

HISTORICAL DATA ON THE SYNAGOGUES OF BRADFORD, McKEAN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Compiled by Molly Popiel Lindahl
Bradford Landmark Society
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In 1880, Beth Zion congregation was incorporated. These names appear: Jacob Olshoffsky, Phillip Nusbaum, Alexander Simpson, Moses Ruslander, A.M. Mayer, S. Auerhaim, Asher Brown. Prayer and sermons in English with the Hebrew ritual, constitute the services. In 1881 a temple was erected and dedicated on South Mechanic street. Rev. Samuel Weil was the first Rabbi; Rev. S.M. Reich is the present.

In March 1881, the First Bradford Orthodox Hebrew congregation was incorporated with these trustees: P. Friedman, David Levi, Isaac Nusbaum. The petition for incorporation was signed by Joseph Rosenberg, H. Cohn, Dan Silberne, Raphael Michael, and Rev. S. Glover is the pastor.

Source: *Historical Bradford Illustrated 1901*, Burke Brothers, Editor Vernelle A. Hatch, Bradford, Pa., page 64

TEMPLE BETH ZION

The first steps for founding the Hebrew Reform Congregation Beth Zion were taken on October 1, 1879. The temple is located on the corner of South Avenue and Potter Street. N. Grossmeyer was its first presiding officer. The following is the present official board of the congregation:

President, A.M. Mayer; Vice-President, Morris Shear; Treasurer, Bennett Nusbaum; Secretary, Sam Bear. Board of Trustees: J. C. Greenwald, John Weiss, Felix Steinberger, Abraham Simons, D.C. Greenwald. School Board: M. Cohen, President; Felix Steinberger, David Whitestone, Henry Friedenber.

The Ladies Auxiliary Society considerably contributes to the welfare of the temple. The various ministers of the temple were: Rev. S. Weil, 1880-1895; Rev. S. Wasserman, 1895-1896; Rev. Louis G. Reynolds, 1896-1900; Rev. S.M. Rich, M.A. 1900 -.

ORTHODOX

The Kennedy Street Hebrew Orthodox Congregation, organized and built in 1881. Founders were: Late Hyman Cohn, David Levi, Mr. B. Jacobs, Mrs. Michaels, Joe Rosenberg. Presidents were: Messrs. B. Jacobs, H. Cohn, D. Levi, J. Rosenberg, S. Werthman, H. Lovits, Mr. Megantz, H. Cohen, M. Ertz. Ministers of the Congregation: Revs. Weinstock, Zacchi, Cohen, Jacobson, Max Lieberman, Rabbinovitz, Grafman, Simon Glazer, Isaac Slick. Present President, H. Lovits. Present Minister, Rev. Hirsh Wolenske. Assistant Minister, Rev. Isaac Slick.

Source: *McKean The Governor's County*, Rufus Barrett Stone, 1926, page 160

The following information was extracted from Bradford, Pa. (McKean County) City Directories. Since there is little indication relating to how far in advance data was collected for directories, the dates should be used as guidelines only, and not absolute dates.

1882-83

BNAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE Kennedy Street about Boylston. Rev. I. Lowitz, Teacher
HEBREW CONGREGATION N. Mechanic. Rev. Samuel Weinstock, Rabbi

(I. Lowitz boarded at the Germania Cosher [sic] Hotel. Peter Friedman was the proprietor. Their ad read: The only Cosher Hotel in the City of Bradford. First class accomodations. Bar stocked with the finest of wines and liquors. Foreign and domestic cigars. No. 4 North Mechanic Street.)

Please note North Mechanic Street was later renamed South Ave.

