



# Temple Israel FOUNDATION

## Biographical Information Sheet

### Fogel

Reuben Fogel  
Born: 1850  
Born in Cincinnati  
Arrived in Leadville in 1881  
Occupation: Miner, Mine Owner, Businessman

Kate Fogel (Maiden name Miller, known as Danni to her family)<sup>1</sup>  
Born: 1862  
Born in Pennsylvania (possibly of Irish Descent)<sup>2</sup>  
Died 1957

Moe Fogel  
Born: 1890  
Born in Ohio  
Died circa 1992-1993<sup>3</sup>

John Fogel  
Born: Jan. 1893  
Born in Leadville  
Died: Feb. 1893

Marguerite Fogel/Richmond  
Born: 1893  
Born in Leadville  
Died 1980<sup>4</sup>

Leo Fogel  
Born: 1898  
Born in Leadville  
Died 1974<sup>5</sup>

Reuben Fogel was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1850.<sup>6</sup> His parents John and Mathilda were from Alsace-Lorraine, France.<sup>7</sup> Reuben Fogel had several siblings, Lewis, Immanuel, Leo, Ray, Jennie, Millie, Sophie, and Katie.<sup>8</sup> Fogel married Kate Miller who was born in Pennsylvania in 1862.<sup>9</sup> The date of their marriage is unknown. Their first son, Moe, was born in 1890 in Ohio.<sup>10</sup> Marguerite was born in Leadville during 1893.<sup>11</sup> Incidentally, she was born on the same day that electricity was installed in the family house.<sup>12</sup>

They also had a second son, Leo, in 1898 who was born in Leadville.<sup>13</sup> It appears that the Fogels had yet another child named John in January, 1893. He lived only a few weeks and was buried in the Leadville Hebrew Cemetery.<sup>14</sup> (The Fogels had to wait until spring to bury him, since the ground was frozen. His grave is not marked.)<sup>15</sup>

Reuben Fogel arrived in Leadville in 1881. He is listed as a miner in the 1882 City Directory and was superintendent and vice president<sup>16</sup> of the Goldfield Consolidated Mining Company at 321 Harrison Ave.<sup>17</sup> Fogel was active as a miner but also came to operate his own mine, the Valley, in 1882 with J. J. Hill.<sup>18</sup> Fogel also had shares in the Forest Rose and Dispute mining claims.<sup>19</sup> In addition to being involved in the mining industry, Reuben worked for the Palace of Fashion department store in 1891.<sup>20</sup> Subsequently he opened his own business in 1892: the American Jewelry Company.<sup>21</sup> The American Jewelry Co. was located at 413 Harrison Ave. After 1892 the Fogels lived at 213 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. until 1903.<sup>22</sup>

While working with his fellow businessmen, Fogel took several trips back East looking for capital investments for Leadville's economy since the city was desperately working to recover from the 1893 silver crash.<sup>23</sup> Fogel also had his share of excitement in Leadville, in 1900 he came into conflict with a suspected burglar at his home. The following article from the *Herald Democrat* explains the amusing situation,

“Considerable excitement was caused on East Eighth street about 4 o'clock yesterday morning by what was thought to be an attempted burglary of the house of Mr. R. Fogel, No. 213. The first intimation of anyone in the house had that anything was wrong about the premises, was an endeavor by someone outside to open the



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door which awakened Mr. Fogel's daughter. Next an endeavor was made to open a window which also proved fruitless, but Mr. Fogel had now armed himself with a revolver and, still attired in his night robes, appeared like a phantom before the eyes of the would-be house breaker. In spite of a command to halt, the intruder made for the back gate as fast as his legs would carry him.

Not wishing to let the fellow, who he thought probably to be a dangerous criminal, escape. Mr. Fogel opened fire with his revolver at the flying form. It now began to get pretty hot for the intruder, and probably thinking of the old saying, "any port in a storm," if he thought at all, he took refuge in an outbuilding. In the meantime the shots had aroused the neighbors and Ike Hoffman came to the aid of Mr. Fogel who had his game effectually "treed" and was standing guard in his ghost like attire. Horrible groans were coming from the interior of the building but the door was held shut on the inside. It was not until the besiegers threatened to shoot through the door that the garrison surrendered and opened the door. He had not been hit but probably wished Fogel to go for a doctor that he might escape.

While Mr. Fogel with his smoking gun in his hand stood guard over his prisoner, Hoffman went for an officer and soon returned with Public Protector Bergman to whom the prisoner was delivered. At the jail he was booked "for safe keeping," but as he told a very straight story to the officers yesterday, about thinking he was at a different house, was entirely without weapons and has ever born a good reputation he will probably not be prosecuted. His mistake was probably caused by a too free indulgence of his appetite for ardent liquors."

When he wasn't defending his home from confused drunks Reuben Fogel was highly active

in Leadville's business society and used his affluent position to safeguard the business interests of his peers. In 1901 Fogel was involved in a civil action against a team of deceptive businessman. The *Herald Democrat* reported that a jeweler and an auctioneer were caught selling false commodities to their customers. "Reuben Fogel represented the merchants and the complaining purchasers in the hearing."<sup>24</sup> The City Council decided to revoke the auctioning license of the jeweler and the auctioneer.

