



The Lesems were a group of three brothers who were in Leadville briefly in the early 1880s. The brothers included Isaac, Louis and Samuel.¹ Their parents were Solomon Lesem and Rebecca Mook, both from Germany.² Isaac was born during 1847 in Hopkinville, Kentucky. Louis was next, born in 1849. In 1851, Samuel was born in Missouri. Solomon and Rebecca also had a daughter, Celestine, in 1858. Celestine eventually married Benjamin Wisebart and moved to Colorado. In 1877, in Quincy, Illinois, Isaac married Harriet Bernheimer. She was born in Buffalo, New York during 1853.³ By 1880, Isaac, Louis and Samuel had all moved to Leadville. The 1880 census does not show Harriet accompanying Isaac, and she may have initially stayed behind in Quincy, Illinois.⁴

Isaac does not appear in city directories, but he is in the 1880 census⁵ and appears in insurance advertisements up to January 1, 1881.⁶ Both Louis and Samuel appear in the 1881 and 1882 Leadville city directories.⁷ Louis is listed as a cashier for Travelers' Insurance located at 200 Harrison Avenue.⁸ Samuel was an insurance agent at the same location.⁹ In October 1881, Louis was an attendee of the Simchas Torah Ball hosted by the Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society.¹⁰ The pair cease to appear after 1882 in the directories. However, between 1887¹¹ and 1894,¹² Samuel is listed as visiting Leadville from Denver several times for insurance purposes.

After leaving Leadville, Isaac eventually made his way to St. Louis where he died in March, 1928.¹³ His wife, Harriet died in November of the same year.¹⁴ Louis moved to Denver where he died in 1909.¹⁵ It is not known when Samuel died.¹⁶

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. 1880 Census.

² "Outline Descendent Report for Solomon Lesem." Gensheimer, Cynthia. Accessed June 29, 2017.

³ Ibid.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau. 1880 Census.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "The Travelers' Insurance Co." *Leadville Daily Herald*. January 1, 1881. Accessed June 29, 2017.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

⁷ 1881 – 1882 Leadville city directories.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ "Simchas Torah Ball." *Leadville Daily Herald*. October 23, 1881. Accessed June 29, 2017.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

¹¹ "The Local Social World." *Carbonate Chronicle*. June 27, 1887. Accessed June 29, 2017.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

¹² "Personal Mention." *Herald Democrat*. July 14, 1894. Accessed June 29, 2017.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

¹³ "Outline Descendent Report for Solomon Lesem." Gensheimer, Cynthia. Accessed June 29, 2017.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.