



# Temple Israel FOUNDATION

## Biographical Information Sheet

**Nathan**

Edward Nathan

Immigration: England, unknown

Occupation: Dry goods

Siblings: Abraham (Abe) and Nathaniel (Nat)

Spouse: Mrs. Ed(ward) Nathan

Also: Louis

Edward arrived with his brothers, Abe and Nat, in Leadville in 1879.<sup>1</sup> At the time of the Nathan brother's arrival in the city Edward was approximately 25 years old, Abe and Nat were 21 and 27 years old respectively.<sup>2</sup> The Nathan brothers promptly set up a dry goods shop under the name of Nathan Bros. and the business was located on Harrison Avenue, between State and Main Street.<sup>3</sup> Though the name of the shop indicated that it was, indeed a family run business not all of the brothers owned a share of Nathan Bros. Edward and Nat were named co-owners of the shop while Abe served as their clerk.

Where the brothers initially resided is unknown, but the 1880 city directory listed the Nathans as living at 208 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street<sup>4</sup> while their shop had made the move to 219 Harrison Avenue.<sup>5</sup> In 1882, Edward met and married an unknown woman who is simply listed or referred to within the city's

periodicals as Mrs. Ed Nathan.<sup>6</sup> The couple moved to 127 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street while Abe and Nat stayed at the brothers' original residence.<sup>7</sup> However, the next year Louis and Abe moved to 427 Harrison Avenue<sup>8</sup> and remained here for a year until their last move to 313 Harrison Avenue.<sup>9</sup>

From 1882 to 1885, the Nathan Bros. dry goods business was located at 219 Harrison Avenue until 1885, which is the last year that the business is listed within the city directory. In 1886, Edward and Abe no longer reside in the city and the only clues to where Edward and his family went after leaving Leadville are the mentions of a second residence and the birth of a son in Denver.<sup>10</sup> Any whereabouts for the Nathan family after 1886 are unknown.



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**Nathan**

Joseph Nathan

Born: New York, 1864

Occupation: Clothier

Joseph Nathan was born in New York in approximately 1864.<sup>11</sup> Nathan's whereabouts prior to his arrival in Leadville are unknown, but he is working and living in the city by 1885. Nathan is listed as living as a boarder at the address of 115 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street and is reported by the 1885 city directory as being employed as a clothier.<sup>12</sup> Nathan only appears in the city directories in 1885 and there are no other known recorded documents on his presence in the city. Nathan's departure from the city is unknown.



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**Nathan**

Abraham Nathan  
Birth: Approximately 1839  
Death: February 17, 1888  
Immigration:  
Occupation: Cigar Seller

Abraham Nathan immigrated to Leadville in approximately 1878.<sup>13</sup> The date of his migration to the United States is unknown and Nathan is listed as immigrating from Grand Duchess (? of Germany/Austria?).<sup>14</sup> Upon arriving in Leadville, Abram Nathan set up a tobacco and cigar shop at 102 East Chestnut Street.<sup>15</sup> Nathan also lived at this same address but only occupied the 102 East Chestnut address for a single year. In 1881, Nathan moved his shop and residence to 102 Harrison Avenue.<sup>16</sup> Nathan continued to live and work at this address until his death in 1888.

Though there were other prominent families of Nathan's living in Leadville at the same time as Abraham, the two are not related. Regarding Nathan's social presence in the city, the *Leadville Daily/Evening Chronicle* labeled Nathan as a "a hermit" and a "confirmed recluse."<sup>17</sup> Given this personality trait, Nathan was not one to attend social gatherings of any sort and his presence in the city's business directory and the single article reporting his death serve as his only written records in Leadville. No family could be contacted when Nathan passed away and nothing was discovered about the cigar seller's life prior to arriving in Leadville save for a friend in Brooklyn, New York and a few Masonic tokens.<sup>18</sup> Nathan was interred in the Leadville Hebrew Cemetery and any extended family's whereabouts remain unknown.<sup>19</sup>



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**Nathan**

Simon Nathan

Born: 1824, Hamburg, Prussia, Germany

Died: 1906 Pueblo, CO

Immigration to U.S.: 1852

OCCUPATION(s):

Miner (Leadville), Butcher, Cattle Rancher, Dry

Goods Merchant (Pueblo).

Known U.S. Relatives:

Anna (Wife: Zucker)

Born: 1834, Prussia.

Died: 1917, Pueblo, CO.

Adolph (Son)

Born: November 11, 1858, Leavenworth, KS

Louis (Son)

Born: October 7, 1860, Leadville, CO

Died: April 1, 1946. Denver, CO

Belter (Son)

Born: 1863, Leadville, CO.

Leah (Daughter)

Born: Leadville, 1865.

Died: Pueblo, CO. 1870

Rebecca (Daughter: Hirschfield)

Born: 1866, Colorado.

Died: August 29, 1947

Abraham (Son)

1868, Pueblo, Colorado.

Mary (Daughter: Klein)

1871, Pueblo, Colorado.

Simon Nathan emigrated from Prussia to the United States in 1852, with a first stop in New Orleans.

From there Simon moved on to Leavenworth, Kansas where he met and married Anna Zucker in 1857.<sup>20</sup> By all accounts, Simon was a family man.

So much so that he arrived in California Gulch,<sup>21</sup> from Leavenworth, Kansas, with his wife and their first-born son, Adolph,<sup>22</sup> in tow. Not long after their arrival, their second son, Louis, was born on October 7, 1860,<sup>23</sup> which gave him the distinction of being either “the first or second among the Jews”<sup>24</sup> to be born in the region.

