Sidney Myers - Businessman, Community Leader & Mason

The Herald Voice (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Thur., 20 Jan 1910, cover page & p. 8.

On the front page of this issue we present to our readers the picture of Sidney Myers, president Beth Israel Congregation of Houston and one of the foremost citizens in our midst.

Born at Osyka, [Pike Co., Miss., May 25, 1865, he passed his boyhood days in that little town, and at the age of 15 years went to Calvert, [Robertson Co., Tex., where for a few short years he was a faithful employe (sic - employee) of a prominent firm in that town and just about the time of becoming of age he left there, venturing in business on his own account at Marquet (sic - Marquez, Leon Co., TX), Texas, where he was very successful financially, and during all that time commanded the respect of the community, and was honored by all who knew him, and when about four years ago he moved to Houston, Marquet's (sic - Marquez's) loss became Houston's gain, for no better acquisition as the man, a citizen and a congregant could have been made than in him, and fittingly does he earned the distinction of being the president of one of the foremost congregations in Texas.

A lover of justice and right, a graceful and unostentatious giver to the poor of every denomination, a contributory to every cause which tends to the uplifting of mankind, may we be able to point to him for a long time in our midst as a living example to be emulated.

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NOTE: Sidney was the son of Louis/Lewis Myers/Meyer and Mary S. Hart. His parents were married on 15 Nov 1860, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA.

In 1891, he appears in a newspaper article in the Galveston Daily News in the City of Marquez column and it states that Sidney is "one of the leading merchants of this place and has built up a lucrative business in the past five years."

On 19 Aug 1896, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA, Sidney married Pauline Lichtenstein. She was born in Sep 1872, MS, and was the daughter of Hart Lichtenstein and Fredericka (Fanny) Israelsky.

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NOTICE - NEW Meeting Location & Program
We have permanently moved meetings to the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center, 5601 S. Braeswood Blvd., Room 219, Houston, Texas.
Officers

President
Stefani Elkort Twyford
Archivist / Historian Committee Chair
Open
Membership & Co-Webmaster
Committee Chair
Stefani Elkort Twyford
Programs Committee Chair
Susan Kaufman
Co-Webmaster Committee Chair
Max Heffler
Secretary
Open
Treasurer
Evan Snyder
Jewish Herald-Voice Project Manager
Open

Quarterly Newsletter Published
Winter, Spring, Summer & Fall

NEW MEETING LOCATION

Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center

Newsletter Editor / Publicity Committee Chair
Lynna Kay Shuffield

Meeting Dates - 2017-2018

Dates:

Thursday - 1 March 2018
Speaker: Max Heffler - DNA

Thursday - 7 June 2018
Speaker: Lynna Kay Shuffield - Basic Genealogy

Thursday - 6 September 2018
Speakers: Susan Kaufman & Max Heffler - FamilySearch & JewishGen

Thursday - 6 December 2018
Speaker: (To be Announced)

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location:
Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center
5601 S. Braeswood Blvd. - Room 219
Houston, Texas

Membership Dues

Individual: $20 per year
Family: $25 per year
Residing over 100 miles from Houston, libraries & societies: $15 per year

Checks payable: GHJGS
Mailed to: Evan Snyder
3446 Quail Meadow Dr.
Missouri City, Texas 77459

Visit our website for PayPal for online payment: <http://ghjgs.org/membership/>

Visit Us on Facebook <https://goo.gl/8H9yry>
Visit Our Website <http://ghjgs.org/>
Newsletter back issues available on website.
Newsletter Mailing List <http://ghjgs.org/newsletters/>
GHJGS Website Change

Thanks to Stefani Elkort Twyford as she undertook to make major revisions to our website. A few new features includes the availability to pay your dues via PayPal.

< http://ghjgs.org/ >

We have added an tab for "Research Resources" which will include digital books and other materials to assist with you research. One of the best elements added to our website is a new logo for the organization.

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Research Resources - Books

Green, Charles D., *Fire Fighters of Houston, 1838-1915* (Houston, TX: u.p., 1915) - Do you have a fire fighter who served in early Houston? If so, check out this book available FREE online at:

< https://archive.org/stream/firefightersofh00gree >

Wolf, Simon (author), Louis Edward Levy (ed.), *The American Jew as Patriot, Soldier and Citizen* (Philadelphia, PA: Levytype Co., 1895) - This FREE online book covers the time-period from pre-American Revolution through post-Civil War.

< http://www.gutenberg.org/files/47135/47135-h/47135-h.htm >

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Their status as a minority fueled their success by fostering ethnic networks that funneled credit and goods in the war-torn South.

Texas Jewish Cemeteries with Historic Texas Cemetery Designations

Adath Emeth Cemetery - Houston, Harris Co.
Adath Israel Cemetery - Houston, Harris Co.
Beth Israel Cemetery - West Dallas - Houston, Harris Co.
Beth Yeshurun Cemetery - Allen Parkway - Houston, Harris Co.
Beth Yeshurun Cemetery - Post Oak - Houston, Harris Co.
Calvert Jewish Cemetery - Robertson Co.
Emanu El Memorial Park Cemetery - Houston, Harris Co.
Emanuel Hebrew Rest - Fort Worth, Tarrant Co.
Jewish Cemetery (1907) - Gonzales, Gonzales Co.

Jewish Cemetery - LaGrange, Fayette Co.
Jewish Cemetery - Rockdale, Milam Co.
Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery (a/k/a Old Jewish Burial Ground) - Paris, Lamar Co.
Hebrew Cemetery - Brownsville, Cameron Co.
Mount Sinai Jewish Cemetery - Jefferson, Marion Co.
Navasota Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery - Navasota, Grimes Co.
Temple Emanu-El Cemetery - Longview, Harrison Co.
United Hebrew Congregation Emanuel of Gainesville Cemetery, Gainesville, Cooke Co.

Research Resources - Databases

Regular Calendar - This is an amazing resource to assist your research to find early calendars as well as a date calculator to calculate the number of days, months and years between two dates.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/>

One-Step Jewish Calendar Conversions allows you to convert Hebrew dates and gravemarker dates.

<https://stevemorse.org/jcal/jcal.html>

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Frankel Family

NOTE: The Frankel surname is found with various spellings: Frank or Frankle.
NOTE: The Grantz surname is found with various spellings: Gran, Grokowitch, Grankowicz, Grankowitz, Graukowicz and Bankovitz.
In 1950, Morty's Magic Mart began business as a magic store located at 808 Texas Ave., in the old Houston Chronicle Building that was across the street from the Rice Hotel. The company was started by Morton "Morty" Frankel who was already an established businessman in Houston.

The store became an integral part in the lives of many Houstonians who wanted a place to purchase, learn and be around all that was magic. The shop carried a wide array of tricks, illusions and other magic provisions. Along with the impressive selection of magic, there were the jokes and gags of the always entertaining Morty.

Morty's wife, Leola was a trained seamstress and when a long-time customer asked for special attire for his act, she stepped in and made the costume. Thus, another aspect of the company was born.

In the 1970s, the company needed to expand and it moved to 4815 Fannin St. near the Houston Medical Center.

With Morty's death in 1975, Leola decided in 1976 to sell the business to her eldest son Lonnie and his wife Terrie.

In March 2000, the company expanded yet again and moved to 2801 Polk St. and occupied a building comprising of over 40,000 square feet.

At the end of 2017, the Frankel's Costume Co. closed its doors and the current owners retired.

Morty was born on 6 Jan 1915, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co., OH. He was the son of Israel "James" Frankel and Agustia "Gustie" Grantz who were married on 21 Mar 1913, Cuyahoga Co., OH.

James states on his World War I Draft Registration, 12 Sep 1918, Cleveland, that his wife's name is Gertrude; he is a tool maker for the Dickey-Grabler Co. and he is totally blind in his left-eye. James was buried at Beth Jacob Cemetery, Houston. Gustie died in Lexington, KY, on the way to visit Morton in Houston. Her obituary states the remains were sent Cleveland but no cemetery was noted.

