Cass County History

The first treaty establishing United States’ ownership of the lands that would become Cass County, Indiana was made in 1818 between the Potawatomie Indians and three United States Commissioners; Jonathan Jennings, Lewis Cass, and Benjamin Parke.¹ Several more treaties followed, including some with the Miami tribe, and white settlers began to stream into the area between the Wabash and Eel Rivers. In 1828 enough settlers had arrived to create a new county, named Cass, after the U.S. Commissioner that had negotiated most of the treaties, Lewis Cass.² Cass County continued to grow, and the present-day boundaries were not established until 1852.³

The city of Logansport developed in the fertile land right at the juncture of the Wabash and Eel Rivers. Local legend maintains that in 1827 a shooting contest took place between Hugh McKeen, an early settler, and Colonel John B. Duret for the right to name the new city. Duret won and chose the name Logan’s Port after Shawnee Chief Logan, who died in the War of 1812 fighting with the Americans against the British.⁴ The name was eventually modified to Logansport and the city was incorporated in 1837-38.⁵ The city’s location along the rivers, coupled with the construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal, and followed by the construction of the railroad through the town, ensured that Logansport would continue to grow. By 1850 the city

¹ Thomas B. Helm, History of Cass County, Indiana from the Earliest Time to the Present (Chicago: Brant & Fuller, 1886), 260.
² Ibid., 265.
³ Ibid., 266.
⁵ Ibid., 5.
boasted a population of 2,251 people. In 1870, the city had grown to a population of 8,950, and the population peaked in 1920 at 21,626.

A fairly large Jewish community developed in Logansport early in the city’s history, with the first known family settling in the late 1850s. Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth century’s, the Jewish community was large enough to support a visiting Rabbi from Lafayette for Jewish Holidays. A formal synagogue was never established in Logansport; however, the community did often have Rabbi’s in from other communities for religious observances. Several obituaries for members of the Logansport Jewish community reference Rabbis from Fort Wayne, Wabash, Lafayette, and Cincinnati. While there are several mentions in the local newspapers about the members of the Jewish communities holding their own social affairs, often in Taylor Hall at 525 Market, no specific groups, such as women’s groups, were named. By the mid-twentieth century, the cohesiveness of the Logansport Jewish Community was mostly lost. According to Theodore Gerst, whose family arrived in Logansport in the 1930s; Jewish families had to drive to Lafayette for services, and kosher meat was only available once a week from Indianapolis at a great cost. According to Mr. Gerst, during this time many families moved to be closer to religious facilities. Though his family remained in Logansport, they did continue to go to Lafayette for observance of High Holy Days.

In spite of the absence of a fully established congregation, the members of the Jewish community did come together in 1884 to purchase and maintain a Jewish cemetery. These

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7 Ibid.
10 Ball, “This Changing World.”
11 Interview with Theodore Gerst, March 8, 2012, done by Rusti Keen.
actions were likely prompted by the deaths of Gustave Lang and Max Kraus, both members of the Jewish community that passed away early in 1884, and are credited as the first interments in the Jewish cemetery. Moses Michaels, Herman Frank, and Herman Stern were originally appointed to purchase the ground in February of 1884, and on July 11, 1884, Solomon Wise, Eli Greensfelder, and Moses Michaels were elected as trustees of the Jewish Cemetery Association.

The Jewish families that settled Logansport, almost without exception, were very successful, owning their own businesses which became several of the mainstay establishments in Logansport. A 1953 article in the Logansport paper recapping the changing face of downtown Logansport’s business community lists the Frank brothers, the Wilers, the Wises, the Fishers, the Sterns, the Frankenthals, the Michaels, the Langs, the Oppenheimer, the Kraus brothers, the Rosenthal, the Guggenheimer, the Kaufmanns, the Levinsons, the Abrahams, the Hechts, the Mandels, the Birkenruths, the Herzs, Lewis Epstine, the Greensfelders, the Berwangers, the Rothschilds, the Cooks, Sam Berman, the Drucks, the Gersts, and the Kuppenheimers all as local business owners and members of the Jewish community.

A part of their success can be attributed to the open-minded community in which they lived. All evidence suggests that there was very little to no anti-Semitism in Logansport and that the Jewish community there was able to prosper, maintain their faith, and participate in the community at large, especially during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century’s. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Ku Klux Klan was prevalent in Indiana and Logansport citizens were members. The Greensfelder twins, Melvin and Herbert, took it upon themselves to discover and

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13 Logansport Daily Journal, February 19, 1884.; “Graves of Many Pioneers Unmarked and Unknown.”
14 Ball, “This Changing World.” For some of these families, this article is the only evidence they were Jewish.
maintain a list of Klan members and actively work against the Klan’s establishment in their community. In an interview with Theodore Gerst, one of the last surviving members of the Logansport Jewish community, he said that there were very few instances of anti-Semitism throughout the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, largely because the city felt that the Jewish population was not large enough to warrant concern.

Frank

The Frank family resided in Logansport in the nineteenth century. They lived in Logansport until 1892 and owned M. Frank & Bros, a clothing, dry goods, and gentleman’s furnishings store. Martin Frank was born in Bavaria, Germany in 1832, and arrived in the United States in 1852, making his way to Logansport by 1854. Herman Frank, his brother, was selected as a member of the committee chosen to choose and purchase the land for Logansport’s Jewish cemetery in 1884.

Fisher/Oppenheimer

Solomon Fisher was born in Germany in 1824 and immigrated to the United States at an unknown date. In 1857, he married Katherine Kohn (also spelled as Cohn or Cohen), of Minich, Bavaria, in Albany, New York. Immediately after their wedding, the couple came to

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16 Interview with Theodore Gerst, March 8, 2012.
18 Crain.
Logansport, Indiana where Solomon worked in the Frank Clothing Store. The couple had five children: William, Benjamin, Max J., Pauline, and Morris. The Fishers remained in Logansport for several generations with many of the Fisher men working and owning businesses in the city. In 1880, Solomon is listed as a buyer of hides, rags, and iron; Max worked as a dry goods clerk; William was clerking in a clothing store; and Benjamin was working for the local druggist. Solomon, a member of the Masonic Fraternity, passed away in April of 1894, and was buried in the Hebrew Cemetery with a Rabbi from Ft. Wayne officiating the service.