1883-84

BNAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE Kennedy Street, Rev. Simon Paltrovitch, Rabbi
HEBREW CONGREGATION N. Mechanic, Rev. Samuel Weil, Rabbi

1884-85

BETH ZION S. Mechanic. Rev. Samuel Weil, Rabbi
BNAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE Kennedy Street. Rev. Wolf Cohen, Rabbi

1886-87

BETH EL ZION Mechanic. Rev. Samuel Weil, Rabbi.
BNAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE Kennedy Street. Rev. D.W. Jacobson, Rabbi

1885-86

BETH ZION
BNAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

S. Mechanic. Rev. Samuel Weil, Rabbi
Kennedy Street. Rev. Wolf Cohen, Rabbi

1887-88

BETHEL ZION
BNAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Mechanic. Rev. Samuel Weil, Rabbi
Kennedy Street. Rev. D.W. Jacobson, Rabbi

1888-89

BETHEL ZION
BNAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Mechanic. Rev. Samuel Weil, Rabbi
Kennedy Street. Rev. D.W. Jacobson, Rabbi

1889-90

BETH ZION REFORMED TEMPLE
BNAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Mechanic. Rev. Samuel Weil, Rabbi
Kennedy Street. Rev. D.W. Jacobson, Rabbi

1890-91

BETH ZION REFORMED TEMPLE
BNAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Mechanic. Rev. Samuel Weil, Rabbi
Kennedy Street. Rev. D.W. Jacobson, Rabbi

1893

BETH ZION REFORMED TEMPLE
BNAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Mechanic. Rev. Samuel Weil, Rabbi
Kennedy Street. Rev. D.W. Jacobson, Rabbi

1894

BETH ZION REFORMED TEMPLE
BNAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Mechanic. Rev. Samuel Weil, Rabbi
Kennedy Street. Rev. M. Lieberman, Rabbi

1895

BETH ZION REFORMED TEMPLE
BNAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Mechanic. Rev. Joseph Wasserman, Rabbi
Kennedy Street. Rev. Rev. M. Lieberman, Rabbi

1896

BETH ZION REFORMED TEMPLE
BNAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Mechanic. Rev. Joseph Wasserman, Rabbi
Kennedy Street. Rev. Rev. M. Lieberman, Rabbi

1897

The page that contains the church listings is missing from this directory.

1898

ORTHODOX HEBREW CHURCH

Kennedy Street near Boylston. Rev. Samuel Rabinowitz, pastor; residence, 17 Pearl. Services Saturday at 8 a.m.

every

TEMPLE BETH ZION

211 Mechanic. Rev. Louis G. Reynolds, Rabbi; residence, 196 Mechanic St. Services, Friday evening 7:30, and Saturday morning, 10.

1899

ORTHODOX HEBREW CHURCH

Kennedy Street near Boylston. Rev. R. Graffman, pastor; residence, 17 Pearl. Services every Saturday at 8 a.m.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave., Rev. Louis G. Reynolds, Rabbi; residence 196 South Ave., Friday evening 7:30, and Saturday morning, 10:15.

1900

ORTHODOX HEBREW CHURCH

Kennedy Street near Boylston. Rev. Isaac Slick, pastor; residence, 17 Pearl Street. Services every Saturday at 8 a.m.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

Corner South Ave. & Potter St., Rev. Louis Reynolds, Rabbi, residence 8 Pine St. Services Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 10:15 a.m.

1901FIRST HEBREW ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION

39 Kennedy Street, Rev. Isaac Slick, residence 17 Pearl and Rev. Simon Glazier, residence 6 Chautauqua Place. Rabbis, H. Phillips, President; J.S. Oppenheim, Secretary. Services Friday at sunset, Saturday at 8 a.m., Membership 50.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Av. Corner Potter Street. Rev. S.M. Rich, Rabbi, residence Black Bear Hotel, A.M. Mayer, President; D. Whitestone, Secretary. Services Friday in Y.M.H.A. rooms at 8 p.m. Saturday in Temple 10:30 a.m. Membership 30.

1903FIRST HEBREW ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION

39 Kennedy Street, Rev. Isaac Slick, residence 17 Pearl and Rev. H. Wolenske. J.M. Ertz, President; H. Lovitz, Vice-President; S. Orange, Secretary; S. Werthman, Treasurer. Services Friday evenings at sunset and Saturdays at 8 a.m. Membership 50.

1903 (continued)

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave., corner Potter Street. Rev. S.M. Rich, Rabbi, residence 86 Pleasant St. A.M. Mayer, President; S.M. Bear, Secretary. Services Saturday 10:30 a.m. Membership 30.