In the 1920 Federal Census, James stated he emigrated to the United States in 1905 and his occupation was junk peddler. In the same census, his wife, "Gussie" stated that she emigrated to the United States in 1906. 

The census also states they are both Naturalized Citizens.

Morty appears on the 1920 and 1930 Federal Censuses, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co., OH with his parents and siblings. He appears on the 1940 Federal Census, Houston, Harris Co., TX as a boarder at the Auditorium Hotel. He states that in 1935, he was living in Beaumont, Jefferson Co., TX and that he was a watchmaker.

Before 1940, Morty married Leola Elizabeth Ivey who was born on 5 Apr 1921, Houston and was the daughter of Oscar Lee Ivey and Minnie Mae Tiller.

Morty and Leola were the parents of three children: Lonnie Frankel, Constance Frankel Melton (Mrs. Walter E.), and Ronald Frankel.
Myers Family

In 1899, Sidney is listed as a senior steward of the Bowling Lodge No. 343, A.F. & A.M. at Marquez. In 1900, Sidney was elected as a member of the School Board at Marquez. In 1902, Sidney was elected as master of exchequer for the W. P. Savage Lodge No. 310, Knights of Pythias at Marquez.

Sidney and Pauline were the parents of Myrtle Gladys Myers Levy [Mrs. Harry R. (Dr.)] (1898-1989) and Faye Mildred Myers Joseph (Mrs. J. Bernard) (1901-1980).

In Apr 1905, a newspaper article in the Houston Post stated: "Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Myers and daughters, Myrtle and Fay, recently moved to 814 Hamilton street from Leon county, where Mr. Myers has been a prominent and successful merchant for many years. Mr. Myers intends to go in business here in the very near future."

By the Summer of 1905, the Sidney Myers Produce Co. was operating at 911 Commerce street. Pauline died on 26 Sep 1905, Houston, and is buried with her husband.

In May 1910, at Beth Israel's Annual Meeting, Sidney recommended they join the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and it was accepted by the membership.

By 1914, Sidney is serving as the Vice Chairman of the City of Houston's School Board. In 1914, he was elected at the 1st Vice President of the newly formed United Jewish Charities of Houston that combined the efforts of five Jewish charitable organizations.

Sidney died on 27 May 1948, Dallas, Dallas Co., TX and was buried in Beth Israel Cemetery (West Dallas), Houston (Sec. 12).

NOTE: During the War Between the States, Louis/Lewis Myers/Meyer is listed as a Private, Co. 1, 2nd Regt. French Brigade, LA Militia at New Orleans, LA. Burial: Jewish Cemetery, Calvert, Robertson Co., TX.

NOTE: The Myers family appears on the 1900 Federal Census, Leon Co., TX, with daughter, Myrtle and the 1910 Federal Census, Houston, Harris Co., TX, with daughters, Myrtle and Faye. Sidney is found on the 1930 Federal Census, Dallas, Dallas Co., TX, with daughter, Myrtle and her family.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:
Dallas Morning News (Dallas, Dallas Co., TX), Fri., 28 May 1948, Sec. 2, p. 12, c. 2
Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Galveston Co., TX), Thurs., 23 Apr 1891, p. 5, c. 3
_____., "Jewish Charities United," Fri., 9 Jan 1914, p. 7, c. 4
Houston Post (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Tue., 6 Jun 1899, p. 3, c. 2
_____., Mon., 8 Apr 1901, p. 4, c. 5
_____., Wed., 24 Dec 1902, p. 7, c. 4
_____., "Personal Mention," Sun., 16 Apr 1905, p. 13, c. 4
_____., Wed., 27 Sep 1905, p. 12, c. 7
_____., "Special Notices," Fri., 24 May 1912, p. 15, c. 7
Jewish Herald (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Thurs., 5 May 1910, p. 3, c. 1
Palestine Daily Herald (Palestine, Anderson Co., TX), "Goes to Houston," Thurs., 8 Jun 1905, p. 1, c. 4

Society Member News

March 1st GHJGS Meeting

Genetic Genealogy - One Man's Journey using DNA to Find Family
with Max Heffler

Are you curious about which DNA test to take? Have your taken a test and are not sure what to do with the information now? Or are you wondering how you're going to fit all your new DNA cousins at your Thanksgiving table?

Come hear genealogist Max Heffler guide us through the different types of tests and how they differ between companies and by cost. He will examine the issues of Ashkenazi endogamy and why it makes Jewish genealogy so confusing. And he will discuss how testing over time improves your research results. Beginners to seasoned genetic sleuths will benefit from Max's research and insightful perspective.

When: March 1st, 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Where: Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston, Room 219
5601 S. Braeswood Blvd., Houston, Texas 77096

Coffee & cookies will be provided.

Max Heffler hails from Houston, Texas and has spent over 30 years pursuing his hobby and passion for genealogy. In 2002, he began pursuing genetic genealogy via DNA testing and started his commitment to volunteering within the genealogy community. In 2001, he joined GHJGS and took the Jewish Herald Voice Project from index cards to an Access database and then brought the project to JewishGe.org. Along with GHJGS, he volunteers with JewishGen doing data entry, web page creation, microfilm index coordination, Yizkor books, Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Index, and memorial plaque web page creation as well as managing Yizkor Book necrology indexing.

If you have not yet renewed your membership to GHJGS, we encourage you to visit our website and sign up on the membership page. Applications will also be available at the meeting.

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Upcoming Event

Members of the GHJGS are planning for a genealogy conference. Please let us know what topics you are interested in hearing.
We are here to help our members and we are hoping to make this an annual event and your ideas and suggestions are appreciated.

Other genealogy, lineage and historical societies will be invited so their membership can attend.
There will be a small fee; however, members of the GHJGS will be able to attend at no charge.

We are trying to come-up with a catchy name. Several suggestions include: "Follow the Trail to Your Past" or "Maximizing Your Success: A Jewish Genealogy Seminar." Do you have an idea for the title of the event?
Bellville (Austin Co.) - A home wedding took place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. Wolf in this town on last Wednesday, the 8th instant at 1 o'clock p.m. Mr. Max Lemon of Houston and Miss Mollie Harris being the contracting parties. Dr. Henry Cohen of Galveston performed the ceremony in accordance with the beautiful and impressive ritual of the Jewish church in his own elegant and polished style.

The bride’s costume consisted of pure white duchess, trimmed in silk appliqué lace and satin ribbon.

At the conclusion of the marriage service an elegant repast was served. Only relatives and a few close friends were present, and those who attended were fortunate indeed.

The bridal presents was a long one, all being elegant and valuable.

Those present were Misses Sadie Rosenfield of Houston, Carrie Endek of Henderson, Mr. Alex Nathan of New York, Dr. Henry Cohen and Messers. Morris Stern and Sol Harris of Galveston, H. Hirsch and son of Beaumont, Mrs. Robert Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. M. Harris and Miss Yetta Harris of Houston, Misses Louise Blake and Ellen Langhammer, L. Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Stern, Mr. and Mrs. B. Lewis and A. Wolf and family of Bellville.

NOTE: Max died on 4 Jan 1903 and burial was at Beth Yeshurun (Allen Parkway), Houston. Mollie was born ca. 1875, Pittsburgh, PA and died on 17 Nov 1959, Chicago, Cook Co., IL. Her parents were Meyer Harris and Pauline Blatt. Daughter: Pauline Lemmon Gale.

Mrs. A. Werner, 93, a resident of Houston for the last 84 years, died at 4:45 p.m. Thursday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. L. Lechenger, 1803 McGowen Avenue. Besides Mrs. Lechenger, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. H. Bill, Houston; a son, Louis Gilbert of New York; a sister, Mrs. J. R. Simon of Brenham; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral service were held at the Lechenger home at 3 p.m. Rev. Henry Barnston officiating. Burial was in Glenwood [(sic) Hollywood] Cemetery under the direction of the Settegast-Kopf Undertaking Company. Pallbearers were: Dr. G. Lechenger, Rafael Lechenger, L. Lechenger, Sam Lewis, B. C. Turner and Gus Roos.

