



# Temple Israel FOUNDATION

## Biographical Information

### Koch

Daniel Koch

Born: Poland, March, 1836.

Died: Denver, CO., 1914.

(Congregation Emanuel Cemetery)

Immigration: 1865

Sarah Koch

Born: Prussia, May 1839

Died: Denver, CO., 1917

(Congregation Emanuel Cemetery)

Immigration: 1865

Samuel Koch

Born: Colorado, 1874

Died: Seattle, WA. 1944.

Carrie Koch

Born: Colorado, November, 1876

Died:

The Daniel Koch<sup>1</sup> family had a long and illustrious presence in Leadville and as members of the Congregation Israel which began in 1879<sup>2</sup> when Daniel opened a liquor store at Lafayette Avenue and Plum.<sup>3</sup> The Kochs remained a relevant Leadville family well into the twentieth century despite moving their home to Denver in 1889.<sup>4</sup> The Kochs were cousins of the Heimbergers<sup>5</sup> and the two families maintained a close relationship long after the Kochs left Leadville.

Daniel, his wife Sarah, son Samuel,<sup>6</sup> and daughter Carrie arrived in Leadville some time between 1876 and 1879, however the first recorded appearance of the family is in the 1879 Leadville City Directory.<sup>7</sup> In 1880, Daniel diversified his business when he moved to a new building at 113 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street and began to distill vinegar<sup>8</sup> which was sold in his grocery store which was then located at 7<sup>th</sup> and Pine streets.<sup>9</sup>

The Koch family was of an interesting character. Daniel was very active within in the community and had a variety of talents. In 1881, he received critical acclaim for his acting performance in an amateur presentation of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Turner Hall during a gathering of Leadville's German immigrants on January 24.<sup>10</sup> Sarah Koch helped to organize the Simchat Taurus (sic) Ball on October 17<sup>11</sup> and frequently served in helping to organize the Purim Masque Balls.<sup>12</sup> Later that year in November, after what was reported as five attempts by Constable Fraser collect taxes from Daniel, the officer came to collect again for a sixth time or to finally shut the store down. Koch became agitated and struck Fraser with an unloaded gun. Fraser then attempted to subdue Daniel when Sarah came to his aid, jumping on Constable Fraser's back. Fraser managed to defuse the situation and in the aftermath Daniel filed charges against Fraser for assault and battery. Fraser filed a counter-complaint against Daniel for resisting arrest. Justice McDowall heard and dismissed both charges.<sup>13</sup>

In 1883, the family expanded their business holdings again by purchasing the Milwaukee House where Sarah ran the restaurant.<sup>14</sup> Both Carrie and Samuel were honor students at Central School.<sup>15</sup> Sarah and Daniel attended and the first Knights of Pythias Ball on October 25.<sup>16</sup> By 1884, Daniel had opened another liquor store and saloon at 610 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>17</sup> Meanwhile, Sarah was highly involved within Congregation Israel committees and functions<sup>18</sup> as well as more civic oriented groups.<sup>19</sup> She was a member and rotational host of the Coffee and Tea Party Club, a small group of Leadville's Jewish ladies that met on Thursday afternoons with no apparent political or social agenda, that included other prominent Jewish women of Leadville such as Monheimer, Schloss, Altman, and Goldenberg.<sup>20</sup> Sarah was also an officer of the Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Association which was responsible for organizing the Great Hebrew Festival associated with the



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Simchat Torahs on October 11.<sup>21</sup> In 1885, Sarah was elected secretary of the Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Association,<sup>22</sup> a position she would continue to hold<sup>23</sup> until the family left town in 1889. Sam and Carrie were also quite popular and active about town. They were present at Rose Metz's birthday party in January<sup>24</sup> and frequently attended the Hebrew Children's Masque Balls.<sup>25</sup> Nine year-old Carrie attended her first Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Association Ball on September 25, 1885.<sup>26</sup>