Katie lived until 1916, when she passed away at the age of eighty-six from old age. At the time of her death, her son Will was living in Chicago, Illinois; Morris had moved to Huntington, West Virginia; and Max Fisher was living in Logansport, though he was confined to a hospital in Baltimore after a major operation. Her daughter, Pauline, was widowed and living in Albany, New York. Benjamin Fisher established and operated Ben Fisher & Co. as a druggist for a number of years, but is not listed as residing in Logansport after the 1903-1904 city directory.

Morris Fisher lived and worked in Logansport for several years, owning a haberdashery business and marrying Reda Oppenheim of another local Jewish family. Samuel Oppenheim and his brother Jerry lived in Logansport during the last twenty years of the nineteenth century, working in a clothing store and owning Oppenheim & Lang, with Gustave Lang, for a period of

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23 “Solomon Fisher’s Funeral,” The Logansport Journal, April 8, 1894.
25 Ibid.
time. After that store closed, Samuel operated a clothing, gentlemen’s furnishings, and merchant tailor business at 330 Market Street. Samuel and his wife Augusta had three children, including their daughter Reda. The couple moved their family to Huntington, West Virginia prior to 1900, where Samuel became a dealer in a furniture store. Around 1903 Morris Fisher moved to Huntington, where he married Reda and worked with his father-in-law in the furniture business. He passed away in 1936 following a medical operation and was buried in West Virginia. Morris and his wife had no children.

Max J. Fisher remained in Logansport throughout his lifetime, marrying Clara Stettiner of Toledo, Ohio in 1894, and had one daughter, Maxine who married and moved to Indianapolis. For sixty-one years, Max owned several businesses in Logansport, originally partnering with Henry Wiler to form H. Wiler & Co., a dry goods store, and eventually going into business on his own with Fisher’s Furniture Store. In 1945 he sold his furniture store to a gentleman from Indianapolis. He passed away in Indianapolis in 1949.

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31 “Brother of Max Fisher Passes Away.”
33 Ibid.
In 1867 the Fishers were joined by Joseph Wiler who arrived in Logansport, Indiana from Lafayette and joined his brother, Jacob in business. After a number of years, he formed a partnership with Solomon Wise. The Wiler & Wise Company operated the Bee Hive Dry Goods Store for a number of years. He also formed a partnership with his brother, Henry Wiler, after Henry’s arrival in the United States in 1874. He married Clara Oppenheim and the couple had two children, Carl J. Wiler and Bertha Wiler Kraus. He passed away in 1906 after a brief illness. He was a well-respected businessman in Logansport, and in honor of his memory the proprietors of all dry goods stores in Logansport closed for his funeral. His wife, Clara, lived until 1919.

Joseph’s son, Carl, took over the operations of the Bee Hive Store until 1933, when the store was closed. After that time, Carl worked for the Golden Rule Department Store in Logansport until his retirement and helped to found the Logansport Better Business Bureau. He married Helen Kuppenheimer, of a local Logansport family, and the couple had two children, a son, Joseph, and a daughter, Clare Jean, who passed away in 1920. Carl passed away in 1961 after a long illness. His wife, Helen, survived him until 1965.

34 “Joseph Wiler is Dead,” The Logansport Daily Pharos, November 24, 1906.
35 Chas O. Ebel & Co. Logansport Directory, 1883-84.; Chas. B. Longwell Directory of Logansport, IN, 1890-91. (Logansport, Indiana: Chas. B. Longwell, 1890).
37 “Joseph Wiler is Dead,” The Logansport Daily Pharos, November 24, 1906.
41 Ibid.
Carl and Helen’s son, Joseph A. Wiler, remained in Logansport, working for the local radio station from 1949 until his retirement in 1986.43 He married Martha Anne Stuart and the couple had a son, Joseph S., and a daughter, Susan.44

Joseph Wiler’s brother, Henry Wiler, also had a long life in Logansport. Owner of H. Wiler & Company, a furniture store, Henry married Rosetta and the couple had four children: Victor, Billy, and two daughters. Victor Wiler remained in Logansport and worked in his father’s store. He married Marie Murphy and the couple had a son, William.45 In 1928, after a long battle with illness, Victor’s body was found hanging in a second story room of the furniture store.46 No reason was given for the suicide.

Lang

Gustave Lang resided in Logansport from approximately 1869 until his death in 1884. He was married to Julia Oppenheimer, another prominent Logansport Jewish family. Gustave worked as a merchant tailor and clothier; owning the business Oppenheimer & Lang for a brief time.47 Gustave, along with another local Jewish man, Max Kraus, was one of the first two burials in Logansport’s Jewish cemetery.48 Gustave and Julia had at least one daughter, Eugenia, who passed away at the age of 23 to sensational headlines. Shortly after her father’s death in 1884, Julia and Eugenia left Logansport for Cincinnati under the stigma of Eugenia’s reputation for having been “exceedingly gay” about town. In Cincinnati, Eugenia was accused of living a dual life, and according to her obituary was arrested in a house of ill-repute for stealing from a

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44 Ibid.
46 Ibid.
48 “Kraus, Otto,” Cass County Historical Society File Folder, Cass County Historical Society, Logansport, IN.
saloon keeper.⁴⁹ Not staying in Cincinnati long, she eventually moved to Chicago, where the details of her life were unknown prior to her overdose of morphine and subsequent death in a Cook County hospital.⁵⁰ Her body was returned to Logansport and she was interred near her father in Mount Hope cemetery. The newspaper obituary for Eugenia gives her last name as Lang, but her headstone in the cemetery reads “Eugenia Lang Choen” implying that she married at some point. Her mother, Julia, survived her, living until 1941, and is also buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

**Kraus**

Jacob Kraus, a German Jewish immigrant, brought his family to the United States in the 1850s or 1860s, settling in Toledo, Ohio. Jacob was the father of four children: Adelaide, Rose, Otto, and Max.⁵¹ In 1869, Otto and his brother Max arrived in Logansport, Indiana and began working for the Frank Brothers clothing store, opening their own store within one year. Max passed away in 1884, but Otto operated the store until 1897, when he sold the business to Sidney V. Kaufman.⁵² He then opened The Otto Shoe and Clothing Company, which he ran until 1922, when he became a local salesman for a large eastern men’s clothing firm.⁵³ Max joined Gustave Lang as one of the first two burials in the Logansport Jewish Cemetery.⁵⁴

A very civic minded individual, Otto Kraus was well known for organizing the first independent baseball team of Logansport, the Ottos, and sponsoring their games for many years.