Mrs. Werner was an honorary member of the Faith Home board, having been a patron of the institution for many years. She had been a resident of Houston since 1846, four years after the battle of San Jacinto. The trip to Texas was made by water from New York and it took the family of Louis A. Levy, her father, two days to make the trip from Galveston to the landing on Buffalo Bayou. Houston at that time was a village of log houses. Here was the first Jewish family to settle in this city. Their home was on the corner of Congress and Main Street - at one end of the only business block of the city. General Sam Houston often was a visitor in the Levy home.

Mrs. Werner was a witness to the steady growth of the city from a log cabin village to one of the leading cities of the South. She traveled extensively during her residence here having visited every part of the United States and South America.

NOTE: Cecelia Antoinette Levy was born on 17 Dec 1830, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA and was the daughter of Louis A. Levy and Mary A. (various different maiden names attributed). She married three times: Louis Lesser (unk-1859), Henry Gilbert (1832-1870) and Adolph Werner (1849-1921). Her children: Henrietta Lesser Bill (Mrs. Solomon E.), Mariam Lesser Hudson, Minnie Gilbert, Lewis Henry Gilbert, and Bertha Gilbert Lechenger (Mrs. Louis).

Her parents are both proven Patriots of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT). Mrs. Werner is an unproven Patriot of the DRT but she is eligible for a descendant to claim membership as a lineal ancestor. Her service is based on being a resident of the Republic of Texas before statehood.
37th IAJGS Internal Conference on Jewish Genealogy

In July 2017, Max Hefler and Stefani Twyford, both board members for GHJGS, attended the 37th International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Conference on Jewish genealogy, which took place in Orlando, FL.

For Max, he has attended conference every year since 2008 with the exception of once when it was in Paris, France, as he was changing jobs. For Stefani, this was her first year to attend an IAJGS conference, and they both had a lot to report.

The conference took place at the Walt Disney World Swan Hotel and while both arrived early, Max spent his time catching up with old friends while Stefani took off and spent the evening at Epcot. Growing up in Los Angeles, she spent many a wonder-filled day at Disneyland but had never been to Disney World or Epcot.

The conference started early Sunday morning and as always, there were numerous simultaneous tracks including, Beginner Foundations, Methods, DNA, IAJGS Leadership Series, Country-specific (Poland, Ukraine, etc.), Sephardi, Immigration, Holocaust Resources, Computer Labs, etc. Max managed to get in a crack-of-dawn workout in while Stefani had a leisurely breakfast reviewing which tracks she would focus on that day. Her goal was to meet the many people she had conversed with via genealogy groups on Facebook and through SIG activities via IAJGS and JewishGen.

The evening's keynote was "Alexander Hamilton, the Jews and the American Revolution" presented by Robert Watson (which was fascinating and picked up on the current Hamilton craze,) followed by a dessert reception.

On Monday there were a myriad of workshops, SIGs, and other events that both Max and Stefani attended. Max joined the Geni.com curators for dinner, his first year as a Geni.com curator! Max spent the day primarily at DNA workshops, as did Stefani but on a more beginner level.

On Tuesday, both Max and Stefani attended the Tracing the Tribe Breakfast were old and new friends met up and discussed Genealogy on Facebook. They both also attended the Ukraine SIG Luncheon's "The Trip of a Lifetime And Then Another, One Year Later." Additional workshops were interspersed with time in the resource room where numerous subscription databases were made available to conference attendees. They both also spent time in the vendor area where representatives from numerous genealogy merchants were available for information, help in purchasing and free technical support.

Wednesday featured the IAJGS Annual Meeting, JewishGen 2017 Annual Meeting, as well as the Mogilev-Podolsky BOF (Birds of a Feather.) So you reading this may think that Max and Stefani were old friends before they attended this conference. In reality, they met at the Mogilev-Podolsky BOF where Max asked Stefani why she wasn't a member of the GHJGS. She, apparently, had never heard of it but Max gave her such an impressive introduction that she soon joined the board!

Thursday Max managed to get some more exercise in at the hotel's gym while Stefani took a quick tram ride over to Disney's MEGA shopping mall to pick up some presents for the grandkids. Later in the afternoon was the presentation "Visiting Poland: Everything you should know before coming to your Ancestral Town." Because 2018's conference will be held in Warsaw, this was a particularly informative presentation for those considering attending. That evening, our banquet keynote was "Genealogy and Genetics in America" by Henry Louis Gates, Harvard professor and producer of the wildly popular genealogy TV show "Finding Your Roots" which airs on PBS.

Friday morning came all too quickly as both Max and Stefani wrapped up their conference stay and headed in opposite directions; Max flew home while Stefani rented a car and spent a few days driving around southern Florida visiting friends and family.

As Max said, "Attending the conference was like taking a sip from a fire hose while he tried to absorb as much as possible." Both are hoping to make it to Poland next year as both have ancestral roots in the area. For Max the conference was more like a family reunion, and for Stefani, she met many of her new DNA cousins.
Helena Lewyn & Louis Lewyn
- Native Houstonians & Entertainment Artists

Name: Helena Lewyn
Born: 16 Dec 1889, Houston, Harris Co., TX
Died: 30 Aug 1980, Grants Pass, Josephine Co., OR
Obituary: Los Angeles Times (Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA), Tue., 2 Sep 1980, Part I, p. 24, c. 4
Burial: Westwood Memorial Park Cemetery (now known as Pierce Brothers Westwood Village Memorial Park Cemetery), Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA [cremation]
Occupation: International Concert Pianist & Piano Instructor
European Debut: 18 Mar 1909, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Berlin, Germany, age 17
Great Britain Debut: 17 Mar 1910, Bechstein Hall (now known as Wigmore Hall), London, England
American Debut: 1910, New York Symphony Orchestra, New York, NY, Walter Damrosch, conducting
Performance: 25 Apr 1910, New York Symphony Orchestra, Walter Damrosch, conducting, at Houston, Harris Co., TX
Performance: 1911, Russian Symphony Orchestra
Performance: 19 Jan 1912, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Max Zach, conducting
Performance: 31 Jul 1945 & 5 Aug 1945, Hollywood Bowl Symphony, Leopold Stokowski, conducting; Program: Bach's Concerto for four pianos and orchestra in C minor
Education: Miss Waldo's Private School (Houston); Fannie Broomfield-Zeisler (Chicago, IL); Leopold Godowsky & Conrad Ansorge (Berlin, Germany)
Music Copyright:
"To the Beloved One" a poem by Percy Byssche Shelley and music by Helena Lewyn. (Houston, TX: Isadore Lewyn, © 9 Mar 1910, US Copyright No. E 228159)
Music:
"Underneath the White Rose Tree: A California Love Song." Poem by Mabel Miller Freeman, music by Helena Lewyn (Los Angeles, CA: Richard Drake Saunders, © 1931)
Miscellaneous:
While performing in Baden-Baden, Helena became friends with Princess Amelia ZuTurstenberg [(sic) - Amalie zu Fuerstenberg] [The Billboard (Cincinnati, OH), Sat., 8 Oct 1910, p. 8, c. 2-3]
Helena's Spouse: Max Walter Hassenstein
Born: 18 Mar 1898, Berlin, Germany
Died: 22 Feb 1977, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA
Marriage: 14 Jun 1928, Berlin, Germany
Article: Texas Jewish Herald (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Thur., 21 Jun 1928, p. 10, c. 3
Divorce: 26 Apr 1934, Superior Court, Los Angeles Co., CA - Per court documents, Helena became distraught with Max's criticism related to her musical aspirations. She alleged Max told her she was simply wasting her time by practicing all the time.