Controversy sometimes followed Daniel who did not escape an occasional brush with the law. On October 1, 1885, Daniel was at work in his saloon when a card game degenerated to a heated argument and a gunfight that left one of his customers dead. That evening M. L. Parker, his brother George, William Penfeld and Martin Riley were seated at the same table, paired up playing two separate card games when M.L. Parker accused Riley of cheating. The two jumped to their feet and Parker struck Riley in the back of the neck with enough force to draw blood. M.L. Parker was quickly ushered out of the establishment by his brother George and Daniel Koch. Once M.L. calmed down he agreed to treat the table to drinks and apologize to Riley. Meanwhile, Penfeld remained in the saloon attempting to calm Riley and felt he had convinced him that this was all purely a misunderstanding and suggested that Riley return home for the evening. Riley left through the back door moments before Daniel and the Parkers returned through the front. Riley had somehow convinced himself that the three were out front conspiring to attack him and thus reappeared shortly after with a loaded revolver. George Parker reacted quickly and attempted to disarm Riley but in the scuffle the weapon discharged, fatally wounding M.L. Parker who died before a doctor could be summoned to treat him.<sup>27</sup> Riley managed to evade police briefly but was captured on the morning of October 2. In his initial statement, Riley told police and a Carbonate Chronicle reporter that he had been the victim of a gang beating administered by the hands of the

Parker brothers and Koch while maintaining he had no idea who shot M.L. Parker.<sup>28</sup> The defense was effective and Riley was acquitted of all charges on January 22, 1886.<sup>29</sup>

Daniel moved his saloon operation to 324 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street in 1886.<sup>30</sup> Daniel and Sarah continued their visibility in Leadville's social scene and attended the Miner's Union Ball on February 11,<sup>31</sup> Jacob Schloss's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party on March 14,<sup>32</sup> and the Metz's eleventh anniversary party on April 13.<sup>33</sup> Daniel and Sarah, along with the Monheimers, Baers, Sonnenbegs, and Metz's presented a joint gift of a forty table-setting silver set in honor of the Kahn's silver wedding anniversary on May 24<sup>34</sup> and were also present at the Heller's 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party on August 9.<sup>35</sup> Carrie and Sammie had notable vocal talent, both performed solos at the Ninth Street School concert where Carrie sang "Maudie's Visitor" and Sammie performed "Hoe Out Your Row".<sup>36</sup> Daniel was also a member of the Orpheus Club, a members only music club. He sang "Gross and Nordingen" at club function on August 16.<sup>37</sup> The family attended Temple Israel Concert and Ball at City Hall on August 29, 1888.<sup>38</sup>

In 1888, the Kochs opened a new storefront in Newcastle<sup>39</sup> which ultimately initiated moving their residence, briefly, to that town, but within a few months they had found their permanent home in Denver.<sup>40</sup> The change of residence did not seem to limit the family's connections to Leadville or the Temple Israel congregation. Sarah and Carrie attended a reception given for visiting members of the Congregation Bikor Shalom hosted by the Isaac family on September 9.<sup>41</sup> Sarah attended Pauline Simon's birthday party on October 12.<sup>42</sup>

Not long after moving to Denver in 1889, Sarah and Daniel were injured in a stove lighting accident on August 5. Both were badly burned but survived the incident.<sup>43</sup> The Koch home in Denver was described as large and beautiful. It was the setting for the wedding of Jacob Heimberger and Hattie



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Leon on January 12, 1892.<sup>44</sup> Even after their move to Denver, Daniel Koch continued to operate the Milwaukee House at 113 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street until he sold the property in November of 1892. After selling the property, Daniel attempted to collect past-due rent from his former tenant, Augusta Truett, who paid him \$5 in cash and remitted a promissory note for the \$17 balance. Soon after it was discovered that Daniel no longer owned the property and he was arrested on a charge of collecting money under false pretenses. He was ordered to assure a \$500 bond before he was permitted to return to Denver.<sup>45</sup>

There was quite a buzz in the social columns when Carrie, now noted as a “Denver beauty”, attended the Ladies Hebrew Dance in Leadville with Dr. Solomon Kahn in June of 1895.<sup>46</sup> Despite the reports of ‘sparks’ between the two, Carrie never married and remained in her parents’ home until after their deaths. Carrie continued to visit Leadville for holidays<sup>47</sup> and other special occasions<sup>48</sup> well into the twentieth century. She was a bridesmaid for the wedding of Caroline Heitler and Alfred Freedham, a Leadville couple, which took place at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver on April 28, 1899.<sup>49</sup> Daniel<sup>50</sup> died in Denver from lingering health issues in 1914<sup>51</sup> and Sarah followed him a few years later in 1917.<sup>52</sup>

