



# Temple Israel FOUNDATION

## *Biographical Information*

### **Haas**

Samuel G. Haas

Born: 1860

Died:

Carrie (Craver) Haas

Born: 1864

Died:

William Haas

Born: 1884, Leadville, Colorado.

Died: 1942, Denver, Colorado.

It is unclear where the family of Samuel G. Haas originated, but the first recordings of Samuel in Leadville are from April 5, 1883, when he married Carrie Craver at the Lake County Courthouse.<sup>1</sup> A

little more than a year later their first child, William, was born in Leadville.<sup>2</sup> Simon initially worked as an electrician at the Leadville Electric Light Company and the family lived at 221 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1885, Samuel was promoted to superintendent and the Haas family moved to 111 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street where they remained until 1887 when they moved again to 222 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street. In their six years in Leadville, the couple was not very socially active, although Samuel did take part in the 1885 Republican Convention.<sup>3</sup> The family appears to have moved on from Leadville sometime in the latter portion of 1888, or early 1889, to the Denver area.<sup>4</sup>



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Meyer B. Haas

Born: 1834, Holland.

Died: October 2, 1919, Butte, Montana

Emma (Ingram) Haas

(Second wife, one child, see Louis)

Born: 1860

Died: July 15, 1886, Leadville, Colorado,

Sadie L Haas (maiden name unknown)

(Third wife. One child, see Dorothy)

Born: Cynthia, Kentucky, October 22, 1862

Died: Red Cliff, Colorado, July 15, 1907

Matilda "Tillie" (Haas) Darrow

Born: 1865, Leavenworth, Kansas

Died: ?

Charlotte "Lottie" (Haas) Ward

Born: 1869, Leavenworth, Kansas

Died: ?

Louis Haas

Born: May 1881, Leadville, Colorado

Died: June 15 1882, Leadville, Colorado

Dorothy Haas

Born: Minturn, Colorado, 1901

Died: ?

Meyer B. Haas was born in 1834 Holland. He immigrated to the United States through New York City at the age of seven. From there Meyer moved about the country rather extensively, first to Detroit, then briefly to Chicago and Leavenworth, Kansas, before he first tried his luck in Denver in 1858. Meyer's first years in the United States were less than fruitful, and he had multiple business failures before he returned to Leavenworth in 1863 where he found a position as Postmaster. He remained in Leavenworth until 1878. He and first wife, Berdina, had two children, Tillie and Lottie. It is not entirely clear what became of the first Mrs.

Haas, only that she died sometime before the family moved to Leadville in 1879.<sup>5</sup> There he met and married Emma Ingram on December 7, 1880.<sup>6</sup> Meyer and Emma would give birth to their only child, Louis, in May of 1881, but tragically the child barely made it to his first birthday and died as the result of a severe asthma attack on June 15, 1882.<sup>7</sup> This tribulation was only one among many for Meyer and his family, he would marry at least two more times. Emma would pass a mere a few years later at the age of 26, on July 15, 1886, as the result of a morphine overdose.<sup>8</sup>

Meyer's time in Leadville was far more successful than he had experienced in his prior travels. He came to the region and first tried his hand at mining speculation where he began to prosper. It did not take long for Meyer to establish himself within the community and he was appointed to the position of City Jailer on April 18, 1881,<sup>9</sup> a job he would hold until 1884. His time as a city employee was not without controversy; several articles appear in the local newspapers in regards to the accidental death of an inmate who died in the facility on August 5, 1883, as the result of excessive alcohol consumption under Meyer's care.<sup>10</sup> At that time it was revealed that Meyer had been asked to step down from his position earlier that year, to which he responded that he would remain on duty until officially dismissed by the city council. Neither incident seems to have created much urgency for town officials who did eventually dismiss Meyer, but not until January of 1884.<sup>11</sup>

After the separation from his civic post, Meyer retained his residence at 211 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street for a few years while concentrating on mining and real estate speculation.<sup>12</sup> Tillie moved from the family home to 136 West 6<sup>th</sup> and began work as clerk for the firm of Schaffner & Blumberg.<sup>13</sup> Tillie and Lottie were popular young women who frequently attended community functions<sup>14</sup> and Purim Balls throughout their years in the city.<sup>15</sup> Meyer's business continued to grow dramatically and moved



