



Temple Israel FOUNDATION

Biographical Information

Hirsch

Adolph Hirsch

Born: December 18, 1849, Hamburg, Germany.

Died: November 13, 1918. Kansas City, MO.

Immigration: May 10, 1861, New York, NY.

Rachel Hirsch

Born: 1856, Ohio

Died:

David Hirsch

Born: 1879, Leadville, CO.

Irving Hirsch

Born: 1885, Leadville, CO.

Otto Hirsch

Born: 1885, Leadville, CO.

Simon Hirsch

Born: January 1, 1857, Hamburg, Germany

Died: February, 1929, Kansas City, MO.¹

Immigration: 1876, New York, NY.

Clemantine Hirsch

Born: 1867, New York

Died:

Herbert Hirsch

Born: 1887, Kansas City, MO.

Died:

Clarence Hirsch

Born: 1893, Kansas City, MO.

Died:

Adolph Hirsch immigrated to New York City from Hamburg, Germany, in 1861.² It is unclear what occupied his time before his younger brother Simon³ joined him there in 1876,⁴ but the two would head west to Leadville and open a long and successful liquor distributorship there in 1879. It is possible that Adolph met and married his wife

Rachel in Denver during 1878, but certainly before the family arrived in Leadville where all three appear along with the couple's first-born son, seventeen month old David, in the 1880 United States Census as Leadville residents.⁵

Adolph and Simon opened one of Leadville's first liquor distribution operations under the name Adolph Hirsch & Co. in 1879 at 9 West Chestnut Street where they also resided.⁶ The brothers wasted no time involving themselves in their new community, as Simon was elected as an officer of the Bald Tunnel Committee on February 26.⁷ A few months later Adolph was elected as an officer of the Rocky Mountain Lodge of the B'nai B'rith on November 9.⁸

The Hirschs' business was immediately successful and early in 1880 they established a separate residence at 4th Street and Leiter while moving their storefront to 139 West Chestnut Street.⁹ There is little record of controversy in the Hirsch's business operation, but the newspapers do reveal that one Richard James attempted to steal a bottle of brandy from the Hirsch brothers on November 17, 1880. James was apprehended and convicted the following day of petty larceny.¹⁰ In 1881, the brothers changed their business name to Adolph Hirsch & Bro. and relocated the operation again to 221 East 8th Street. Shortly after the move they became the exclusive Leadville distributors for the soon to be famous Adolphus Busch and his father-in-law's Anheuser-Busch Beer¹¹ which was gaining rapid popularity in the western United States. In 1880, Adolph Hirsch & Bro. relocated again to 600 Harrison Avenue, dramatically increasing the size of their warehouse space¹² and later that year Simon was elected as a delegate to the state Republican Convention in Denver.¹³

Early in 1883, the Hirschs expanded again, taking over the storefront at 602 Harrison Avenue doubling their floor space and relocating their residence once again, to 200 West 7th Street.¹⁴ A.



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Hirsch & Bro. further cemented their relationship with Anheuser-Busch and became the exclusive Leadville distributors for Budweiser.¹⁵ Newspaper reports indicated that a forger was fraudulently soliciting orders for A. Hirsch & Bro. from local businesses and pocketing the proceeds. The unnamed suspect left Leadville as news of his wrongdoings spread about town.¹⁶

The business operation relocated again in 1884 to 519 Harrison Avenue.¹⁷ The Hirschs remained highly active in the community. Adolph, Simon and Rachel attended the Purim Bal Masque on March 11¹⁸ and the family hosted David May's victory party after his election to county treasurer on March 26.¹⁹ Both Adolph and Simon were present at an organizational meeting for the Leadville Chamber of Commerce where Simon was elected as a trustee in June.²⁰ The Hirsch's relocated their business again in 1885 to 125 East 6th Street, and their home to 137 West 4th Street.²¹ On January 24, Adolph, Rachel and Simon attended the first party given by the Cloud City Social Club, a local Jewish social organization.²² The newspapers noted that the Hirschs had ceased retail operations during 1885 and the new exclusive focus on wholesale liquor distribution had made the brothers more successful than ever.²³