In 1896 Samuel enrolled at the Hebrew Union College<sup>53</sup> in Cincinnati, Ohio<sup>54</sup> and began his studies to become a rabbi. His Leadville connection was very strong and from 1896 to 1902,<sup>55</sup> he returned to Leadville to conduct the Yom Kippur services at Temple Israel.<sup>56</sup> It is not clear if Samuel continued these services<sup>57</sup> after he was appointed to Temple Hirsch de Sinai in Seattle in 1902, but he remained dedicated to the Leadville congregation<sup>58</sup> and split time between the two cities until 1906<sup>59</sup> when he officially took over leadership of the Seattle shul. Samuel had reestablished the Temple Israel Sunday School in 1900<sup>60</sup> and would stay with the Heimbergers whilst visiting.<sup>61</sup> Samuel and his wife, Cora, permanently relocated to Seattle

after his graduation in 1902, however Samuel’s association with the Temple Israel congregation would continue for decades to come.<sup>62</sup>

Rabbi Koch was extremely popular, politically active, and well respected, not only in Leadville, but also all over the West. Taking over the fledgling Temple de Hirsch Sinai in 1906 from the original rabbi, Theodore Joseph, who founded the shul in 1899 Seattle. In 1907, within a year of Samuel’s tenure, the congregation expanded with a second campus location, one in Seattle and the other in nearby Bellevue. Samuel was a vocal anti-prohibitionist and spoke at a political rally in July of 1908<sup>63</sup> while on a national tour. Samuel’s sermons were socially significant, reprinted in local newspapers, and several of his papers are currently housed in the University of Washington’s archives. Samuel always remembered the congregation from Leadville and traveled to Portland in 1921 to preside over the funeral of the former Leadville toy shop owner Isidore Grossmeyer’s wife, Sophie, on November 8.<sup>64</sup> Rabbi Koch served with multiple social service agencies, believed strongly in strengthening the bonds between Jews and Christians, and emphasized education. He helped to create the congregation’s religious school, library, Seattle’s children’s hospital (still in operation today), numerous social programs, and acquired the grounds for the institution’s Hebrew cemetery. Samuel remained the rabbi for Temple de Hirsch until 1942 and died two years later in 1944.<sup>65</sup>



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Alois Koch

Born: Austria, December 1840.

Died: Denver, 1933

Alois Koch immigrated to the United States from Austria in 1857.<sup>66</sup> Alois had substantial business interests and a residence in Denver and likely only split time between Denver and Leadville to monitor his business ventures. He first appears in Leadville in 1879.<sup>67</sup> His wife, Lena, and six children never appear in Leadville records.

In 1880, Alois purchased his first Leadville enterprise, the Koch & Lichter Brewery located on Ten Mile Road at Big Evans Gulch.<sup>68</sup> Alois was active in mining speculation<sup>69</sup> and though Leadville

residential addresses surface on occasion it is clear that his full-time residence was in Denver.<sup>70</sup> Alois occasionally attended Leadville social functions such as the Gotlieb and Mack wedding party on December 20, 1886,<sup>71</sup> but generally focused his attention on business.<sup>72</sup>

Alois operated a very successful delicatessen enterprise with multiple Denver area locations for most of his life. He died in Denver at the age of 93 in 1933.<sup>73</sup>



Joseph Koch

Born: Germany, 1859

Died:

Joseph Koch was a longtime resident of the Leadville mining camps. His primary vocation was mining and was quite successful. Joseph invested wisely and purchased a stake in the Clarendon Bar & Bowling alley with Phillip Kleinschmidt, and was rumored to have made a very comfortable living.<sup>74</sup> He may have arrived in Leadville with the first wave of the mining boom as newspaper articles suggest. In 1904 Joseph maintained his first residence within the Leadville City limits at 630 Elm.<sup>75</sup>

On October 17, 1904 Joseph was nearly permanently blinded in a mining accident at Twin Lakes, Colorado. An explosive shot misfired at the Ruby mine and Joseph attempted to remove the faulty shot with a scraper when the explosive discharged. The shrapnel tore one eye and

penetrated the other in three places. He was admitted to St. Vincent's Hospital where Dr. Boyd who was noted to be an "expert oculist" treated him.<sup>76</sup> Soon it was determined that the right eye might be salvageable. Joseph had no relatives in the United States and relied on organizations like the Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society for aid and comfort during his lengthy recovery. On October 24, doctors at St. Vincent celebrated progress due to the return of some functionality to Joseph's eyes.<sup>77</sup> In November, Joseph was moved to St. Luke's Hospital in Denver where members of the Leadville Turn Verein reported that doctors became hopeful that at least one eye would fully recover.<sup>78</sup> Joseph's partner, Phillip Kleinschmidt, died in December of 1903, and on June 25, 1905, a Lake County probate judge awarded sole ownership of the operation to Joseph, who then sold the business and its assets at public auction on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1905.<sup>79</sup> Miraculously Joseph fully regained his eyesight but never returned to Leadville after the accident.<sup>80</sup>