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the family residence again in 1884 to 201 West Chestnut Street. There they remained until 1889<sup>16</sup> when the family moved further north to Minturn, Colorado, in Eagle County.<sup>17</sup>

Though Meyer Haas and his family changed their city of residence to Minturn, by 1889 Meyer was deeply entrenched with his Leadville property holdings that had become quite profitable. On July 22, 1890 he married his third wife, Sadie.<sup>18</sup> Meyer owned shares in many mines around Leadville, which began in 1883 with his purchase of shares in the Blanche, Bright Hope, and Mountain Lark lodes.<sup>19</sup> His career in mining speculation netted him partial ownership in an extensive number of properties that would include the Palmetto, American Flag,<sup>20</sup> Colorado No. 2,<sup>21</sup> Negro Infant Lode, Monte Carlo Lode, Wednesday Lode, King Solomon Lode, and Monte Christo Lode operations just to name a few.<sup>22</sup> He continued to cultivate those interests with the sale of his remaining Leavenworth property in 1892 which left him with nearly \$8,000<sup>23</sup> to invest in his thriving businesses.

Despite the move to Minturn, Meyer's social and professional life was still centered in Leadville.<sup>24</sup> Meyer and his family commuted to Leadville for business and social functions.<sup>25</sup> He was a member

of the local Elks' post and an officer for the local chapter of Odd-Fellows.<sup>26</sup> He attended Republican party functions<sup>27</sup> and Temple Israel events such as the Strawberry Festival and Ball (a fundraising event sponsored by the Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Association to support the construction of the synagogue) in June of 1884.<sup>28</sup> Minturn was also an effective business move for Meyer, where he continued to acquire residential and commercial properties, and eventually establish an insurance agency.<sup>29</sup>

In 1901, Sadie and Meyer would welcome their only child, a daughter they named Dorothy. Unfortunately Sadie spent the final few years of her life suffering from an undisclosed illness, a battle she lost on October 18, 1907.<sup>30</sup>

Lottie married a businessman from Chicago and Tillie married an attorney from Butte, Montana. Dorothy moved to Montana and was raised by her much older half-sister. Meyer fell ill in 1914 and then sold most of his Colorado holdings before moving on to Montana to live with Tillie and her family.<sup>31</sup> He died there in 1919. Meyer was still shown as the titled owner of one Minturn property as recently as 1949,<sup>32</sup> 30 years after his death.