The new emphasis on liquor distribution altered the Hirsch brother's status significantly. Simon left Leadville in 1886 for Kansas City where he would start S. Hirsch & Co., a sister operation that would soon become the brother's center of operations. Adolph moved the storefront again to 906 Harrison Avenue.²⁴ The family remained highly active in the community. Rachel attended ladies luncheon given by Rosa May on January 8, 1887.²⁵ Adolph and Rachel attended Purim Bal Masque on March 29.²⁶ The business moved again to a new location at 4th and Harrison on November 14.²⁷ Adolph's family moved their home once again in 1888 to 203 West 4th Street²⁸ next to Temple Israel. Adolph also partnered with David May in at least one business venture: the two held the mortgage on the Lion

Clothing House in order to satisfy mounting debts incurred by then proprietor Sam Rich.²⁹ Joseph Shoenberg purchased the clothing business and all assets for \$21, 900 from them on April 8, 1887.³⁰

The family continued to attend noted community and social functions in 1888, including a banquet in honor of the Shoeborgs' return from an extended stay in Europe on February 3rd.³¹ Adolph and Rachel hosted an elaborate party to celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary on March 10th,³² attended a housewarming party for the Metz family on September 3rd,³³ and nine year-old David gave a memorable speech at City Hall during Leadville's Chanukah celebration in December.³⁴ Adolph and many other Chamber Of Commerce members banded together and organized an agreement to exclusively patronize only one of Leadville's three railroads in an effort to combat rising prices on freight, coke and coal.³⁵ Later that year Adolph lead a transportation committee which negotiated standardized freight rates that would ultimately place Leadville businesses on the "same footing" as those operating in Denver.³⁶ In addition to their distribution of Anheuser-Busch products, the Hirschs became the exclusive Leadville distributor of Appollinaris Water.³⁷

In the meantime, Simon's endeavors in Kansas City were growing rapidly. Operating under the name of S. Hirsch & Co. which began as a retail operation and by 1889 had begun to focus entirely on wholesale operations following the model of their Leadville enterprise. That same year, Adolph moved the family once again to 205 West 4th Street³⁸ while continuing to operate the brothers' Leadville operation which was now noted as one of the more prosperous businesses in town.³⁹ Adolph continued to diversify, now dabbling in mining and real estate speculation⁴⁰ while he and Rachel continued to be active in the functions of the community.⁴¹ In 1890 Rachel and Adolph moved the family yet again to 200 West 7th Street, their last known home in Leadville.⁴²



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In 1891, Adolph and Rachel joined Simon and his new wife Clemantine in Kansas City.⁴³ In an interview with the Herald Democrat, Adolph explained that his new home in Kansas City was “wonderful” but he would have preferred to remain in Leadville with its people. The move was motivated entirely by economics as the brothers felt the boom days of Leadville would soon be over.⁴⁴ Despite that notation, and the move, the brothers would continue to operate a storefront in Leadville well into the 20th century. Their other endeavors would also continue in Leadville as in 1895 the brothers would be listed as shareholders of the Mammoth Milling and Mining Company.⁴⁵

In 1901, the Leadville distributorship for the Hirsch brothers moved again, this time to 602 Delaware Street, in connection with S. Hirsch & Co. in Kansas City.⁴⁶ This would be the last time the business appears in the Leadville city directory, but advertisements with the store’s address continue to appear in Leadville newspapers until 1918.⁴⁷

Simon Hirsch & Co. continued to flourish well into the 20th century. The company again altered its focus in 1904 when the company began distilling spirits under the brand names “Quaker Maid Rye Whiskey”, “Crystal Brook Sour Mash”, “Old Brunswick 1879 Rye Whiskey”, “William Patterson Jr. Whiskey”, “Kendall Club Whiskey” and “Clover Nook Irish Whiskey”.⁴⁸ The company became a large regional distributor that operated primarily in Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado and continued to advertise in Leadville newspapers.⁴⁹ The first advertisement for Quaker Maid Rye appeared in Leadville in 1906⁵⁰ and continued in regular circulation until 1918.