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⁴⁹ “By Morphine ‘Genie’ Lang Dies at Chicago,” _The Daily Journal_, August 2, 1894
⁵⁰ _Ibid._
⁵¹ _Ibid._
⁵² “In Business Here Over Forty Years: Otto Kraus Tells of His Early Business Experiences And of the Share That Advertising Had in His Success,” _Logansport Pharos-Reporter_, November 18, 1916.
⁵⁴ “Kraus, Otto,” Cass County Historical Society File Folder, Cass County Historical Society, Logansport, IN.
He was also a founding member of the Elks lodge, and was the last surviving charter member at the time of his death.\(^{55}\) Otto Kraus had the distinction of being known as the first merchant to extensively advertise along the roads leading to Logansport, painting the phrase “Otto Kraus, Of Course” on posts and boulders.\(^{56}\)

Otto married the daughter of another prominent Logansport Jewish family, Bertha Wise, in 1889, and the couple had no children.\(^{57}\) Otto passed away in 1928 at the age of eighty-one. His wife, Bertha, about twenty years his junior, lived until 1947.\(^{58}\)

**Guggenheimer**

Not much is known about Theodore Guggenheimer. He is only listed on the 1870 census for Logansport as a single man from Bavaria working in a gentleman’s furnishings store.\(^{59}\) In 1913 he was honored in a meeting of the Tipton Lodge No. 33 F. & A.M.\(^{60}\)

**Rosenthals**

The Rosenthals are also first found in Logansport in 1870. William and Sarah Rosenthal lived in Logansport with their children: Jennie, Emma, Walter, and Gertrude for a number of years.\(^{61}\) William worked as a clothing merchant.\(^{62}\) Emma married John M. Johnston and the

\(^{55}\) Ibid.
\(^{60}\) *Logansport Journal-Tribune*, July 9, 1913.
couple settled in Logansport and had at least two daughters, Gertrude and Esther.\(^6\) In 1900, Walter is listed on the census as living in Manhattan, New York with his wife Clara.\(^6\)

**Greensfelder**

Born in New York City on November 7, 1848, Elias Greensfelder, known as Eli, came to Fort Wayne, Indiana by canal boat at the age of ten months with his parents, Gustav and Fannie Greensfelder.\(^6\) Gustav and Fannie were German immigrants.\(^6\) In 1872, a young Eli set out on his own, arriving in Logansport that year and remaining for the duration of his life. Upon arriving in Logansport, Eli worked with Martin Frank, of another Jewish family, in the clothing business for three years before starting his own clothing store at 315 Market Street.\(^6\) His business remained at that address until his death and was later maintained and expanded by his sons, Melvin and Herbert. In 1881 Eli married Fannie Mayer of Lafayette, Indiana and the couple had eight children, six of whom survived into adulthood. Two boys, Jacob and Nathan, died in infancy.\(^6\) Their surviving children were Clara, Bertha, Sallie, Florence, and identical twins Herbert and Melvin. Eli Greensfelder lived to be seventy years old, succumbing in 1918 to a cerebral apoplexy in the front room of his store during business hours. Eli was a member of the Tipton Lodge No. 33, F. & A.M., the Logan

\(^6\) Jan Lewis, granddaughter of Melvin Greensfelder.
\(^6\) “Apoplexy was Fatal to Eli Greensfelder,” *Logansport Pharos-Reporter*, August 29, 1918.
\(^6\) Ibid.
Chapter No. 2 R.A.M., and of the Logansport Council No. 11 R. & S.M. He was also a founding member and long time president of the Jewish Cemetery Association, and a member of the Cass County Chamber of Commerce and the Logansport Country Club.\textsuperscript{69}

Eli’s wife, Fannie, lived to the age of 89 in Logansport, residing for many years with her sons Melvin and Herbert. Passing away in 1947, Fannie was buried in the Jewish Cemetery that her husband helped to found.\textsuperscript{70}

The Greensfelder children each lead successful lives. Herbert served during the First World War, and he and his brother Melvin lived in Logansport throughout their lives, carrying on their father’s business. Melvin lived until 1975. Marrying Inez Taylor, the couple had one daughter, Suzanne. After having “twin” heart attacks less than a year apart, Melvin and Herbert served as co-chairmen of the Heart Fund for fourteen years. Melvin was a member of the Tipton Lodge No. 33, the local American Legion, the Masonic York Rite Council, the Kiwanis Club, and the Elks and Eagles lodges.\textsuperscript{71}

Herbert survived his twin brother for two more years, passing away in 1977 in the Chase Manor Nursing Home. Remaining co-owner of Greensfelder Brothers Men’s Clothing Store until the brothers’ retirement, Herbert married Janet Logan in 1942. The couple had two daughters, Marilyn and Dianne. Herbert was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans of World War I, Elks and Eagles Lodge, American Legion, Tipton Masonic Lodge No. 33, and the Temple Israel in Lafayette.\textsuperscript{72}

Melvin and his brother, Herbert, were prominent businessmen in the town of Logansport throughout their lifetimes. They are also credited with fighting the Ku Klux Klan in Logansport.

\textsuperscript{69} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{70} Logansport Pharos-Tribune, October 14, 1947.
\textsuperscript{71} “Melvin Greensfelder, 79, Local Businessman, Dies,” Logansport Pharos-Tribune & Press, March 21, 1975; Jan Lewis, granddaughter of Melvin Greensfelder
\textsuperscript{72} Ibid.
in the 1920s and 1930s, a time when Klan activity in Indiana was at its peak. According to a piece written by Melvin’s granddaughter in the New York Times, Melvin maintained a list of local Klan members, and he and Herbert, accompanied by a Roman Catholic friend from Indianapolis, hired some Chicago “gangsters” to come to Logansport and wreck the local Klan office.⁷³