--- cont. p. 11 ---
Lewyn Family

Article: “Discord Irking to Pianist. Wife, Complaining About Mate’s Musical Criticism, Obtains Divorce,” Los Angeles Times (Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA), Fri., 27 Apr 1934, Part II, p. 5, c. 7

Father of Helena & Louis: Isadore Lewyn
Born: 8 Feb 1857, Germany
Died: 4 Feb 1927, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA
Marriage: 17 Mar 1889, Harris Co., TX
Occupation: Druggist, Lewyn Drug Co.
Voter’s Registration: 1924, 1926, Los Angeles Co., CA
U.S. Patent: 1905-1907, No. 159,271, women’s tonic & regulator
Burial: Beth Israel Cemetery (West Dallas), Houston, Harris Co., TX

Mother of Helena & Louis: Caroline "Carrie" Jeremias
Born: 31 Aug 1868/1869, Germany
Died: 31 Aug 1915, Houston, Harris Co., TX
[TX Death Cert: 13025 (1915)]
Burial: with husband, Isadore Lewyn
Obituary: Jewish Herald (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Thur., 17 Jun 1915, p. 8, c. 3

Helena’s Brother: Louis Lewyn (a/k/a Lewis Lewyn)
Born: 18 Dec 1891, Houston, Harris Co., TX
Died: 24 May 1969, Costa Mesa, Orange Co., CA
Marriage: 22 Jul 1923, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co., CA
Article: "Film Artist Wed in Santa Cruz Court," San Francisco Chronicle (San Francisco, San Francisco Co., CA), Fri., 27 Jul 1923, p. 7, c. 8
Burial: Pacific View Memorial Park Cemetery, Corona del Mar, Orange Co., CA (with wife)

World War I Draft Registration: 5 Jun 1917, Houston, Harris Co., TX
Occupation: Business Representative, Film Manufacturing Co., Universal, Mutual & other firms
Exemption Claimed: unspecified physical & nervous disability
Note: After graduation, he purchased a movie camera and began filming news events in Houston and sent them to Hollywood for newsreel production.
Note: During World War I, he was contacted by the commander of Ellington Field, Houston, to see if he could attach a motion picture camera to an airplane-mounted machine gun. Therefore, he invented the first gun-mounted camera for filming aerial combat. He accepted no money from the Army for this invention and work.

He was asked by a motion picture company in Hollywood to see if he could obtain footage of Army aircraft and German airplane engaged in aerial combat. The commander of Ellington obliged and painted several Army aircrafts with German markings to allow him to film the requested footage.

In Feb 1919, four Army DeHavilland DH-4 aircraft, from the "Black Cat Squadron" flew from Ellington to the Grand Canyon. The flight consisted of 1st Lieut. Ralph O. Searle (commander) and Lieut. E. D. Jones (plane #1); Lieut. Charles Vincent Rugh and photographer Lewyn (plane #2); Lieut. Howard Burkett (Birkett) and mechanic, Sergeant W. E. Cain (plane #3) and, Lieut. Eric Nelson (plane #4). - - cont. p. 12 - -
On 25 Feb, Lieut. Rugh and Lewyn flew 600-feet below the Canyon rim. Upon arriving at the Canyon, Lewyn removed his seatbelt and stood upright in the rear seat to take photographs as the aircraft explored the depths of the Canyon. Lewyn was awarded a Medal of Merit by the Aero Club of America Aviation for this accomplishment and it states, "First Flight in the Grand Canyon."

**Louis was Best Known for:** Academy Award Nomination in 1936 for the Best Short Subject (color), *La Fiesta de Santa Barbara* (1935) (Note: First movie Judy Garland appeared, she sang "La Cucaracha."); *Sky-Eye* (1920); *Mary of the Movies* (1923); *The Voice of Hollywood* (1929); *Hollywood on Parade* No. A-9 (1933)

**Louis' Spouse: Marion "Joey" Mack**
- **Born:** 9 Apr 1902, Mammoth, Juab Co., UT
- **Died:** 1 May 1989, Costa Mesa, Orange Co., CA
- **Birth Name:** Joey Marion Virginia McCreery
- **Parents:** Robert Dixon McCreery and Anna Nesbit
- **Step-Father:** Swen Bayard Freed

**Note:** She was a silent film actress, scriptwriter and real estate broker. She is best known for playing the leading lady (Annabelle Lee) in the 1926 silent film classic, *The General*, with Buster Keaton.

**Louis & Marion's Child: Lanny Louis Lewyn, Ph.D.**
- **Born:** 25 Sep 1937, Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., CA
- **Living:** Laguna Beach, CA
- **Education:** 1959, Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (Academic Honors), California Institute of Technology (Caltech)
- **Education:** 1960, Masters of Science, California Institute of Technology (Caltech)
- **Education:** 1984, Ph.D., Stanford University, Thesis: *Physical Limits of VLSI Dynamic Random-Access Memories*
- **Occupation:** He designed the integrated-circuit analog-to-digital converter for the Hubble Space Telescope ACS imager, three of the four instruments on the James Webb Space Telescope (NASA's next generation space telescope program), and for future space telescope imaging systems.
- **Patents:** Holder of 30 U.S. Patents

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**More Family Recipes**

Family Notes from Ruth Heffler Reid

This was my Mother’s recipe, but I have made just a couple of changes - I put the six pineapple rings on top, but also put a few half slices down the middle. I have also used maraschino cherries, when I did not have dark sweet cherries - both are good, and I also put a few of them with the half pineapple slices in the middle of the dish.

Mom liked this dish because it is pareve, so can be served with dairy or meat meals.
Destruction that Hurricane Harvey wreaked on Jewish institutions has extended beyond Houston to nearby Baytown, where wind-driven water soaked Congregation K'Nesseth Israel, a landmark that is now uninhabitable. Restoring the historic synagogue and its community center, which date to 1930, will cost an estimated $114,000. But unlike in Houston, where TV cameras continue to focus on the damage, there have been few headlines about Baytown to stir sympathy or support.

"We want the eternal light to continue to shine for future generations," wrote congregants Joan Teter Linares, Shana Bauman and Denise Havenar in a fund-raising appeal. The trio is battling the shul's insurance company to cover the damages.

"Our synagogue has always been well loved since 1930, attended by third and fourth generations," they wrote.

The yellow-brick synagogue, which received a Texas Historic Marker in 1992, has a soaring façade with a barrel-vault roof and arched brickwork. Stained-glass windows filter color into the interior. On the ceiling, tiny light fixtures shaped like stars of David twinkle. The building was the first synagogue designed by Houston architect Lenard Gabert. (Later he designed synagogues in Schulenburg, Wharton, and Houston as well as the first Hillel building at Texas A&M in College Station.)

Thirty families presently belong to K'Nesseth Israel, among them some who drive from Houston, 22 miles away. They are so dedicated to their congregation that volunteers plan to gut the buildings, remove sheetrock, and salvage wainscoting, hopefully for reuse in the restoration. Contractors will need to be hired for mold remediation, new sheetrock and grouting.

It was a decade ago that Hurricane Ike hit the small-town shul, damaging two-thirds of its adjacent community center - a rectangular structure that was originally a school building. The shul's insurance company resisted covering most of those repairs, but eventually a settlement was reached. K'Nesseth Israel's members supervised those repairs in 2008.

Although there has never been a large concentration of Jewish families in Baytown (pop. 76,000), K'Nesseth Israel is the city's oldest house of worship still in use. What first attracted Jews to the area was the opening in 1915 of the Goose Creek oilfield. A railroad spur followed.

In 1917 Humble Oil, now Exxon opened the Baytown refinery which grew into one of the world's largest petrochemical complexes. Jewish merchants, mainly immigrants with Eastern European roots, opened stores to meet the retail needs of refinery workers. The area, near the northern side of Galveston Bay, was composed of three communities - Goose Creek, Pelly and Baytown. It was referred to as the Tri-Cities.

By the 1920s, 12 local Jewish families were renting a building for Friday-night and Saturday-morning services. In 1928, they chartered K'Nesseth Israel. The next year the Tri-Cities Jewish community pledged $18,000 to buy land, hire an architect, and construct the shul.