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- <sup>1</sup> Some hand-written documents are misread by modern digital character recognition software and appear in data searches as “David” Koch. Closer analysis of these documents reveals that *Daniel* is the actual name on these documents.
- <sup>2</sup> "United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MFDJ-ZKT> : 19 August 2017), Sam Koch in household of Dinid Koch, Leadville, Lake, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district ED 79, sheet 395A, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 0091; FHL microfilm 1,254,091.
- <sup>3</sup> 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. P91.
- <sup>4</sup> "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MKWB-4ZH> : accessed 14 February 2018), Daniel Koch, Denver Ward 8, Denver, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 103, sheet 8A, family 221, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 115; FHL microfilm 1,374,128.
- <sup>5</sup> “Personal Mention”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. November 27, 1903. P2. For more information on the Heimberger family please see: <http://www.jewishleadville.org/heimberger.html>
- <sup>6</sup> "Colorado State Census, 1885," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K8WN-8VW> : 1 April 2016), D Kuck, 1885; citing NARA microfilm publication M158 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 498,507.
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- <sup>8</sup> “Palace Hotel”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Herald*. May 28, 1880. P2.
- <sup>9</sup> 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. P182.
- <sup>10</sup> “The Hunchback”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Democrat*. January 25, 1881. P8.
- <sup>11</sup> “Simchas Taurus Ball”. Leadville, CO; USA; *Leadville Daily Herald*. October 23, 1881. P3.
- <sup>12</sup> “The Coming Charity Ball”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Herald*. March 5, 1882. P3.
- <sup>13</sup> “Home Again”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Herald*. November 22, 1881. P4.
- <sup>14</sup> 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. P170.
- <sup>15</sup> “Education Echoes”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Carbonate Chronicle*. December 8, 1883. P4.
- <sup>16</sup> “The Knights Of Pleasure”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Herald*. October 28, 1883. P1.
- <sup>17</sup> 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. P155.
- <sup>18</sup> “A Bunch Of Keyes”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Carbonate Chronicle*. February 28, 1885. P5.
- <sup>19</sup> “A Bunch Of Keyes”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Carbonate Chronicle*. February 28, 1885. P5.
- <sup>20</sup> “Personal Points”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Herald*. January 13, 1884. P4.
- <sup>21</sup> “The Law’s Holiday”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Carbonate Chronicle*. October 11, 1884. P6.
- <sup>22</sup> “Public Charities”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Carbonate Chronicle*. January 3, 1885. P2.
- <sup>23</sup> “Hebrew Ladies Ball”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle*. August 22, 1886. P3.
- <sup>24</sup> “A Children’s Party”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Carbonate Chronicle*. January 3, 1885. P5.
- <sup>25</sup> “Children’s Ball”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Carbonate Chronicle*. May 9, 1885. P3.
- <sup>26</sup> “Hebrew Hop”. Leadville, CO; USA. *Carbonate Chronicle*. September 25, 1885. P4.



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- 28 "Poor Parker". Leadville, CO; USA. *Carbonate Chronicle*. October 3, 1885. P3.
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- 34 "Noted Silver Wedding". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. May 25, 1886. P2.
- 35 "Sanctioned By Silver". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. August 10, 1886. P4.
- 36 "Public School Entertainment". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. April 9, 1886. P2.
- 37 "The Orpheus Club". Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle*. August 17, 1888. P8.
- 38 "Very Fashionable Event". Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle*. August 30, 1888. P3.
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- 40 JH Ballenger and Richards. "Ballenger & Richard's Twentieth Annual City Directory: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms etc. in The City of Denver for 1892". 2011. *Brigham Young University Internet Archive*. Provo, UT; USA. P601.
- 41 "A Delightful Reception". Leadville, CO; USA. *Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle*. September 11, 1888. P4.
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- 43 "Seriously Burned". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. August 7, 1889. P4.
- 44 "Happily United". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. January 13, 1892. P1.
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- 46 "The Hebrew Ladies Dance". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. June 27, 1895. P6.
- 47 "Personal Mention". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. September 9, 1900. P10.
- 48 "Society". Leadville, CO; USA. *Herald Democrat*. November 29, 1903. P9.
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- 53 Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio was established in 1875 by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise as a rabbinical school. Samuel Koch began attending the school in 1896 and returned to Leadville for some time to conduct services at Temple Israel. For more information on Hebrew Union College and the Jewish Institute Of Religion please see <http://huc.edu/campus-life/cincinnati/huc-jir-cincinnati>.
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