Eli’s daughter Clara married Sam A. Stern and lived in Chicago. His two daughters, Sallie and Bertha, married a Mr. Charles F. Martin and a Mr. Ferdinand Goodman, and lived in Wyoming and Lafayette.⁷⁴ According to Melvin’s granddaughter, Sally fell in love with Charles Martin and eloped against her family’s wishes. The couple settled in Wyoming, where they had two children, Charles born in 1916, and Jimmy, born in 1918. The same year of Jimmy’s birth, Sally passed away in the influenza pandemic of 1918.⁷⁵ Florence remained in Logansport for several years, working for a time on the Logansport Pharos-Reporter staff, before marrying Harry Friedman of West Virginia.⁷⁶ Mr. Friedman would go on to serve in the West Virginia State Senate.⁷⁷ Florence passed away in 1977, and both she and her husband Harry are buried in the Logansport Jewish Cemetery with her family.⁷⁸

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⁷⁴ “Apoplexy was Fatal to Eli Greensfelder.”
⁷⁵ Jan Lewis, granddaughter of Melvin Greensfelder.
⁷⁶ “Apoplexy was Fatal to Eli Greensfelder.”
⁷⁸ Ibid.
Janet Greensfelder, Herbert’s wife, lived until 1989, and was buried with her husband.79 Melvin and Inez’s daughter, Suzanne, passed away in 1992. She had married and moved to St. Louis, and later to White Plains, New York, and then Chicago, where she worked for the law offices of Stone, McGuire, and Benjamin. She had two daughters, Jan and Beth, and one grandson. A son preceded her in death.80

The building which the Greensfelder Brothers’ store occupied is still standing today. In 2003, the front corner of the building collapsed and Indiana Landmarks, a non-profit, statewide historic preservation organization, received the building on donation, made significant repairs, and began considering new uses for the structure.81 In June of 2011, the building was sold to Marie Jaquith, a California author, who intends to open a bookstore and café in the historic structure.82

**Michaels/Nussbaum**

Born in Hamburg, Germany, Moses Michaels came to the United States in the 1840s or 1850s.83 Living in Logansport as early as 1874, Moses worked for several years in millinery and fancy goods, and as a traveling agent before becoming a manufacturer of cement, a career he retained for the duration of his life.84 Moses, with Herman Stern and Harry Frank, were appointed in 1884 to a committee to purchase ground for a Jewish cemetery.85 This might have

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82 Ibid.
been facilitated by the deaths of Max Kraus and Gustave Lang, both of whom died in 1884 and were the first two to be buried in the Jewish Cemetery.\textsuperscript{86}

Moses and his wife, Sarah, had three children, Etta, Charles, and Rose. Sarah Michaels passed away in 1921 and was buried in Mount Hope with her husband. The Michaels daughter, Etta, married a Leo Nussbaum from Marion, Indiana and resided there until her death in 1915.\textsuperscript{87} The Nussbaum’s had a son die in infancy, Carl J., and interred him in Logansport with Moses and Sarah Michaels.\textsuperscript{88} Their only other child, Selma Nussbaum, lived to adulthood and married, becoming Selma Lucas. Upon her death in 1915, Etta L. was buried with her parents and child, and in 1921, Leo Nussbaum was also interred in the Logansport Cemetery.\textsuperscript{89} Selma Lucas lived until 1940, passing away in France at the age of 48.\textsuperscript{90} Her body was returned to Logansport and interred with her family.\textsuperscript{91}

**Cook**

Born in present-day Lithuania in 1852, Simon Cook immigrated to America around 1867 joining his brother Isaac in Chicago. Living and working in various cities, Simon was living in Indianapolis in 1877 when he married his wife, Anna Ringold. Shortly after their marriage, the couple moved to Wabash, Indiana where they remained engaged in local business until Simon’s retirement in 1930. After traveling for a few years, the couple retired to Logansport, Indiana, where two of their sons resided, and remained there until Simon’s death in 1935.\textsuperscript{92} The Cooks

\textsuperscript{86} “Kraus, Otto,” Cass County Historical Society File Folder, Cass County Historical Society, Logansport, IN.
\textsuperscript{87} “Death of an Old Citizen,” The Daily Journal, January 25, 1895.
\textsuperscript{89} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{90} Reports of Deaths of American Citizens Abroad, 1835-1974.
\textsuperscript{91} Mount Hope Cemetery Database.
\textsuperscript{92} “Simon Cook Dies at Age 83 Years,” Logansport Pharos-Tribune, December 12, 1935.
had four sons, Solomon O. Cook, Moie Cook, Sam Cook, who made his home in Los Angeles, California, and Ben Cook, who took up residence in Chicago, Illinois.\(^{93}\)

Born in 1884, a twenty-four year old Solomon (Sol) Cook was living in Logansport as early as 1910 dealing in scrap metals, and residing at a boarding house.\(^{94}\) During his early years in Logansport, Sol operated a waste material business on Sixth street. He also helped to found a fan factory in the city before going to work in 1917 with the Obenchain-Boyer Company, serving as the secretary-treasurer of that company, which changed its name to the Boyer Fire Apparatus Company in 1925, for approximately thirty years. A businessman of variety, Sol Cook also worked for H. Wiler & Company and served as one of the owners of the new Wiler Company, a furniture business, before selling the company in January of 1949. Around that time, Sol and his brother Moie purchased the Kain’s Motor Service, which he ran until the time of his death. Sol and his wife Helen were well-known in the city for their civic work. Sol served as president and fundraiser of the Logansport Stadium Corporation, which built a new football stadium and athletic field for the city in 1950. He was also instrumental in raising the funds to construct the Berry Bowl at the Logansport High School Gymnasium, and was active in the local Boy Scouts of America chapter, having a Scout camp along the Eel River named Camp Cook in his honor.\(^{95}\)

Born in Wabash in 1881, Moie Cook lived and worked in that town for several years before moving to Logansport. He married Mary Goldstine of Des Moines, Iowa in 1915 and the couple had one son, David M. Cook, who made his home in Indianapolis.\(^{96}\) In 1924 Solomon was joined by his brother Moie, and both men took jobs at the Boyer Fire Apparatus Company,
eventually serving as company secretary and vice-president respectively. During his time in Logansport, Moie Cook was a known business leader in the community, serving as President of the Logansport Chamber of Commerce from approximately 1928 to 1933. While serving in this capacity, Moie was responsible for bringing several industries to the city of Logansport, most notably working with S.O. Berman, publisher of the city’s newspaper, to raise the capital and construct the H.W. Gossard factory, located at Sixth and Market streets.