Initially services were Orthodox. They quickly morphed into what the late-Don Teter described as "Southern Orthodox." By that he meant that Sabbath-evening services started exceptionally early, "so that some members might catch the second half of the Friday night football game." On Saturday morning, services began "quite early so the merchants could open their stores by 9:00 a.m." Teter, a chemical engineer at General Tire & Rubber Co., wrote a 13,000-word history of K'Nesseth Israel titled Oil Gevalt.
Teter's colorful narrative recounts how, on the High Holidays, Dave Aron and Moses Sumner sold **aliyahs** from the pulpit. Each auctioneer chanted a sing-song sales pitch that ended with a thump on the bible as **aliyahs** went to the highest bidders. In 1943, the congregation celebrated its financial stability by burning the mortgage.

In 1948, the Tri-Cities consolidated to form the City of Baytown. By then, K’Nesseth Israel's membership had grown to 47 families (around 200 people). From 1930 to 1953, fulltime rabbis led the congregation. There was a Hebrew school, but only for boys studying for **bar mitzvah**. As members moved or passed away, the congregation shrank in size yet always remained solvent.

K’Nesseth Israel no longer auctions **aliyahs**. To raise money this time around, the congregation is applying for an emergency grant from the Texas Historical Commission; funds from Jewish Federations in San Antonio and Houston; and initiating a capital campaign of current members, former members and their descendants.

The congregation has allocated $17,000 from its savings toward restoration. The Texas Jewish Historical Society approved a $1,000 grant.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to Congregation K’Nesseth Israel, P. O. Box 702, Baytown, Texas, 77522-0702.

Until Hurricane Harvey’s winds blew water into the sanctuary through louvers and soaked the walls, K’Nesseth Israel held services one Friday a month as well as on the High Holidays, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Purim and Shavuot. Hadassah meetings were held in the community center.

Congregants are determined to restore their landmark and to draw strength and spirituality from its deep roots. Later this year, K’Nesseth Israel is planning to celebrate the congregation’s 90th Anniversary.

For more information, contact: Shana Bauman (281/576-6405 - home) < shanabauman@yahoo.com >, Joan Teter Linares < joantlinares@gmail.com > or Denise Havenar < denise_havenar@yahoo.com >.

**Hollace Ava Goldberg Weiner** is the Archivist for the Fort Worth Jewish Archives and Beth-El Congregation Archives.

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**JHSSC Mounts Jewish Merchant Project**

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC) has partnered with Historic Columbia and the College of Charleston to undertake a statewide survey of Jewish merchants past and present.

A major product of the survey will be a database available on the JHSSC’s website. The database will capture the impact of Jewish businesspeople on communities large and small while illuminating the networks of family and friends that led Jewish men and women to call South Carolina home.

To learn about the project and participate in the survey, visit:

< http://jhssc.org/jewish-merchants/ >

Jewish Cooking & Your Family History
Recipes Tell Stories

Have you ever wondered how your grandmother or mother cooked your favorite food during the holidays? Food is not just nourishment; it is a cultural connection you have with family, friends, your ancestors, their heritage and traditions, and are what bind families and the generations together.

How many times have you sat around with your family and friends to tell the stories of all the wonderful foods you enjoyed during the holidays or on special occasions?

Do you have favorite family recipes? If so, this holiday season make an effort to write down your family recipes or track them down throughout your extended family. Be sure and tell the story of the origins of how this recipe was developed. Include who first started preparing the dish and why. Then have photocopies made and give them to your family members who live out-of-town asking for any additional family recipes they might have in their family.

Generally, recipes are only shared among family members and are closely guarded by the owners but by sharing ancestral recipes you will be preserving your family’s heritage for future generations.

The wonderful men and women from whom we descend spent a good portion of their time working with food. They grew and gathered, cooked or pickled. Very little was ever thrown away.

You do not want your family ancestral recipes to be forgotten. Recipes are a tribute to your family as a whole. You should make an effort to rescue these recipes and include the in your family history.

However, there are those who have lost their family recipes after the horrific events of the Holocaust. Many of these families had to reinvent their family traditions and recipes.

Throughout the years, several Houston Jewish organizations have published local cookbooks. One of the more interesting examples is Heavenly Cooking from Space City USA published in 1967 by the Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Israel. It is interesting to note that women were listed by the names of their husbands, example, Mrs. Sam Levy (Janis). A copy of this book is available in the Texas and Local History Collection of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center located in the Julia Ideson Building (Smith & Lamar) in downtown Houston. It is in-library only reference material.

Some of the members of the GHJGS and local community have shared their family traditions …

Chicken Paprikash
Submitted by Sue Kauffman
Original recipe by her mother, Elaine Kraut Kaufman

3 eggs, beaten 1 medium onion, chopped
½ cup water 1½ cup water
2½ cups all-purpose flour 1 tablespoon paprika (McCormick)
2 teaspoons salt ½ teaspoon salt
¼ cup butter 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
1¼ pounds bone-in chicken pieces, with skin 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 cup sour cream

Fill a pot with water and bring to a boil over high heat. In a large bowl, mix together the eggs, 2 teaspoons of salt and ½ cup water. Gradually stir in 2½ cups of flour to make a stiff batter. Using two spoons, scoop out some batter with one spoon and use the second to scrap off the spoonful of batter into the boiling water. Repeat until several dumplings are cooking. Cook dumplings for 10 minutes or until they float to the top; then lift from the water and drain in a colander or sieve. Rinse with warm water.
In a large skillet over medium-high heat, melt butter and add chicken; cook until lightly browned, turning once. Add onion to skillet and cook 5 to 8 minutes more. Pour in 1½ cups of water, season with paprika, salt and pepper; cook 10 minutes more, or until chicken is cooked through and juices run clear. Remove chicken from skillet and keep warm. Stir 2 tablespoons of flour into sour cream; then slowly stir into the onion mixture remaining in the skillet. Bring the mixture to a boil, stirring constantly and cook until thickened.

To serve, add dumplings to the sour cream/onion mixture then spoon onto dinner plates adding a piece of chicken.

Family Notes from Sue Kaufman

This meal was one of the best comfort foods I can remember from my childhood is Chicken Paprikash. My mother would get out the big cast iron skillet and begin by sautéing those onions in that skillet. That skillet was huge and always had to be dried right away after washing it. It was heavy and never easy today, but we had to because it would rust if we didn't.

Mother would use a lot of onions, lots of onions. Then she would add the chicken, at that point because the pan was so big, we had to use aluminum foil to cover it to let the chicken cook down. After that, those dumplings and gravy would be added, oh my goodness, I just might have to make some this weekend!

This is one of the few foods that I can remember Mother cooking that was from "our heritage." I do not know where she got it, my grandmother, her mother really never cooked that I can remember, or at least never cooked like this. This dish especially seems to bring me to my Eastern Europe family roots, or what I believe to be a dish that was passed down somehow through the generations. My sister, Ilene Kaufman, loves it also, and makes it just like Mom did. She is a much better cook!

If Mom didn't make the dumplings, we had it served over noodles. So many memories are brought with food, and this memory is a dear one.

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Pineapple Kugel
Submitted by Ruth Heffler Reid and brother, Max Gerald Heffler
Original recipe by their mother, Julia Wasserman Heffler

10 oz. package of wide egg noodles
3 large eggs
¼ teaspoon salt
1 cup sugar
1 stick margarine, melted
1 large can crushed pineapple, very well-drained
½ teaspoon cinnamon
6 pineapple slices
6 dark sweet cherries

Boil and drain noodles, according to package directions. Mix eggs, salt, sugar, margarine and cinnamon. Add noodles and crushed pineapple, and mix. Place in a well-greased 7" x 11" Pyrex baking pan. Arrange the pineapple slices on top, two across and three down. Place a cherry in the center of each. Bake uncovered, 1-hour at 350°.
In Memoriam

At a meeting called and attended by all the members and employees of the house of Leon & H. Bum, in Galveston, on the evening of the 5th inst., Mr. A. Frenkel was requested to take the Chair and Mr. J. S. Terriberry to act as Secretary.