Mrs. Fogel was also active in Leadville society. Kate was a Sunday school teacher for the Temple Israel Synagogue in Leadville. In 1893 she is noted in the *Herald Democrat*, as one of the teachers at the synagogue who helped prepare celebrations for Chanuka.<sup>25</sup> Kate was a member of the Womens' Club in Leadville, and won a "cut glass vinaigrette" at a Hearts card game tournament.<sup>26</sup> The Fogel's daughter, Margurite participated in Leadville's Jewish society by attending the Sunday school at Temple Israel.<sup>27</sup>

In 1903 Fogel and his family moved to Santa Monica, California. Despite the move, Fogel continued to be heavily involved in Leadville affairs. He frequently returned to Leadville to check on his jewelry business and his stake in the Valley Mine. In 1913 Fogel sold the remaining half of his business to Frank Simmons, (a partner in business since 1903)<sup>28</sup> and finally left Leadville to permanently reside in Santa Monica with his family.<sup>29</sup>

On October 29, 1918, mystery and disaster struck when Reuben Fogel was brutally bludgeoned to death in an unoccupied house in Los Angeles. Newspaper accounts of the investigation reveal that Fogel was lured to the abandoned house by a supposed phone call from a destitute woman who needed to sell a bond. The newspaper articles covering the murder



described how Fogel “had consulted mediums and clairvoyants for the past 45 years...”<sup>30</sup> Interestingly, Fogel was robbed of the \$490 in cash but still retained his gold watch and ring. The circumstances around Fogel’s murder are murky. However, it is believed he was a victim of the Dale Gang, “... Reuben M. Fogel... [was] murder[ed] in Los Angeles by members of the Dale Jones gang of bandits, wick terrorized Colorado Springs and Denver last fall... Los Angeles police are of the opinion they have established beyond all question the fact that Jones and his wife lured Fogel to a house in a fashionable section of Los Angeles, where they beat him to death and robbed him of \$490... Jones and his wife, Margaret Cellano Jones, were

killed Tuesday of last week in Arcadia... when they engaged in a revolver and rifle duel with two deputy sherrifs, one of whom was killed.”<sup>31</sup> Another suspect of the murder was hung at San Quentin.<sup>32</sup> These denouements revealed more probable suspects than the early speculation that Fogel was a victim of an elaborate scheme ran by a circle of mediums and psychics.<sup>33</sup>

After this tragedy Fogel’s family continued to live in the Los Angeles/Santa Monica area.<sup>34</sup> Moe Fogel became a lawyer in Los Angeles, he was also the first city attorney of Santa Monica.<sup>35</sup> Leo Fogel became a dentist in Los Angeles<sup>36</sup> and, Marguerite married Charles Herbert Richmond in February, 1918.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Johnathan Fogel Notes

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 1860 Census.

<sup>7</sup> “Reuben Fogel Killed.” *Herald Democrat*, October 31, 1918. Accessed August 3, 2016.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

<sup>8</sup> Jonathan Fogel Notes

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 1900 Census.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Johnathan Fogel Notes

<sup>13</sup> “Reuben Fogel Killed.” *Herald Democrat*, October 31, 1918. Accessed August 3, 2016.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

<sup>14</sup> Leadville Hebrew Cemetery.

<sup>15</sup> Johnathan Fogel Notes

<sup>16</sup> “Personal.” *Leadville Daily Herald*, May 11, 1882. Accessed September 5, 2016.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

<sup>17</sup> 1882 Leadville City Directory.

<sup>18</sup> “Valley Strike Shows Up Well.” *Herald Democrat*, May 24, 1910. Accessed August 3, 2016.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

<sup>19</sup> “Valley Coming Mine.” *Herald Democrat*, January 1, 1903. Accessed September 5, 2016.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>



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- <sup>20</sup> "Society's Giddy Whirl." *Herald Democrat*, September 27, 1891. Accessed September 5, 2016.  
<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>
- <sup>21</sup> "Reuben Fogel Killed." *Herald Democrat*, October 31, 1918. Accessed August 3, 2016.  
<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>
- <sup>22</sup> 1892-1902 Leadville City Directories.
- <sup>23</sup> "Reuben Fogel Returns From Eastern Trip." *Herald Democrat*, March 7, 1903. Accessed August 3, 2016.  
<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>
- <sup>24</sup> "A Brass Watch At Auction." *Herald Democrat*, February 20, 1901. Accessed August 3, 2016.  
<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>
- <sup>25</sup> "The Feast of Chanuka." *Herald Democrat*, December 12, 1893. Accessed September 5, 2016. August 3, 2016. <https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>
- <sup>26</sup> "Society." *Herald Democrat*, September 8, 1901. Accessed September 5, 2016.  
<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>
- <sup>27</sup> "Jewish Sunday School." *Herald Democrat*, March 24, 1902. Accessed September 5, 2016.  
<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>
- <sup>28</sup> Johnathan Fogel Notes
- <sup>29</sup> "Reuben Fogel Killed." *Herald Democrat*, October 31, 1918. Accessed August 3, 2016.  
<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>
- <sup>30</sup> "Slain Man Warned of Violent Death by Feminine 'Spirits' He Consulted, Says Partner." *Los Angeles Herald*, October 30, 1918. Accessed August 3, 2016. <http://cdnc.ucr.edu>
- <sup>31</sup> "Believe Fogel Was Killed By Dale Bandit Gang." *Herald Democrat*, November 27, 1918. Accessed September 5, 2016. <https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>
- <sup>32</sup> Johnathan Fogel Notes
- <sup>33</sup> "Promise Quick Fogel Case Arrests." *Los Angeles Herald*, January 11, 1919. Accessed August 3, 2016.  
<http://cdnc.ucr.edu>
- <sup>34</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 1940 Census.
- <sup>35</sup> Johnathan Fogel Notes
- <sup>36</sup> Johnathan Fogel Notes
- <sup>37</sup> California County Marriages. February 1918.