Moie remained at the Fire Apparatus Company until 1933, when he was appointed by Indiana Governor Paul V. McNutt as the Republican member of the Indiana Public Service Commission. Moving to Indianapolis for his appointment, Moie was reappointed to the commission in 1937 by Governor M. Clifford Townsend and served until July of 1941, when he resigned and organized the Business and Public Utilities Company in Indianapolis. While living in Indianapolis, Moie was a member of the B’nai B’rith, a Jewish fraternal order. He remained in the state capitol with that business until 1944, when he returned to Logansport with his family. When he returned to Logansport he became the general manager of Kain’s Motor Service, a new business purchased by the Cook brothers, where he remained until his death. Moie’s wife Mary took over the management of Kain’s Motor Service after her husband’s death, and lived until 1971.

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98 “Moie Cook Passes Away at Hospital After Long Illness.”
Stern

Herman Stern, born in 1845 in Germany, came to Logansport, Indiana around 1877 and opened a butcher shop. He and his wife, Caroline, had four children, Isaac, Abraham, Bertha, and Solomon. Herman, along with Moses Michaels and Harry Frank were appointed in 1884 to a committee to purchase ground for a Jewish cemetery. Herman passed away in 1895 after injuries sustained while clearing tree stumps on a farm he owned north of the city of Logansport. He was interred in the Jewish cemetery. His wife Caroline lived until 1916, when she passed away in her daughter’s home in Kokomo, Indiana. Her body was returned to Logansport and interred with her husband.

Abraham Stern remained in Logansport and operated his father’s butcher shop throughout his life. Never marrying, he passed away in 1931 after a long illness. Solomon and Isaac Stern also remained in Logansport. Isaac Stern seems to have been a difficult person to like. In 1921 his wife, Florence Isabelle Stern, filed a divorce suit against Isaac after sixteen years of marriage, alleging cruel and inhuman treatment. According to the newspaper announcement of the divorce suit, Isaac frequently called her “vile names in the presence of his friends…” and sold her piano and

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103 Ibid.
104 Logansport Daily Journal, February 19, 1884.
106 Ibid.
Haviland chinaware without her permission. Upon Abraham’s death in 1931, the newspapers reported that he left his building and business to an employee, $5,000 to his housekeeper, $5,000 to his brother Solomon, and only $1 to his brother Isaac. His sister, Bertha Frankenthal, was made executrix of the remainder of the estate. Solomon passed away in 1946 of a heart attack, and Isaac lived until 1950, succumbing to a lingering illness.

The Stern’s daughter, Bertha, married Joseph Frankenthal, the son of Amelia Frankenthal of Logansport and brother of Bertha Berwanger, also of Logansport. The couple took up residence in Kokomo, Indiana where they remained until their deaths. Joseph passed away in 1952 and Bertha in 1970, both being buried in Logansport.

Wise

Solomon Wise was born in 1835 in Bavaria, Germany. He came to the United States in 1854 and eventually settled in Logansport, Indiana in 1878, when he joined the firm, Wiler & Wise. In 1865 he traveled to Europe and married Caroline Wiler, the sister of Joseph and Henry Wiler, also of Logansport. Solomon and Clara had four children: Bertha, Mollie, Carl, and Victor. Solomon Wise passed away in 1897 after battling Hotchkins disease.

Victor Wise lived in Chicago for a number of years, working in the shoe business in Chicago. He eventually returned to Logansport and worked at the firm Wiler & Wise started

109 “Asks $5,000 in Divorce Suit,” Logansport Press, October 8, 1921.
111 Ibid.
114 “Death Summons Caroline Wise at Family Home,” Logansport Pharos-Tribune, October 18, 1929.
by his father. He lived to be 79 and never married, passing away in 1951 after a bad fall from a height of two and a half feet. Victor Wise was a founder of the Logansport Country Club.\(^{116}\)

Bertha Wise married Otto Kraus. The couple lived in Logansport throughout their lives and never had children. Carl Wise moved to New York, where his son eventually became vice-president of Columbia Broadcasting Company.\(^{117}\)

**Kaufman**

Julius Kaufman arrived in America in either 1868 or 1869, landing in New York City.\(^{118}\) By 1880, Julius and his brother Jacob were living in Logansport, running a shoe store.\(^{119}\) According to that year’s census, Julius had married Rose Kraus, the daughter of another local Jewish family, and the couple had one son, Sidney.\(^{120}\) The Kaufman’s would also have a daughter, Bertha, who became a school teacher and the principal of the Columbia School and McKinley School.\(^{121}\) Sidney purchased the Kraus Brother’s store from Otto Kraus and operated it for a number of years before becoming a traveling salesman in Chicago, after some time in California, and married a woman named Jewel.\(^{122}\) The couple had a daughter Jane.

Julius passed away in 1917, but Rose lived to be eighty-four, dying in 1931 from complications resulting from a broken hip. Rose had been born in Germany and brought to the

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\(^{117}\) Ibid.


\(^{120}\) Ibid.


United States by her parents as a small child, originally settling in Toledo, Ohio. Rose and Julius were married in Delaware, Ohio before coming to Logansport around 1877.123

**Mandel**

The Mandel family originally came to Lafayette, Indiana from Germany. Eli and Henrietta Mandel lived in Lafayette, with Eli working as a tailor.124 Their son Joseph and his wife Hannah moved to Logansport between 1880 and 1884, where Joseph worked as a traveling salesman for approximately twenty years.125 Joseph and Hannah had three children, Sarah, Carl, and Louis. Carl J worked as a clerk for the Wiler & Wise store, at the Bee Hive, in Logansport.126 Henrietta Mandel, who passed away in 1897, is buried in the Jewish section of the Logansport cemetery.127

In 1915 the Mandels moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.128 Sarah Mandel never married and passed away in 1948. Her body was returned to Logansport and interred beside her mother.129 Carl Mandel passed away in 1951 and was also interred in Logansport.130

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Hecht

Jordan Hecht was born in Germany in 1851. By the 1880s, Jordan and his brother Aaron were living in Logansport and clerking in a clothing store. During that decade, Jordan married Rebecca K., and the couple had a daughter Caroline and a son Leslie. Jordan Hecht eventually became a capitalist and broker before passing away in 1918. Rebecca Hecht passed away in 1932 in Chicago, having moved there to be near her daughter, Caroline Hoodwin and her son, Leslie Hecht. She was buried in Logansport with her husband. Caroline Hecht Hoodwin passed away in 1944 and was also buried in Logansport. Leslie Hecht died at the age of 64 and was interred with the family in 1959.