The object of this mournful gathering was explained and the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst our beloved associates, friends and brothers, Joseph, Henry and Charles Blum, who were lost on the Florida coast, on the ill-fated steamer Varuna, we desire to record their manly and noble virtues and to give some expression to the deep and over-whelming grief into which we have been plunged by these terrible and unexpected calamities; and,

WHEREAS, It has been our favored privilege to know our friends and brothers in the unreserved intimacy of private friendship and fraternal love, we alone can estimate their exalted worth and we alone can undertake the irreparable loss we have sustained. Oh, God! it is a stunning blow to realize that they shall never again greet us with generous warmth and tender manly words and we bow, heart-broken and in tears, at the painful thought that they exist no more in bodily life and visible form; that yesterday, in the vigor of life’s morning we should say to our comrades, hail! and today - Farewell!; and,

WHEREAS, The mournful tidings of their untimely death will fall with crushing weight upon their parents old and bowed, upon a wife frantic and inconsolable, upon sorrow stricken brothers, children and friends, in other States and in distant lands, shrouding their hearts and homes in gloom. We desire to tender them our solace and consolation as they weep over the sweet and holy memory of the dutiful, the noble and the good whom we now deplore. Let your tears flow free and fast, ours will mingle with them, they will be turned to jewels in the better land and shine resplendent on the spotless robes of the blessed; and

WHEREAS, Our friends and brothers Joseph, Henry and Charles Blum, sleep in the fathomless waters of the ocean, leaving no grave upon the land that we may lovingly decorate with fading flowers and adorn with funeral mementoes, we will the more cherish their memories fresh and green in our hearts and preserved unfaded and forever the sweet recollection of their splendid virtues and exalted manhood; and now be it,

RESOLVED, That coming together as we have done, as mourning friends and brothers, moved by a common impulse to render a tribute of homage and affection to the loved and lost, our grief is lessened by the sublime belief that they but fell asleep in the dark night of that fearful storm and woke transfigured and immortal and walked, when the morning dawned on the shining shores of the peaceful and blessed land where storms never wreck and death never comes.

RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to each member of the family of our deceased friends and that the Galveston News, Flake’s Bulletin and Galveston Civilian be requested to publish the same.

Unanimously signed by the employees of the firm of Leon & H. Blum.

New York Herald (New York, NY), Fri., 14 Oct 1870, p. 1, c. 5

Texas Line of Galveston Steamers Direct - The A1 steamship VARUNA, Captain [Joseph] Spencer’s, at pier 20 East river, will sail when full.

- - cont. p. 18 - -
"A Missing Steamship. The Propeller Varuna, from this Port, One Week Over Due at Galveston - Fears Entertained for Her Safety - List of Passengers."

Grave fears are entertained that the steamship Varuna, belonging to Messrs. C. H. Mallory & Co. hence to Galveston, has been lost, with all on board. This vessel left New York on her regular trip or that port on Saturday, October 15, and had no accident of a disastrous nature happened to her she should have been at Galveston over a week ago. The latest intelligence received by her owners of her whereabouts is that contained in a meager report from the New Orleans steamship DeSoto, which advises that on the evening of the 10th ult., when off Jupiter Inlet, Fla., the missing steamship was seen by them, but since which time she has not been heard from.

The relatives of those on board the Varuna are fearful that some great misfortune has overtaken her and that all on board have met their death in buffeting the angry waves of the broad ocean. These apprehensions are natural, inasmuch as it is feared that the Varuna was caught in one of the late Gulf gales, which sent so many noble crafts and their nobler crews to watery graves. The arrival of steamships from New Orleans for the past few days report that the Florida coast is covered with portions of wrecks and parts of once valuable cargoes; but there the story ends, and little information is given to point to the recognition of many of the vessels caught in and torn to pieces by the terrible hurricanes that ran riot in the Gulf of Mexico during the month (October) just passed.

The Varuna left this port with thirty-six cabin passengers, many of whom were members of the first families in Texas, being influential persons who had spent the summer North and were returning to their homes for the winter. Among them was a Member of Parliament, who was journeying through the States on a tour of pleasure and observation. The names of these passengers are as follows -- NOTE: Corrections and additions for names are included --

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mr. &amp; Mrs. F. (Frank) Hitchcock</th>
<th>Mr. Oppenheimer</th>
<th>Mr. &amp; Mrs. T. D. Johnson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Franklin) (nee: Maria Gilbert)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Rutlay (Rutkey)</td>
<td>Charles Ames</td>
<td>James Leddy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. L. (Jacob L.) Briggs</td>
<td>James Quinn</td>
<td>James Hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. (Joseph) Blum</td>
<td>Wallace Blake</td>
<td>Mr. Moulton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. (Henry) Blum</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Burley</td>
<td>Mr. Luiraro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. (Charles) Blum</td>
<td>Mr. J. F. Bleaney</td>
<td>Mr. Bernard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. (Alexander) Cohen</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. H. Rowak</td>
<td>A. (Allen) Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Southwick</td>
<td>(H. A. Rowland/Rowand)</td>
<td>Mrs. (Annie) Von Haten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. M. Jenkins</td>
<td>Mrs. (Pinkard) Lyons &amp; Family (five in all)</td>
<td>Alexander Hamilton</td>
</tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

(In addition, steerage passengers whose names are unknown.)

The officers of the missing vessel were experienced and able men. Captain Joseph Spencer had always been regarded as one of the most competent masters out of this port. The engineer's department was well manned by skilled gentlemen and of Benjamin Austin, the chief engineer, his reputation was excellent.

The cargo of the Varuna consisted chiefly of dry goods and was worth at the lowest estimate $400,000.

The Varuna was a first class wooden propeller, only one year old. She was built at Mystic, Conn., in 1869, by Charles Mallory and her engines were constructed at the Delamater Iron Works in this city. She was 120 feel long on deck, 26 feet 6 inches breath of beam, 17 feet 6 inches depth of hold; drew -
11 feet of water, had two decks and was 670 tons burden. Her hull was of oak, chestnut and pine and square fastened wash copper and treenauls. Her engine was of the vertical direct character, 26 inches by 30 inches and her propel was of cast iron.

Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Galveston Co., TX), Fri., 4 Nov 1870, p. 2, c. 1-5
"Loss of the Varuna" - Last night the city of Galveston was plunged in grief such as we have never before seen on this island by the intelligence that the Varuna had foundered off Jupiter Light and all hands lost save the second mate and four men.

A few moments before a gleam of hope had shot athwart out horizon by the report that the New Orleans Picayune had published the safety of the ship. Then, as we began to be happy in anticipation of the safety of the ship, freighted as she was with so many who are dear to us, came the fearful intelligence of her almost certain loss. It is impossible to describe the gloom that settled like pall over the city.

The crowd that gathered around the door of the News office, waiting with eagerness for the dispatch, spoke with bated breath and whispering voices, as if in the awful presence of death. Husbands returned to their homes and with tearful eyes communicated the sad intelligence to their families.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank (Franklin) Hitchcock (nee: Maria Gilbert) are well known to all our citizens. The husband a valued citizen, the wife a land of many accomplishments. Bother were members of the Episcopal Church. Mr. Hitchcock was the brother of Capt. Munson Hitchcock, recently deceased. He was a native of Main and his ship chandler store has long been the pilot headquarters. As Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, Mr. Hitchcock won much renown for zeal, judgment and administrative talent. Mr. Hitchcock was a Mason. They leave several children.

Mr. [G.] Ruttkey was an estimable young merchant of less than thirty years. He was until recently, as we presume at the time of his death, with the house of Duncan & Sherman. His mother was a lady of remarkable character and took an active part in the political affairs of Hungary. Gen. Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot, was an uncle to Mr. Ruttkey.

The Messrs. Blum were prominent members of the great Galveston house of Leon & H. Blum. One was the brother and the other two were cousins of Mr. Leon Blum. Two other members of the family were to have sailed on the Varuna, but having recently arrived in the country deferred their departure for a few days in order to see the sights of New York.

