County Executive Committee, and had he desired, Mr. Cohen could have enjoyed rare political distinction, but his inclinations were for his profession and he would not sacrifice it for honors of state.



JOSIAH COHEN, ESQ.

Mr. Cohen is vice-president of Rodef Sholem Temple, president of Gusky Orphanage, ex-president of Concordia Club, honorary member of the Benevolent society and other institutions, a member of the board of Allegheny General Hospital and of the Carnegie Art Fund and Museum Committee. He is a charter member of Jericho Lodge, I. O. B. B., and has filled every office in city and district and by virtue of being Past Grand President is a member of every District convention. In 1895 Mr. Cohen received a very flattering honor from the B'nai B'rith having been chosen president of the Court of Appeals of the entire order.

Mr. and Mrs. Cohen are prominent in the social world, enjoying the highest social position. Mrs. Cohen is a talented musician. Mr. Cohen won fame as an orator. He is gifted with clear enunciation and a wonderful command of language. He is recognized as one of the best after-dinner speakers ever heard here. At all times is he prepared to respond with remarks appropos, and in a manner at once feeling and eloquent.