Herz

The Herz family consisted of the matriarch, Mrs. Esther Herz, and her four children: Jacob, Matthias, Sara, and Herman. The family immigrated to the United States sometime in the late nineteenth century, from all appearances without Mrs. Herz’s husband.

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134 “Former Local Lady is Dead,” Logansport Pharos-Tribune, March 18, 1932.
Jacob Herz was born in Germany in 1857 and came to Logansport, Indiana with his family in 1881.\(^{138}\) Opening his own tailor shop, he engaged in that business for fifty-three years.\(^{139}\) His first wife, Cedie, the sister of Eli Greensfelder, passed away in 1891 after a long battle with consumption, leaving Jacob with a young son, Seligman.\(^{140}\) Within a few years, Jacob remarried a woman named Mathilde and the couple had another son, Robert T., and a daughter, Florence. Jacob lived a long life, passing away in 1932 at the age of 79.

Herman Herz moved to Rockyford, Colorado at an unknown date, and eventually his brother Matthias and sister Sara joined him there. Sara Herz passed away in 1917 and was interred in Logansport with her parents.\(^{141}\) At the time of her death, Herman resided in Goldfield, California.\(^{142}\) Matthias lived until 1941 and was also interred with the family in Logansport.\(^{143}\)

Jacob’s son, Seligman, lived and worked in Chicago all of his adult life, but was buried with the family in Logansport.\(^{144}\) Robert also lived in Chicago most of his life and Florence married and moved to Indianapolis.\(^{145}\)

**Birkenruth**

Simon Birkenruth is first listed in the Logansport city directories in 1883-84 as a butcher.\(^{146}\) Simon and his wife, Mollie, had two daughters, Carrie and Jeanette, and a son, Isaac,
who remained in Logansport working for the city as a fireman, even serving for a time as Fire
Chief. Isaac married Geneva and the couple had four children: Harry, Jason, Solomon, and
Louise. Jason lived and worked in Indianapolis, dying in 1936. Isaac passed away in 1938
of heart disease. Carrie and Jeanette made their way to San Francisco, where Jeanette passed
away in 1952. Geneva survived her husband until 1957. In 1959, Carrie passed away while
residing at the Webster nursing home in Logansport.

Berwanger

The Berwanger family was long time residents of Logansport. Lewis Berwanger
(sometimes spelled Louis) was born in Germany in 1848. He married Hannah Frankenthal in
North Carolina and had three children, Joseph L., born in 1881; Selma, born in 1883; and Bertha,
born in 1886. The family began moving westward, accompanied by Lewis’s younger brother
Henry, and another son, Eugene, was born in Tennessee in 1889. By approximately 1891 the
family had arrived and settled in Logansport at 210 8th street, and Lewis and Henry established
the Hub Clothing Store, run by Berwanger Bros. & Company, at 313 4th street. Lewis ran the
Hub Clothing Store for almost twelve years before inexplicably committing suicide in 1903, the

146 Chas O. Ebel & Co. Logansport Directory, 1883-84
147 “Fire Chief Birkenruth in Accident,” Logansport Pharos-Tribune, August 23, 1922; “Fire Chief
Birkenruth Resigns; Schwering In,” Logansport Pharos-Tribune, November 11, 1923.
149 Hold Rites Friday for J.E. Birkenruth,” Logansport Pharos-Tribune, July 2, 1936.
156 Chas. B. Longwell Directory of Logansport, IN, 1890-91.; Longwell & Cummings, Biennial Directory
of Logansport and Cass County, 1897-98.; Longwell-Cummings, Logansport Directory, 1901-02.; Longwell-
cause of which was ruled temporary insanity.\textsuperscript{157} He was interred in the Jewish section of Mount Hope Cemetery.

The oldest Berwanger son, Joseph L. Berwanger, became an electrician and by 1907 was running Berwanger and Murray, an electrical supply store at 322 Pearl Street.\textsuperscript{158} The business later moved to 326 5\textsuperscript{th} street.\textsuperscript{159} Eventually Joseph moved to Gary, Indiana. The younger son, Eugene, also became an electrician, moving to Detroit, Michigan. A veteran of World War I, Eugene passed away from complications following a surgery in July of 1927 and his body was returned to Logansport and interred at Mount Hope, where his father Lewis was buried.\textsuperscript{160}

Hannah Frankenthal Berwanger, Lewis’s wife, and her two daughters, Selma and Bertha, remained in Logansport throughout their lives. Moving residences from 210 8\textsuperscript{th} street to 117 8\textsuperscript{th} street between 1908 and 1911, the three women lived together with Selma and Bertha never marrying. In 1930, Joseph Berwanger was found dead in his garage in Gary of a gunshot to the head and an automatic pistol on the ground, in what was apparently a suicide.\textsuperscript{161} Bertha passed away in 1933. Both were buried with their family in Mount Hope Cemetery. Hannah passed

\textsuperscript{157}``L. Berwanger Takes His Life,” \textit{Logansport Journal}, January 7, 1903; “Berwanger was Insane,” \textit{Logansport Journal}, January 8, 1903.
\textsuperscript{160}``Eugene Berwanger Dies in Detroit,” \textit{Logansport Pharos-Tribune}, July 25, 1927.
\textsuperscript{161}``Joe Berwanger’s Body is Found in Garage at Gary: Death is Clothed in Mystery; Police and Coroner Active,’’ \textit{The Logansport Press}, June 14, 1930; research was unable to determine whether this was definitely a suicide or a murder. The newspapers at first claimed it had to be murder, then never mentioned cause again.
away in 1948, and was buried with her husband, Lewis, in Mount Hope Cemetery. Selma began working as a stenographer for the law firm of Hillis and Hillis in 1910 and remained at that position until 1955. Passing away in 1969, Selma, the last of the Logansport Berwangers, was buried with her family in Mount Hope cemetery.

Frakenthal

Amelia Frankenthal, widow of Siegfard Frankenthal, was born in Germany in 1833 and immigrated to the United States in 1856. Living originally in Charlotte, North Carolina, Amelia, along with her family, including the Berwangers, moved to Tennessee before settling in Logansport around 1891. Her son, Joseph Frankenthal, and she lived with her daughter, Bertha Berwanger, at 210 8th street. Joseph worked for the Berwangers at the Hub Clothing Store and as a clerk for the Wiler & Wise company, also owned by local Jewish families. Amelia passed away in 1906 and her body was returned to Charlotte, North Carolina for burial.