The Hirschs operated the liquor distillery until Adolph’s death in 1918 when Simon began producing a patent medicine called Lyko Tonic, and installing his youngest son, Clarence, then 25 years

old, as its president.⁵¹ With prohibition looming, and Lyko’s popularity increasing as a predictable result, S. Hirsch & Co. soon closed operations in Kansas City and Leadville. However, advertisements for Lyko Tonic began appearing in Leadville newspapers as advertisements for Quaker Made Rye and the Hirsch’s Leadville storefront disappeared.⁵² Lyko was 23% alcohol and evidence supports the idea that the “medicine” may have been an acceptable legal substitute for liquor.⁵³ Notably, medical journals of the day report that Lyko is nothing more than a cocktail in disguise.⁵⁴ The shift from liquor to patent medicine kept the family business thriving throughout the first decade of prohibition, and appears to have ceased operations shortly after Simon’s death in 1929.⁵⁵

Isadore Hirsch
(Watchmaker @ Solomon Levy, Goldstein & Brodie)
Born: ?
Died: ?

Little information has been found for Isadore Hirsch. He arrived in Leadville in 1880 and initially resided at 111½ Harrison Avenue⁵⁶ and worked for Solomon Levy as a watchmaker. He was also in attendance at the first anniversary ball for the Rocky Mountain Lodge of the B’nai B’rith on November 9.⁵⁷ In 1881, Isadore relocated his residence to 214 East Chestnut and soon after began working for the firm of Goldstein & Brodie,⁵⁸ locally known as makers of fine custom jewelry. He relocated his home again in 1882 to 126 East 4th Street⁵⁹ and remained in these locations until he left Leadville for San Francisco in 1883.⁶⁰



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- ¹ "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2S9-592J> : 15 March 2016), Simon Hirsch, ; Burial, Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri, United States of America, Elmwood Cemetery; citing record ID 156795873, *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com>
- ² "United States Passport Applications, 1795-1925," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVJP-Q748> : 4 September 2015), Adolph Hirsch, 1902; citing Passport Application, Missouri, United States, source certificate #54689, Passport Applications, 1795-1905., Roll 597, NARA microfilm publications M1490 and M1372 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,516,844.
- ³ "Deutschland Geburten und Taufen, 1558-1898," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NC34-15S> : 28 November 2014), Simon Hirsch, 02 Jan 1857; citing Homburg (BA. Homburg), Bayern, Germany; FHL microfilm 1,057,466.
- ⁴ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M8H8-S4Z> : accessed 9 December 2017), Simon Hersch, Kansas City Ward 12, Jackson, Missouri, United States; citing ED 197, sheet 8A, line 21, family 192, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 924; FHL microfilm 1,820,924.
- ⁵ "United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MFDJ-SR9> : 19 August 2017), Rachael Hirsch in household of Adolph Hirsch, Leadville, Lake, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district ED 75, sheet 344A, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 0091; FHL microfilm 1,254,091.
- ⁶ WM Clark, WA Root And HC Anderson. "Clark, Root and Co's First Annual City Directory of Leadville and Business Directory of Carbonateville, Kokomo and Malta for 1879". *Daily Times Steam Printing House And Book Manufactory*; Denver, CO: USA. 1879. P79.
- ⁷ "Supplement To-morrow". Leadville, CO; USA. Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle. February 27, 1879. P4.
- ⁸ "B'nai B'rith". Leadville, CO; USA. Leadville Weekly Herald. November 15, 1879. P3.
- ⁹ TB Corbett, WC Hoye and JH Ballenger. "Corbet, Hoye and Co's First 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 1880". *Democrat Printing Company*; Leadville, CO: USA. 1880. P191.
- ¹⁰ "Awfully Dry". Leadville, CO; USA. *Carbonate Chronicle*. November 17, 1883. P6.
- ¹¹ "A. Hirsch & Bro." Leadville, CO; USA. Leadville Democrat. July 14, 1881. P8.
- ¹² TB Corbett and JH Ballenger. "Corbet, and Ballenger's Third 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 1882". *Corbet and Ballenger Publishers*. Leadville, CO; USA. 1882. P159.
- ¹³ "Solid For Campbell". Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Herald*. September 12, 1882. P4.
- ¹⁴ TB Corbett and JH Ballenger. "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*. Leadville, CO; USA. 1883. P151.
- ¹⁵ "To The Trade". Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Herald*. March 11, 1883. P4.
- ¹⁶ "Forging Orders". Leadville, CO; USA. Carbonate Chronicle. February 10, 1883. P1.
- ¹⁷ TB Corbett and JH Ballenger. "Corbet, and Ballenger's Fifth 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 1884". *Corbet and Ballenger Publishers*. Leadville, CO; USA. 1884. P138.
- ¹⁸ "The Jewish Festival". Leadville, CO; USA. Leadville Daily Herald. March 12, 1884. P3.
- ¹⁹ "The Festive Board". Leadville, CO; USA. Leadville Daily Herald. March 27, 1884. P4.
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- ²² "Cloud City Social Club". Leadville, CO; USA. Leadville Daily Herald. January 25, 1885. P8.
- ²³ "Matters And Things". Leadville, CO; USA. Leadville Daily Herald. January 13, 1885. P2.