1905

FIRST HEBREW ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION

45 Kennedy. Isaac Slick, Rabbi; residence 34 Pearl. H. Lovitz, President; S. Orange, Secretary, S. Werthman, Treasurer. Membership 44.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave., corner Potter Street. S.M. Reich, Rabbi, residence 47 South Ave. A.M. Mayer, President; D.C. Greenwald, Secretary; Bennett Nusbaum, Treasurer, Membership 30.

1907

FIRST HEBREW ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION

45 Kennedy. H.G. Blatt, Rabbi; residence 34 Pearl. J.M. Ertz, President; I. Ertz, Secretary, L.M. Kreinson, Treasurer. Membership 50.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave., corner Potter Street. S.M. Reich, Rabbi, residence 47 South Ave. A.M. Mayer, President; D.C. Greenwald, Secretary; Bennett Nusbaum, Treasurer, Membership 30.

1909

FIRST HEBREW ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION

45 Kennedy. J.M. Ertz, President; Harris Cohen, Secretary, Louis Friedman, Treasurer.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave., corner Potter Street. Louis Weiss, Rabbi, residence 154 Congress St. A.M. Mayer, President; D.C. Greenwald, Secretary; Bennett Nusbaum, Treasurer.

1911

FIRST HEBREW ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION

45 Kennedy. Louis Yagour, Rabbi; residence 47 Bank. A. Greenberg, President; J.M. Ertz, Secretary, Harris Cohen, Treasurer.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave. Near Tibbits Ave., _____, Rabbi, A.M. Mayer, President; D.C. Greenwald, Secretary; Bennett Nusbaum, Treasurer.

1913

FIRST HEBREW ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION

45 Kennedy. Abraham Rutburg, Rabbi; residence 41
Bank. A. Greenberg, President; J.M. Ertz, Secretary,
Harris Cohen, Treasurer.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave. Near Tibbits Ave., _____, Rabbi,
A.M. Mayer, President; D.C. Greenwald, Secretary;
Bennett Nusbaum, Treasurer.

1915

FIRST HEBREW ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION

45 Kennedy. Rabbi A. Greenberg, President; J.M. Ertz,
Secretary; Joseph Marks, Treasurer.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave., near Tibbetts Ave., James B. Menkes,
Rabbi; residence 9 Tibbetts Ave.; M. Shearer,
Vice-President; D.C. Greenwald, Secretary; Bennett
Nusbaum, Treasurer.

1917

FIRST HEBREW ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION

45 Kennedy. A. Slutzky, Rabbi; residence 17 State; A.
Greenberg, President; J.M. Ertz, Secretary; Joseph
Marks, Treasurer.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave. Near Tibbetts Ave. James B. Menkes,
Rabbi; residence 9 Tibbetts Ave. M. Shearer,
Vice-President; D.C. Greenwald, Secretary; Bennett
Nusbaum, Treasurer.

1919

FIRST HEBREW ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION

45 Kennedy. Philip First, Rabbi; residence 47 South
Ave.; Harry Graff, President; J.M. Ertz, Secretary;
Louis Kohn, Treasurer.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave. Near Tibbetts Ave. S.A. Schwab, Rabbi;
residence 3 Pike. D.C. Greenwald, Secretary;
Nusbaum, Treasurer.

Bennett

1921

FIRST HEBREW ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION

45 Kennedy. Joseph Marks, President; J.M. Ertz,
Secretary; Harris Cohn, Treasurer.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave. near Tibbitts Ave. Jacob Menkes, Rabbi;
residence 31 Pearl. John Weiss, President; Lester
Simons, Secretary; Bennett Nusbaum, Treasurer.

1923

FIRST HEBREW ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION

Corner South Ave. And Corydon. Max Levison, Rabbi;
residence 11-1/2 State. A. Greenberg, President; J.M.
Ertz, Secretary; Louis Kohn, Treasurer.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave. near Tibbitts Ave. Jacob Menkes, Rabbi;
residence 30 Pearl. Felix Steinberger, President; Lester
Simon, Secretary; Bennett Nusbaum, Treasurer.