In 1906 Joseph Frankenthal, and his wife Bertha, were living in Kokomo, Indiana. They had no children and are both buried in Mount Hope cemetery. Joseph passed away in 1952 and Bertha in 1970.

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164 The Logansport Pharos, August 10, 1906.
166 Ibid.
167 The Logansport Pharos, August 10, 1906.
Oppenheimer

Born in 1862 in Louisville, Kentucky to parents Morris and Rosa Oppenheimer, Isaac Oppenheimer arrived in Logansport, Indiana in 1895 and began operating the Boston Sample Shoe store. In 1892 he married his wife Cora and the couple had three children: Rosalyn, Myron, and Morris. Isaac was one of the original trustees of the St. Joseph’s hospital in Logansport and served as the director of the Citizens’ Loan and Trust company for a number of years. Passing away at the age of ninety, Isaac was buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery.

Morris and Myron Oppenheimer remained in Logansport, operating a liquor store, a tavern, and a dinnerware store at various times. Myron married Nettie Weis and the couple had no children. At some point, Myron and Nettie moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where they both lived until their deaths. Myron passed away in 1967, and his body was returned to Logansport and buried at Mount Hope Cemetery. Nettie survived him ten more years, passing away in Pittsburgh in 1977. Her body was also returned to Logansport.

Morris remained in Logansport throughout his life, marrying Mary Gisolo and having two children, Robert Isaac and Myron. He served in World War I and was a member of the local Elks lodge. Morris passed away at the age of seventy-six. His sons, Robert and Myron, made their lives in Indianapolis. Morris’s wife, Mary, passed away in 1981. She had worked as a

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169 Ibid.
171 Ibid.
registered nurse at St. Joseph’s hospital and with the Red Cross, and attended the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic church in Logansport.\textsuperscript{177}

**Rothschild/Levi/Marx**

Isaac Rothschild was born in Germany in 1821. He immigrated to the United States in 1849, settling in Washington, Indiana.\textsuperscript{178} He and his wife, Eva had six children: Hattie, Louis H., Louise, Sallie, Fannie, and Julius. The two sons, Louis and Julius came to Logansport in 1896 and started the clothing business, Rothschild Brothers, which ran the Globe Clothing House.\textsuperscript{179} Following their sons and brothers, Isaac, Eva, Hattie and Louis also moved to Logansport with Louis and Julius. Isaac passed away in 1898 and was buried in the Jewish cemetery, followed by Eva in 1899.\textsuperscript{180}

In 1909, Louis Rothschild married Fannie Levy (sometimes spelled Levi), of Chicago. He lived until 1921, when he passed away after a long illness and a surgical operation in Chicago. He was a member of the Tipton Lodge No. 33, F. & A.M., Apollo Lodge No. 62, Knights of Pythias and Logansport Lodge No. 66 B.P.O. Elks.\textsuperscript{181}

Hattie Rothschild never married, living with her brother Julius and her sister Louise throughout her life.\textsuperscript{182} She passed away in 1926 at the age of sixty-one years old.\textsuperscript{183} Sallie

\textsuperscript{177} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{178} Mortuary Record, *The Logansport Pharos*, October 24, 1898.
\textsuperscript{179} “Local Dealer Died Sunday At His Home,” *Logansport Pharos-Tribune*, August 22, 1921; Logansport City Directory 1897-98.
\textsuperscript{181} “Local Dealer Died Sunday At His Home.”


Julius and Rena Levy resided in Chicago and had two children, Isadora Fannie (Fannie) and Sigbert. Julius worked as a traveling salesman. Rena Levy was the daughter of Moses and Mena Rothschild, of Huntington, Indiana. In 1909, Fannie was married to Louis Rothschild, of Logansport, Indiana and the couple took up residence in that city. In 1913, Rena passed away and her body was brought to Logansport for burial in the Jewish cemetery. In October of 1921, just a few months after the death of her husband Louis, Fannie Rothschild also lost her father, Julius Levy, who was also buried in Logansport. Fannie Levy Rothschild remarried a Mr. Marx, and moved to South Bend, residing there for a number of years until her death in an automobile accident in 1928. Her body was returned to Logansport and buried with her parents and first husband.


183 Funerals and Deaths, Logansport Pharos-Tribune, July 27, 1926.
184 “Local Dealer Died Sunday At His Home.”
189 Ibid.
191 “Local Dealer Died Sunday At His Home,” Logansport Pharos-Tribune, August 22, 1921.
192 Deaths and Funerals, The Logansport Pharos, April 22, 1913.
193 Deaths and Funerals, Logansport Pharos-Tribune, October 15, 1921.
194 Logansport Pharos-Tribune, September 15, 1928.
195 Ibid.
Epstine

Lewis Epstine is only found on the 1900 census as a resident of Logansport, with his wife Mary, working as a clothing salesman.\(^{196}\)

Abrahams

The son of Polish parents, David Abrahams was born in St. Louis, Missouri in March of 1875.\(^{197}\) After marrying his wife, Ruth, David worked as a merchant tailor, living in Logansport from approximately 1901 until 1915. The Abrahams had nine children Ariel, Stephen, Miriam Susanna, Nathaniel, Jerome, Phillip, Daniel, David, and Joel. During their time in Logansport, three of the children, Miriam Susanna, Phillip, and Daniel passed away and are interred in the Mount Hope cemetery in Logansport.\(^{198}\) According to his draft card, by the time of United States entry into the First World War, the Abrahams had left Logansport and moved to Chicago, Illinois.\(^{199}\) There are articles in the local Logansport papers; however, claiming that David Abrahams was chosen to lead the company of volunteer infantry from the city in 1917, and was later denied entrance into the service for failure to pass the hearing exam.\(^{200}\) In 1918, the Abrahams oldest daughter, Ariel, passed away in Chicago at the age of 18. She was interred at the Free Sons Jewish Cemetery in that city.\(^{201}\) The 1930 census shows the family living in York, Illinois, with David still working as a tailor. The last trace of David Abrahams is the record of his

\(^{199}\) World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917, 1918, Ancestry.com.
\(^{201}\) Cook County, Illinois, Death Index, 1878-1922, Ancestry.com.