Mr. Stephen Southwick was one of our oldest citizens, having resided here thirty-one years. He was always an estimable and worth citizen of wealth and character. He was for years, and we believe at the time of his death, one of the vestry of Trinity Church. He too was a Mason and leaves several children.

Mr. A. Cohn was the leading member of the prominent clothing firm of the Cohn Brothers, whose establishment in the Moro Castle, corner of Strand and Tremont, was destroyed by the great fire. He too was a Mason.

We have been unable to identify the names of Bernard and Oppenheimer; they may or may not be Galvestonians. We have been unable to ascertain.

A. T. Hamilton is a partner in the house of McNeill & Co. He was an enterprising merchant, fast winning respect and esteem for his probity and commercial sagacity.

Mr. F. E. Johnson was the eldest son of our highly respected citizen, Judge Johnson. His wife was a Miss Pitt, daughter of that high esteemed matron, who is generally known as the widow Pitt. They leave behind them two orphan children. If we mistake not, Mr. Johnson and his lady worshipped at the Catholic Cathedral.
Mr. P. M. Jenkins was until last winter the partner of Mr. Walter Robinson, whose brother-in-law he was. He was a bachelor and has for some years been a great sufferer from inflammatory disease. He was of English birth - though both his parents reside in Galveston - in consequence of his bad health, he made the voyage to England in a sailing ship and was returning, robust to gladden his parents, when he met with his untimely fate. The parents are members of the Baptist Church and are completely crush by their calamity.

We have been unable to ascertain who are the persons represented as Charles Ames, James Quin, Wallace Blakely, Burley and lady, H. A. Rowland and lady, George W. Sauve, James Leddy and James Hand. They may be strangers to Galveston or residents to us unknown.

Mrs. (Pinkard) Lyons, wife of Capt. (Pinkard) Lyons of the Customhouse, was accompanied by her four children. We do not wonder that the husband is almost bereft of reason.

Mrs. Annie Von Harten was the estimable wife of a Galveston merchant, of the firm of Von Harten & Nichols. She was accompanied by her youngest child, "Rose" (Rose Van Harten) a little girl of three years. She leaves six children living, the oldest of whom is a fine lad of seventeen now at the University of Tennessee. Mrs. Von Harten was an English lady, but resided for some time before her marriage in Chicago. She was a communicant of the Episcopal church, having received the right of confirmation at the hands of Bishop Gregg at his visitation in the first part of this year.

Mr. Allen Lewis was one of our most prominent citizens. He was, if we mistake not, a native of Maine and came to Galveston about the year 1843. Shortly after his arrival he made profession of religion and joined the Methodist Church, of which he has ever since been one of the most active members, although then poor, he greatly prospered and was very wealthy at the time of his decease. In the church, he has long been a prominent Steward, and was the Chairman of the building committee of the new St. John's Church and part of his business in the North was to purchase the furniture and ornaments of the church, in which he took a great deal of pride. He was superintendent of the erection of the fine new building of the Merchant's Mutual Insurance Company. [additional business information omitted from this abstract] Mrs. Lewis and several children are in Canada, where he had spent the summer. He leaves ten children, three of whom, Mrs. James Seymour, Mrs. John McMahan and Mrs. William Nichols, are now in the city. Mr. Lewis was for many years a Master Mason.

Mr. J. L. (Jacob L.) Briggs, of the firm of Briggs & Yard, was a very old citizen. He came here, we believe, in the same year that Mr. Southwick arrived. Previous to the war we had no citizen more prominent in all affairs that Mr. Briggs. He had acquired much wealth and invested it in every enterprise that promised to develop the city. He was one of the original railroad men of Texas and had much to do with the organization of the Galveston, Houston and Henderson road. It was his distinction to be the oldest Methodist in Galveston. As a Mason, he held rank as high as that of any in Texas. As a fireman, he was one of the organizers of the Hook & Ladder Company, and has for many years been an active work in the Howard Association.

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*Galveston Daily News* (Galveston, Galveston Co., TX), Wed., 9 Nov 1870, p. 1, c. 1

The Houston *Telegraph* contains the following about the passengers of the lost *Varuna*:

Among the passengers of the foundered steamship were A. G. Rowland and lady, Mrs. Mary F. Rowland, of Rhode Island, with their child (Infant Rowland) - an infant a few months old. Mrs. Rowand was a young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bentley of this city. She had been married about a year, and with her husband - who was anxious to see Texas - was coming to make her residence in Houston near her parents. Owing to a misspelling of the name, which appears as Rowland in the fatal list, Mrs. Bentley, until yesterday, entertained a faint hope that her daughter and son-in-law might not have sailed on the unfortunate steamer.

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Newspaper Clips

- cont. from p. 20 -

*Galveston Daily News* (Galveston, Galveston Co., TX), Sun., 4 Dec 1870, p. 3, c. 2

In Memoriam

Whereas, An All Wise Providence has seen fit in his supreme wisdom to visit us with a heartrending affliction in the loss of the ill-fated steamer *Varuna*, whereby many of our most estimable citizens, among them, Messrs. Henry, Joseph and Charles Blum, worth members of this Congregation, and the wife and family of Mr. Joseph (sic - Pinkard) Lyons, another member, have been suddenly taken from our midst and consigned to a watery grave,

Therefore, In token of our appreciation of these, over our departed citizens, friends and co-religionists, and of the very high esteem in which they were held by every member of Congregation B'nai Israel,

Be It Resolved, That we extend our heartfelt sympathies in this our of sore trial to the friends and relations of the deceased; that w mourn their loss as members of the Congregation, assuring their parents that their children, though lost to them on earth, still live in the memory of many friends and acquaintances,

Resolved, That a tablet of marble with the names of Messrs. Joseph, Henry and Charles Blum and the wife and children of Mr. Joseph (sic - Pinkard) Lyons, be placed in the wall of the vestibule of the Synagogue, with a suitable inscription in memoriam of our appreciate of their worth,

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the city papers and a copy sent to the relations of the deceased.

S. K. Labatt, Secretary

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Nostalgic Notes by Sally Reedy

One of the terrible disasters of the late 1800s was the sinking of the steamship *Varuna*. She left the Port of New York, bound for Galveston, on Saturday night, Oct. 15, 1870, with 36 passengers and a full load of freight.

The fair weather held until Oct. 20, when a wind from the south rose. By noon of that day a moderate gale was blowing, and by sundown it had developed into a perfect hurricane At 8 p.m. the wind shifted to the southwest and rendered the ship unmanageable. The gale was of such power that it stoved in all her bulwarks and cabin doors.

On Oct. 20, at 10 p.m., the *Varuna*, of the Mallory Line, foundered in the Gulf of Mexico about 30 miles off the coast of Florida at Jupiter's Inlet. She was thrown on her beam's end and went down.

There was a time only to launch two lifeboats. One, containing Cpt. Spencer and 10 crewmen, was carried down with the ship so the captain ultimately went down with his ship. The other was beached on Jupiter's Inlet. It contained seven crew members. Two of them, John Flynn and Samuel McCormick, were drowned in the surf. The remaining five, seamen, James Burns and George Watson, Second Mate W. Kirkland, Seaman F. Glennon and Quartermaster Wallace, left on the *Magnolia* for their return to New York.

Wallace said in his report of the sinking, "I opened the weather cabin door to see how the passengers were behaving but did not see a soul as they were all in their staterooms, unable to come out on account of the ship's being on her beam's end." The passengers all were entombed in their state-rooms. The news of the sinking of the *Varuna* came to Galveston on Nov. 4. Many of the dead were longtime and prominent island citizens. The shock to the entire city was draped in mourning.

- - cont. p. 22 - -
Burley and Lady - Some of our citizens have been under the impression that the parties of the above name in the list of passengers on the Varuna, were Col. Burley, formerly of the editorial staff of the Telegraph. A dispatch from Col. Elliott announces that the Mr. Burley mentioned was of Lavaca. He had long been the principal bookkeeper and clerk in the grocery store of S. F. Von Den Berg. Since Mr. Von Den Berg died last summer, Mr. Burley led to the hymeneal altar, Miss Julia, Mr. Von Den Berg’s eldest daughter, and started North on a bridal tour. How sad the thought that it should terminate in such a catastrophe.

