

Early Jewish history in Newark

Sawic

The Jewish community in Newark is approximately 95 years old. Beginning with the earliest known settler, one Louis Trier who came here in 1844, a German Jewish immigrant who operated a tannery in that year, until the present time, the community has grown to approximately 75,000, with what is undoubtedly the largest network of institutions of any ethnic group. The Jewish people of Newark have some 250 charitable, social, fraternal and communal bodies, and 34 congregations for religious worship.

Little else than the information given above is known of Louis Trier. His brother, Aaron, is listed in the directory of 1846-47. Aaron Trier became a customer peddler, the first of that hard working line of men who were known two generations ago as dusty, pathetic figures, trudging through city streets and country roads bowed under the weight of a large pack of household goods, wrapped in a table-cloth or in a rain-proof covering bound with leather straps, stopping from door to door. Also listed is Abraham Newman, who was destined to become the first local leader of the Jewish community.

In 1847-48 one Solomon Newman, a currier, is listed among the others. In 1849 arrived Jacob Eichterstreimer, who established the first second-hand clothing business in Newark. In 1849-50 Isaac Cohen, a cigar maker, set up shop at 208 Washington St. Another cigar maker, Joseph Levy by name, is also listed in the same directory.

In 1851 came Ludwig Adler, who established a basket-making business. In the same year Ignatz Kaufmann opened a jewelry store

at 307 Washington St. Jacob Rothschild also entered the jewelry business in the same year at 33 Park Street.

The first Jewish tailor in Newark, Bernard Levy, set up shop in 1852 in Augusta Street, which is now an ancient, narrow little street, decaying in obscurity off Plane Street. Levy was to found one of the most prominent clothing businesses in Newark.

In 1853-54 Jacob Lagowitz, a trunk maker, arrived in Newark. Lagowitz's trunks became famous throughout the country because of the excellent construction. He was the first Newark Jew to become wealthy.