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- <sup>1</sup> "Colorado Statewide Marriage Index, 1853-2006," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KNQW-Z2J> : 31 July 2017), Samuel G Haas and Carrie Craver, 05 Apr 1883, Denver, Denver, Colorado, United States; citing no. 1603, State Archives, Denver; FHL microfilm 1,690,083.
- <sup>2</sup> "Colorado State Census, 1885," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K8WN-WKZ> : 1 April 2016), I G Haas, 1885; citing NARA microfilm publication M158 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 498,507. P35.
- <sup>3</sup> "City Convention". *Carbonate Chronicle*. Leadville, CO; USA. March 28, 1885.
- <sup>4</sup> "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVGC-YJKP> : 13 December 2015), William A. Haas, ; Burial, Denver, Denver, Colorado, United States of America, Fairmount Cemetery; citing record ID 120578264, *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com>
- <sup>5</sup> "Eagle County People 1899". *Eagle Valley Enterprise*; Volume 60, Number 30. Eagle, CO; USA. May 28, 1959. P2.
- <sup>6</sup> Manley and Warford. *Index To Marriages And Marriage Licenses Recorded At The Lake County Courthouse, Leadville, CO; USA*. Historical Research Cooperative. Leadville, CO; USA. 1990. P 218.
- <sup>7</sup> Walley And Nelson. *Walley & Nelson Funeral Records*. Leadville County Clerk And Recorder's Office. Leadville, CO; USA. 1882. P480.
- <sup>8</sup> Walley And Nelson. *Walley & Nelson Funeral Records*. Leadville County Clerk And Recorder's Office. Leadville, CO; USA. 1886. P48.
- <sup>9</sup> Griswold, Don L., and Jean Harvey Griswold. *History of Leadville and Lake County, Colorado: from mountain solitude to metropolis*. Vol. 1. Denver, CO: Colorado Historical Society, 1996. P806.
- <sup>10</sup> "Killed By Whiskey". *Carbonate Chronicle*. Leadville, CO; USA. August, 5, 1883. P5.
- <sup>11</sup> "City Council". *Leadville Daily Herald*. Leadville, CO; USA. January 24, 1883. P4.
- <sup>12</sup> Corbett, TB and Ballenger, JH. "Corbet, and Ballenger's Seventh Annual City Directory: Containing A Complete List Of The Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms Etc. In The City Of Leadville For 1886". *Corbet and Ballenger Publishers*. 1886. P133.
- <sup>13</sup> Corbett, TB and Balanger, JH. "Corbet, and Ballenger's Fourth Annual City Directory: Containing A Complete List Of The Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms Etc. In The City Of Leadville For 1883". *Corbet and Ballenger Publishers*. 1883. P140.
- <sup>14</sup> "The Social World". *Carbonate Chronicle*. Leadville, CO; USA. April 28, 1883. P1.
- <sup>15</sup> "The Purim Ball". *Carbonate Chronicle*. Leadville, CO; USA. March 24, 1883. P4.
- <sup>16</sup> Ballenger, JH and Richards. "Ballenger & Richard's Ninth Annual City Directory: Containing A Complete List Of The Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms Etc. In The City Of Leadville For 1888". *Corbet and Ballenger and Richards Publishers*. 1888. P133.
- <sup>17</sup> "Eagle County People 1899". *Eagle Valley Enterprise*; Volume 60, Number 30. Eagle, CO; USA. May 28, 1959. P2
- <sup>18</sup> "Deaths". *Eagle County Blade*. Minturn, CO; USA. October 24, 1907. P1.
- <sup>19</sup> "Notice Of Forfeiture". *Leadville Daily Herald*. Leadville, CO; USA. August 23, 1884. P3.
- <sup>20</sup> "List Of Delinquent Taxes For The Year 1909". *Herald Democrat*. Leadville, CO,; USA. October 17, 1910. P8.



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- 21 "The Law". *Leadville Daily Herald*. Leadville, CO; USA. August 5, 1882. P1.
  - 22 "Around The City". *Herald Democrat*. Leadville, CO; USA. November 22, 1919. P5.
  - 23 "Trend Of Thought". *Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle*. Leadville, CO; USA. February 1, 1892. P2.
  - 24 "Eagle County People 1899". *Eagle Valley Enterprise*; Volume 60, Number 30. Eagle, CO; USA. May 28, 1959. P2
  - 25 "Hotel Arrivals". *Herald Democrat*. Leadville, CO; USA. August 1, 1903. P2.
  - 26 "MB Haas". *Carbonate Chronicle*. Leadville, CO; USA. P 4.
  - 27 "Democrat Opinions". *Herald Democrat*. Leadville, CO; USA. March 29, 1884. P2.
  - 28 "The Hebrew Festival". *Leadville Daily Herald*. Leadville, CO; USA. June 13, 1884. P4.
  - 29 "Local Paragraphs". *The Eagle County Blade*. John D. Mims. Red Cliff, CO; USA. March 1, 1906. P1.
  - 30 "Deaths". *Eagle County Blade*. Minturn, CO; USA. October 24, 1907. P1.
  - 31 "Eagle County People 1899". *Eagle Valley Enterprise*; Volume 60, Number 30. Eagle, CO; USA. May 28, 1959. P2
  - 32 "Classified Section". *Eagle Valley Enterprise*. Volume 49, Number 33. Eagle, CO; USA. August 18, 1949. P7.



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*To cite this biography, please use:*

AUTHOR: Jeffrey P. Grant

EDITOR: William Korn

SOURCE: Jewish Surnames/Haas

PUBLISHED BY: Temple Israel Foundation. Leadville, Colorado; USA.

STABLE URL: <http://www.jewishledville.org/haas.html>