**Berman**

In 1902 Samuel O. Berman arrived in Logansport from Kokomo, opening a successful leather goods and sporting equipment store. He quickly took over management of the Logansport Ottos, the baseball team founded by Otto Kraus, and made the team into one of the most successful baseball clubs in the Midwest. In 1931 he helped organize the National Bank of Logansport, and was also responsible for bringing significant industry to the city including the H.W. Gossard Company, The Iroquois Button Factory, the R-B-M Manufacturing Company, and the American Tire Company. Very civic minded, he was also involved with the Boy Scouts and the 4-H club, and was named publisher of the *Logansport Pharos-Tribune*, where he worked until his death, in 1938.

**Kuppenheimer/Stowman**

John Kuppenheimer, a veteran of the Civil War, and his wife, Minnie, came to Logansport from Terre Haute, Indiana in 1904. The Kuppenheimers had five children: Walter, Jessie B., Mary, Helen C., Elizabeth, and Elza. John is possibly the brother of Bernhard Kuppenheimer, also of Terre Haute, who eventually moved to Chicago and founded B.

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204 “His Work is His Epitaph,” *Logansport Pharos-Tribune*, October 8, 1938.
205 Ibid.
206 Ibid.
Kuppenheimer & Co., a national clothing store. John passed away sometime between the 1900 census and the 1910 census. His body is not in the Logansport Cemetery. Walter Kuppenheimer moved to Chicago, where he worked for a wholesale grocer, Warner & Co., before passing away after a long illness in 1918. His body was taken to Terre Haute and placed in Rosehill cemetery. His sister, Elizabeth married, and moved to Chicago and eventually, Glendale, California.

Helen married Carl Wiler and the couple remained in Logansport. The couple had two children, a son, Joseph, and a daughter, Clare Jean, who passed away in 1920. Carl passed away in 1961 after a long illness. His wife, Helen, survived him until 1965.

Elza married Charles Stowman and had a son, Billy. Both Charles and Billy passed away in 1938. Elza died in 1944, and was interred in Mount Hope Cemetery. Minnie Kuppenheimer lived to be ninety-three years old and passed away in 1947.

Jessie Kuppenheimer never married and remained in Logansport throughout her life, working as a milliner. She passed away in 1961 at the age of eighty. Her sister, Mary, also never married, and lived until 1971, dying at the age of eighty-six.

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209 Herman Koren, R.E.H.S., M.P.H., H.S.D. Professor Emeritus of Environmental Health and Safety, Indiana State University, *The 150 Year History of the Jewish Community of Terre Haute, Indiana* (May 1, 1999), 13.
210 *Logansport Pharos-Reporter*, November 14, 1918.
211 Ibid.
215 “Mrs. Stowman Passes Away.”
216 Ibid.
Gerst

J. Samuel Gerst and his family moved to Logansport in the 1930s from Fort Wayne. Owner and proprietor of the Smart Shoppe at 415 E Broadway, J. Samuel was well-known in the community. He ran the Smart Shoppe for over 30 years before retiring in 1956 and sold the business to the local department store, The Golden Rule. Born in New York City in 1894, he married Elinor Block in Lima, Ohio in 1925, and they had three children: Robert V. Gerst, Richard A. Gerst, and Theodore C. Gerst. Robert and Richard were twins. The Gersts resided at 2210 North Street and 2409-2509 High Street in Logansport. Samuel passed away in 1960 and was interred in Mount Hope cemetery. Robert Gerst passed away in 1991 in Logansport, unmarried, and was buried in Mount Hope cemetery. Samuel’s wife, Elinor, lived until 1996. At the age of 96 years old, she passed away and was interred with her family in Mount Hope Cemetery. Their son Richard, a Korean War veteran, married a Sally L. and settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Theodore attended the United States Naval Academy before joining the United States Air Force, from which he retired in 1976 as a Lieutenant Colonel, and married Alice Mann of Lovelady, Texas, settling in Severna Park, Maryland. Theodore’s wife, Alice, passed away in 2003 and

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222 Ibid.
223 Interview with Theodore Gerst.
225 Logansport Pharos-Tribune, June 7, 1996.
226 Interview with Theodore Gerst.
was interred with the Gerst Family in the Jewish section of the Mount Hope Cemetery in Logansport.\textsuperscript{228} Theodore and Alice had three daughters: Tony Gerst Andrews of Cocoa Beach, Florida, Tobi Gerst Henri of Mateca, California, and Tina Gerst Jarrett of Bell Brook, Ohio.\textsuperscript{229}

Druck

Justin M. Druck arrived in Logansport in 1936 to work for his uncle, Samuel Berman, at the \textit{Logansport Pharos-Tribune}. Upon Samuel’s death in 1938, Justin took over as publisher of the paper, where he worked until his entry into the United States Army in 1941. After the Second World War, Druck returned to Logansport and the \textit{Pharos-Tribune}, retiring to Sarasota, Florida in 1990. He was a member of the Temple Israel, Lafayette, Temple Sinai of Sarasota, and the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation.\textsuperscript{230} Justin passed away in 2005; his wife, Phyllis Maierson Druck and his two daughters, Diane and Barbara, survive him.

Lazoris

Benjamin G. Lazoris was born in Russia and immigrated to the United States in 1897.\textsuperscript{231} His wife Fannie and his son Alexander immigrated with him. After arriving in the United States, the Lazoris family initially settled in Wisconsin, where they had two more children, Norman and Elinore.\textsuperscript{232} The family eventually settled in Chicago. Benjamin worked as a traveling salesman, and he and his wife were both naturalized United States citizens in 1919.\textsuperscript{233} In 1943, Mr. Lazoris took up residence alone in the Barnes Hotel in Logansport, Indiana, where he resided for two and

\textsuperscript{228} \textit{Logansport Pharos-Tribune}, May 29, 2003.
\textsuperscript{229} Ibid.
a half years, continuing his trade as a traveling salesman.\textsuperscript{234} In 1945, Mr. Lazoris had a heart attack in his hotel room and was found the next morning by the hotel housekeeper.\textsuperscript{235} He was interred in the Jewish section of the Mount Hope Cemetery.


\textsuperscript{235} Ibid.
APPENDIX

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Address</th>
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BIBLIOGRAPHY


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