



Temple Israel FOUNDATION

Biographical Information Sheet

Block

Levi Block
Born 1862
Born in Missouri
Parents from Germany
Married to Celia Pelta 1887
Dry Goods Merchant

Celia Block (Pelta)
Born 1871
Born in New York
Parents from New Jersey
Married to Levi Block 1887

Myrtle Block
Born 1889
Born in Buena Vista, Colorado
Musician

Darwin Block
Born 1893
Born in Buena Vista, Colorado
Student/Clerk

Levi Block was a successful dry goods merchant active in Buena Vista and Colorado from the mid 1880s to the early 1900s. Levi was born in 1862 in Missouri, his parents were immigrants from Germany.¹ In 1887, while he was living in Buena Vista, Levi married Celia Pelta.² She was born in 1871 in New York, both of her parents were from New Jersey. The Blocks had two children, Myrtle and Darwin, born in 1889 and 1893 respectively.³ In 1898, the Blocks moved to Leadville from Buena Vista.⁴

Levi's store first appears in the Leadville city directories in 1898.⁵ Initially it was located at 610 Harrison Avenue until 1912 when it moved to 423

Harrison Avenue. The store ceases to be listed after 1913 and it appears they closed their business.⁶

From 1899 to 1902 the Block family resided at 218 East 9th Street. In 1903, they moved to 220 East 9th Street, where they remained until 1906. The family briefly lived at 100 West 9th Street in 1907 and 127 W 4th Street during 1908. The next year the family moved to 224 East 9th Street where they remained until 1913. Darwin Block is listed in the 1914 directory residing at 222 East 9th Street.⁷

The Block family was quite involved in Leadville's social life. Levi frequently appears in the city newspapers contributing funds to different events and charities. A 1900 article during May, lists Levi as an enthusiastic supporter of the city's planned Fourth of July Celebrations.⁸ In June of that year, Levi donated some cloth to be turned into clothing for children.⁹ Celia also had her own activities and is listed hosting the weekly whist club at her home.¹⁰ Myrtle was the most involved member of her family in Leadville society. She frequently appeared performing at various musical events. She was an experienced pianist.¹¹ In 1909, Myrtle played the organ at Temple Israel's Yom Kippur service.¹² During 1910, Myrtle was the president of the J. S. C. society and hosted a meeting in her home.¹³ In 1913, Myrtle also hosted a luncheon for her music class.¹⁴

The Block business does not appear after the 1913 City Directory, but Darwin does appear in 1914 working as a clerk for Muller Mercantile Company.¹⁵ After 1914, none of the Blocks appear in any of the Leadville records and it is unclear where they moved.



¹ U.S. Census Bureau. 1910 Census.

² Chaffee County Marriage Records. 1887.

³ U.S. Census Bureau. 1910 Census.

⁴ 1898 Leadville City Directory.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ 1898 – 1913 Leadville city directories.

⁷ 1899 – 1914 Leadville city directories.

⁸ "Celebrate the Day." *Herald Democrat*, May 7, 1900. Accessed August 2, 2017.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

⁹ "Things for the Children." *Herald Democrat*, June 21, 1900. Accessed August 2, 2017.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

¹⁰ "Society." *Herald Democrat*, March 2, 1902. Accessed August 2, 2017.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

¹¹ "Around the City." *Herald Democrat*, September 28, 1909. Accessed August 2, 2017.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

¹² "Jewish Faithful Observe Holiday." *Herald Democrat*, September 25, 1909. Accessed August 2, 2017.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

¹³ "Society." *Herald Democrat*, March 13, 1910. Accessed August 2, 2017.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

¹⁴ "Society." *Herald Democrat*, January 12, 1913. Accessed August 2, 2017.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

¹⁵ 1914 Leadville City Directory.