A partial list of the head included F. (Frank) Hitchcock and wife; G. Ruttkay; Jacob L. Briggs; Allen Lewis; J. Blum; H. Blum; C. Blum; Stephan Southwick; A. Cohen; Oppenheimer; Benhard; A. F. Hamilton; E. D. Johnson and wife; M. P. Jenkins; Charles Owens; James Quin; Wallace Blake; Mr. Benley and wife; H. A. Rowland and wife; Mrs. Von Harte; Mrs. R. (Pinkard) Lyon and family, five in all; George W. Seave; James Leddy; James Hand.

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New Orleans Republican (New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA), Thur., 24 Nov 1870, p. 5, c. __

We are informed that the wife and four children of Mr. P. (Pinkard) Lyons, an inspector in the Galveston Customhouse, were lost on the steamship Varuna and not the wife and children of Captain Lewis, as reported yesterday.

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Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Galveston Co., TX), Thur., 21 Oct 1875, p. 4, c. 3
B’Nai Jeshurun

The congregation of B’Nai Jeshurun, orthodox, will today celebrate the memorial service (Toeltenfeies) for the repose of the dead and as today is the fifth anniversary of the sinking of the ill-fated Varuna, the service will be very solemn and impressive. Rev. Dr. (H.) Schwartz will preach the sermon, taking as his subject “Hasharath Neshamath” - Remember the Dead.

So far as known this is the first time in this city that this extremely solemn service has been celebrated by any Jewish congregation, and when it is remembered that the memorial service is the most solemn and impressive ceremony in that peculiar faith, there can be no doubt that a very large congregation will assemble to witness the ceremonials and listen to the sermon of that eminent and eloquent divine, Rabbi Schwartz. The memorial service will commence at ten a.m.

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Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Galveston Co., TX), Fri., 22 Oct 1875, p. 4, c. 1
Shemini Atzeres

At the Synagogue of the Congregation B’Nai Jeshurun, the memorial service was very impressive and a large number were present. The sermon of Rabbi Schwartz is highly commended by those who heard it as a most classic and finished production.

The allusions to the sinking of the ill-fated Varuna, and the terrible death of her victims, brought tears to the eyes of all present.

--- cont. p. 23 ---
NOTE: Joseph Lyons listed in various newspaper articles is a possible mistake. His name could also be: Pinkard Lyons or Philip Lyons. The name (Pinkard) is listed in articles as an indication of the various names Mr. Lyons was known as or used. With all of the conflicting data, at this point-in-time, it is hard to determine with certainty the given name of Mr. Lyons.

NOTE: The Howard Foundation was active in assisting victims of the 1854, 1858 and 1867 yellow fever epidemic in Galveston. Their main purpose was caring for the sick and indigent.


"Temple B’nai Israel to Observe Its Golden Jubilee With Service. Dedicated May 25, 1871; Dr. Cohen Ministers to Congregation 33 Years," Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Galveston Co., TX), Tue., 24 May 1921, p. 4, c 2

... A memorial slab also records the names of Alexander B. Cohn, Joseph, Henry and Charles Blum and Mrs. J. Lyon and her children, who were lost at sea on the steamer Varuna, October 20 1870.

Jewish Victims of the Steamship Varuna

The known Jewish victims of the sinking of the Steamship Varuna are:

1. Charles (Charley) Blum
   He worked for Leon & H. Blum in Galveston. He is possibly the brother of Leon Blum whose parents were Isaac Blum and Julie (unk maiden).
   In the 1870 Galveston City Directory (p. 65) he is listed as a merchant, 52 W. Post Office/Avenue E.
   No probate records found in the County Clerk's Office, Galveston Co., TX.

2. Henry (Hyman) Blum
   He worked for Leon & H. Blum in Galveston. He is possibly the cousin of Leon Blum.
   In the 1870 Galveston City Directory (p. 65) he is listed as a merchant, 52 W. Post Office/Avenue E.
   He was a Mason and a member of the Tucker Lodge No. 297 located in Galveston.
   No probate records found in the County Clerk's Office, Galveston Co., TX.

3. Joseph (Joe) Blum
   He worked for Leon & H. Blum in Galveston. He is possibly the cousin of Leon Blum.
   1860 Federal Census, Galveston, Galveston Co., TX, p. 132 (500B), Household 1021 - There is a J. Blum (age 29, b.ca. 1839, France) and works as a Clerk with wife Silva Blum (age, 18, b.ca. 1842, France).
   In the 1870 Galveston City Directory (p. 65) he is listed as a dry goods merchant, 3 East Avenue H at corner of 25th or 230 E. Avenue K.
   He was a member of the Hebrew Benevolent Society. At his death, a Resolution of Respect was published by the society. See: Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Galveston Co., TX), Tue., 8 Nov 1870, p. 3, c. 1
   No probate records found in the County Clerk's Office, Galveston Co., TX.
4. Alexander (Alex) B. Cohn (Cohen)

He worked for Cohen Bros. clothing store located in the Woods Building, The Strand.

1866-1867 Galveston City Directory (p. 8) Cohn Bros. is listed as a clothing store located on Tremont, between The Strand and Mechanic St.

In 1869, the Cohn Bros. clothing store, known as the Moro Castle, burned down during a fire in The Strand business district. The fire supposedly started at their store destroying blocks of business establishments. Additionally, the embers flew on the wind causing numerous fires located throughout the city. The loss for Cohn Bros. was estimated at $25,000. [See: Houston Telegraph (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Thur., 9 Dec 1869, p. 6, c. 4 & 6; Dallas Herald (Dallas, Dallas Co., TX), Sat., 11 Dec 1869, p. 2, c. 4]

In the 1870 Galveston City Directory (p. 65) he is listed working at Cohn Bros., 124 E. Strand or Avenue B.

1870 Federal Census, Galveston, Galveston Co., TX, p. 44 (217B), Household 311 - He work as a clerk, (age 40, b.ca. 1830, Hanover, Germany).

He was a Mason and a member of the Tucker Lodge No. 297 located in Galveston.

He was a member of the Hebrew Benevolent Society. At his death, a Resolution of Respect was published by the society. See: Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Galveston Co., TX), Tue., 8 Nov 1870, p. 3, c. 1

No probate records found in the County Clerk's Office, Galveston Co., TX.

5. Sophia Lyons (Mrs. Pinkard) - Her maiden name is unknown. She was born ca. 1835, Prussia.

1870 Federal Census, Galveston, Galveston Co., TX, p. 111 (182A), Household 899 - Pinkard Lyons (age 37, b.ca. 1833, Poland) and worked as a common inspector with wife, Sophia Lyons (age 35, b.ca. 1835, Prussia) and three (3) children: William Lyons (age 8, b.ca. 1862, NY), Lupard Lyons (age 6, b.ca. 1864, NY) & Abe Lyons (age 1, b.ca. 1869, TX). Also listed with the family is Johshy Lyons (age 44, b.ca. 1826, Poland) and works in a bank. This census was taken on 24 Jun 1870.

No probate records found in the County Clerk's Office, Galveston Co., TX.

6. Child #1 Lyons - William Lyons who was born ca. 1862, NY
7. Child #2 Lyons - Lupard / Leopold Lyons who was born ca. 1864, NY
8. Child #3 Lyons - Abe Lyons who was born ca. 1869, TX
9. Child #4 Lyons - Infant Lyons who was born ca. 1870

In the 1872 Galveston City Directory (p. 88), there is a Phil. Lyons listed as Inspector Customhouse. In the U.S. Register of Civil, Military and Naval Service, Vol. 1 (p. 186) published in Sept. 1873, Philip Lyons is listed as Inspector at Galveston, born Poland.

NOTE: It is not known if Philip Lyons or Pinkard Lyons are the same person as Joseph Lyons.

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