Simon came to California Gulch with the intention of mining. There is no specific information relative to the claim within the California Gulch area that Simon worked, but according to several sources he did quite well; one granddaughter’s account remarked that Simon “took the gold out in hunks.”<sup>25</sup> Over the course of five years in the area, the Nathan’s had two more children: Belter, in 1863, and Leah, born in 1865. Although this was truly a pioneer family, all the Nathan children reached adulthood with the exception of Leah, who in an undetermined incident was burned to death in 1870.<sup>26</sup> Rebecca had her own adventure; she was abducted by Indians and returned when Simon and Anna paid her ransom.<sup>27</sup>

The Simons left the Gulch in 1866, and moved further down the eastern side of the divide and tried their hand at ranching and farming.<sup>28</sup> Two years of this agricultural lifestyle was enough. Several accounts have Anna so concerned about more trouble with the local indigenous peoples that she would crawl on all fours to the barn, milk the cows, and return to the house by the same method, but dragging a full pail behind her.<sup>29</sup>

When the Nathan’s gave up on the georgic way of life, they helped to found the city of Pueblo, opening the town’s first dry goods store.<sup>30</sup> Simon is frequently described as having been extremely generous, sometimes to the dismay of Anna, particularly when he gave their home away to a recent widow.<sup>31</sup> Simon was part of the Jewish association that opened the first reform synagogue in Pueblo, and is known as an important historical figure in that city’s history.<sup>32</sup>



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- <sup>1</sup> Clark, Root, and Anderson, HC. "Clark, Root and Co's First Annual City Directory of Leadville And Business Directory of Carbonateville, Kokomo And Malta For 1879". pg. 118.
- <sup>2</sup> "United States Census, 1880".
- <sup>3</sup> Clark, WM, Root WA and Anderson, HC. "Clark, Root and Co's First Annual City Directory of Leadville And Business Directory of Carbonateville, Kokomo And Malta For 1879". pg. 118.
- <sup>4</sup> Corbett, TB, Hoye, WC and Ballenger, JH. "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". pg. 276.
- <sup>5</sup> Ibid. 4.
- <sup>6</sup> "Social For The Sabbath". *Herald Democrat*. March 21, 1886. pg. 4.
- <sup>7</sup> Corbett and Balanger. "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". pg. 208.
- <sup>8</sup> Ibid. 7.
- <sup>9</sup> Corbett, TB and Ballenger, JH. "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". pg. 190.
- <sup>10</sup> "Sautee For A Sabbath". *Herald Democrat*. March 14, 1886. pg. 4.
- <sup>11</sup> 1885 Colorado State census. Lake County, Colorado, Leadville. Alice Dehay. Boarders are listed as Geo Ulrich, Pete O'conner, Joseph Nathan, John Bancroft, John Smith, Joe Newton, John Dalton, James Kennedy, John Julius. P 2.
- <sup>12</sup> Corbett, TB and Ballanger, JH. "Corbet, and Ballenger's Sixth 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 1885". *Corbet and Ballenger Publishers*. 1885. pg. 188.
- <sup>13</sup> "Funeral Notes". *Leadville Daily/Evening Chronicle*, February 17, 1888. P 2.
- <sup>14</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Lake County, Colorado, Leadville, pg. 78, Abram Nathan. Nathan is listed in the 1880 census as being born in Grand Duchess but the exact location of Grand Duchess is unknown.
- <sup>15</sup> City Directory, 1880, pg. 275.
- <sup>16</sup> City Directory, 1881, pg. 225.
- <sup>17</sup> "Funeral Notes". *Leadville Daily/Evening Chronicle*, February 17, 1888. P 2.
- <sup>18</sup> Ibid. 5.
- <sup>19</sup> Hebrew Cemetery of Leadville (Leadville, Lake County, Colorado), Abram Nathan, Headstone, 2016
- <sup>20</sup> Ida Libert Uchill. *Pioneers, Peddlers & Tsaddikim: the story of Jews in Colorado*. 1957. P 23.
- <sup>21</sup> Jeanne Abrams And Anita Wenner. *A Curriculum Guide: Early History Of Jews Of Colorado*. 1998. P 8.
- <sup>22</sup> "New York, New York City Marriage Records, 1829-1940," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:24ZX-86V> : 20 March 2015)
- <sup>23</sup> "Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVLX-YPJV> : 13 December 2015)
- <sup>24</sup> Ida Uchill. 1957. P 23.
- <sup>25</sup> Interview: "Mrs. Fred Meyers; JO, Mar. 2, 1906" Jewish Outlook, 1903-1913 *American Jewish Archives*. USA. 1906.
- <sup>26</sup> Uchill. 1957. P 289.
- <sup>27</sup> Harriet and Fred Rochlin. *Pioneer Jews: A New Life in the Far West*. Boston, MA: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1984. P 71.
- <sup>28</sup> Phil H Goodstein. *Exploring Jewish Colorado*. Denver, CO: Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society, 1992. P 123.
- <sup>29</sup> Rochlin. 1984. P 71.
- <sup>30</sup> Uchill. 1957. P 288.
- <sup>31</sup> Interview: "Mrs. Fred Meyers; JO, Mar. 2, 1906" Jewish Outlook, 1903-1913 *American Jewish Archives*. USA. 1906.
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