1925

BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Corner South Ave. and Corydon. Isaac Werlin, Rabbi;
residence 99 W. Corydon. A. Greenberg, President;
J.M. Ertz, Secretary.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave. near Tibbitts Ave. Jacob Menkes, Rabbi;
residence 30 Pearl. Felix Steinberger, President; Lester
Simon, Secretary; Bennett Nusbaum, Treasurer.

1927

BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Corner South Ave. and Corydon. Jacob Richman,
Rabbi; residence 28 Pearl. A. Greenberg, President;
J.M. Ertz, Secretary.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave. near Tibbitts Ave. Felix Steinberger,
President; Lester Simons, Secretary; Bennett
Nusbaum, Treasurer.

1929-30

BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Corner South Ave. and Corydon. H.I. Simckes, Rabbi;
residence 13 Mechanic and Moses Margolis, Rabbi,
residence 45 N. Center. A. Greenberg, President; Harry
Ertz, Secretary.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave. near Tibbitts Ave. Adolf Rosenberg, Rabbi;
Felix Steinberger, President; Lester Simons, Secretary,
Bennett Nusbaum, Treasurer.

Due to the Great Depression, there were no directories published in the years 1931-1933 and 1935-1939.

1934

BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Corner South Ave. and Corydon. Jacob Hillman, Rabbi,
residence 60 N. Center.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave. near Tibbitts Ave. Saul B. Applebaum,
Rabbi; residence 15 Elm Street. Alex Silberberg,
President; Isadore Rogalsky, Secretary; Estelle Mayer,
Treasurer.

1940

BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Corner South Ave. and Corydon. Jacob Aronson, Rabbi; residence 25 Pearl Street.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave. near Tibbitts Ave. Leo E. Turitz, Rabbi; residence 102 W. Corydon. Alex Silberberg, President; Ike Bryman, Vice-President; Pincus Cohen, Secretary and Treasurer.

1945-46

BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Corner South Ave. and Corydon Streets.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

South Ave. near Tibbitts. Herbert Hendel, Rabbi, residence Hotel Holley; Alex Silberberg, President; Ike Bryman, Vice-President; Pincus Cohen, Secretary and Treasurer.

1948-49BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION
SYNAGOGUE

2-8 E. Corydon Street. Norman Kreiger, President; S.N. Nusbaum, Secretary, Manuel Ellison, Treasurer.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

59 South Ave. Herbert Hendel, Pastor

1950-51

BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

4 E. Corydon Street. No information regarding Rabbi.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

59 South Ave. Herbert Hendel, Rabbi.

1952-53

BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION

6 E. Corydon Street. Judah Seidler, Rabbi

TEMPLE BETH ZION

59 South Ave. Herbert Hendel, Rabbi

1954

BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

4 E. Corydon Street. No information regarding Rabbi.

TEMPLE BETH ZION

59 South Ave. L.W. Stearn, Rabbi.

1957

BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

4 E. Corydon Street. Dr. Baruch Katz, Rabbi

TEMPLE BETH ZION

59 South Ave. Bert Bloom, Rabbi.

1958

BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE 4 E. Corydon Street. Dr. B. A. Silverblatt, Rabbi

TEMPLE BETH ZION 59 South Ave. Bernard A. Silverblatt, Rabbi

1960

BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE No listing in this directory or subsequent directories.

TEMPLE BETH ZION 59 South Ave., Allan Levine, Pastor

1962

TEMPLE BETH EL 111-115 Jackson Ave. Kurt L. Metzger, Rabbi

1964

TEMPLE BETH EL 111-115 Jackson Ave. Kurt L. Metzger, Rabbi

1966

TEMPLE BETH EL 111-115 Jackson Ave. Kurt L. Metzger, Rabbi

1968

TEMPLE BETH EL 111-115 Jackson Ave. Kurt L. Metzger, Rabbi

1971

TEMPLE BETH EL 111-115 Jackson Ave. No information regarding rabbi.

1973

TEMPLE BETH EL 111-115 Jackson Ave. No information regarding rabbi.

This is the last of the traditional city directories. Further information would require extensive research using telephone books.