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- 24 TB Corbett and JH Ballenger. "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*. Leadville, CO; USA. 1886. P143.
- 25 "Personal Paragraphs". Leadville, CO; USA. *Carbonate Chronicle*. January 14, 1887. P1.
- 26 "Eighth Annual Purim Ball". Leadville, CO; USA. *Carbonate Chronicle*. April 4, 1887. P2.
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- 29 "A Merchant's Retirement". Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle*. March 25, 1887. P4.
- 30 "Cheap Joe!". Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle*. April 11, 1887. P4.
- 31 "Banqueting Brides". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. February 4, 1888. P4.
- 32 "Personal Mention". Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle*. March 13, 1888. P4.
- 33 "A Splendid Affair". Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle*. September 4, 1888. P3.
- 34 "Chanuka Festival". Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle*. December 4, 1888. P2.
- 35 "Action Of The Shippers". Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle*. January 14, 1888. P3.
- 36 "Board Of Trade Meeting". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. September 9, 1887. P4.
- 37 "Pneumonia Follows". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. June 14, 1888. P3.
- 38 JH Ballenger and Richards. "Ballenger & Richard's Tenth 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 1889". *Corbet and Ballenger and Richards Publishers*. Leadville, CO; USA. 1889. P141.
- 39 "Elegant Exhibit". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. January 1, 1890. P2.
- 40 "With The Recorder". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. September 17, 1890. P2.
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- 43 "Hotels And Personals". Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle*. March 9, 1891. P4.
- 44 "A Good Town". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. March 10, 1891. P4.
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- 48 "S Hirsch & CO. Kansas City, MO. 1887-1918." 2002. *S Hirsch & CO., Kansas City, MO. (1887-1918)*. Pre Pro.com. http://www.pre-pro.com/midacore/view_vendor.php?vid=MCI11309.
- 49 "Quaker Maid Rye". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. June 24, 1906. P3.
- 50 "Quaker Maid Rye". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. June 10, 1906. P3.
- 51 Jack Sullivan. 2011. "Simon Hirsch Swapped Colorado Silver for Missouri Gold." *Those Pre-Pro Whiskey Men!* December 10. <http://pre-prowhiskeymen.blogspot.com/2011/12/simon-hirsch-swapped-colorado-silver.html>.
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- 53 Sullivan, Jack. 2011. "Simon Hirsch Swapped Colorado Silver for Missouri Gold." *Those Pre-Pro Whiskey Men!* December 10. <http://pre-prowhiskeymen.blogspot.com/2011/12/simon-hirsch-swapped-colorado-silver.html>.
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⁵⁷ "Social". Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Herald*. November 14, 1880. P4.

⁵⁸ TB Corbett and JH Ballenger. "Corbet, and Ballenger's Second 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 1881". *Corbet and Ballenger Publishers*. Leadville, CO; USA. 1881. P160.

⁵⁹ Corbett and Ballenger. Denver, CO; USA. 1882 P159.

⁶⁰ "The Adventures Of Sam Maltby". Leadville, CO: USA. *Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle*. December 31, 1888. P4.



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