



Michael Phillips
Occupation: Merchant
Born: 1885?
Birthplace: Czechoslovakia
Immigration: 1900
Death: ?

Bertha Phillips
Occupation: Housewife
Born: 1885?
Birthplace: Romania
Immigration: 1906
Death: ?

Harry Phillips
Occupation:
Born: 1911?
Birthplace: Romania
Death: ?

Ilona Phillips: ?
Occupation: ?
Born: 1914?
Birthplace: Colorado
Death: ?

Ernest Phillips
Occupation: ?
Born: 1916?
Birthplace: Colorado
Death: ?

Irma Phillips
Occupation: ?
Born: 1918?
Birthplace: Colorado
Death: ?

Dorothy Phillips
Occupation: ?
Born: 1921?
Birthplace: Colorado
Death: ?

David Phillips
Born: 1884?
Birthplace: ?
Death: February 24, 1889

Michael Phillips was a merchant in Leadville. Phillips was born in Czechoslovakia sometime around 1885.¹ He married Bertha, who was born in Romania. Michael immigrated to the United States in 1900; Bertha in 1906. Originally, Phillips came to Leadville to become a “leaser” of mining properties for prospecting purposes.²

Phillips arrived in Leadville at the turn of the century, although the exact date of the family’s arrival is not known.³ He set out to start another congregation in the Leadville area. Because a minyan was necessary, Phillips traveled to nearby towns including Fairplay, Buena Vista and Aspen in order to round up the necessary amount of congregation members.⁴

By 1907, Phillips had established himself as a clothier. His business was located at 207 Harrison Avenue. During that year, Phillips faced considerable misfortune. In August, a large fire blazed through the lower blocks of Harrison Avenue. Phillips’ business accumulated nearly \$6,000 worth of damage as a result of the fire.⁵ In October, two men passed along worthless currency to Phillips at his shop. Since Phillips wasn’t as familiar with American currency as his counterparts, the criminals purchased a shirt with money issued in the Confederate states.⁶ When Phillips went to go deposit the money at the bank, he was given the money back and told it was not even worth five cents.



Michael's first child, Harry Phillips, was born around 1911 in Romania. Harry was born while Bertha was on a trip visiting home in Romania. Phillips had five other children – Ilona, Irma, Dorothy and David who were all born in Colorado. It appears that Phillips was able to find success with his business and life in Leadville over time. In 1917, Phillips was appointed as the county court administrator.⁷ During that time, Phillips was living at 213 West Third Street.⁸ It appears that the family also held a residence in Denver.

In 1919, Phillips was involved in a local campaign for Jewish relief.⁹ The American Jewish Society sought to raise \$35,000,000 for the thousands of Jews in southwestern(?) Europe and Palestine who faced starvation that winter. Phillips was selected as a prominent local businessman to help raise the target funds in Leadville. By 1930, the family was residing at 114 East Eighth Street.¹⁰

It is not known when the family moved from Leadville, however, it is probable that the Phillips family relocated permanently to Denver. Harry Phillips became an owner of the "Bookery" in Denver later on in his life.¹¹

A child by the name of David Phillips was buried in Leadville's Hebrew Cemetery on February 24, 1889.¹² He was five years old.

¹ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X74C-XG7> : accessed 2 February 2018), Michael D Phillips, Leadville, Lake, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 4, sheet 3A, line 33, family 67, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 244; FHL microfilm 2,339,979.

² Breck, Allen DuPont. *The Centennial History of the Jews of Colorado, 1859-1959*. Denver, CO: Hirschfeld Press, 1961. P137.

³ Ibid. P137.

⁴ Ibid. P137.

⁵ "Lower Harrison Invaded by Destroying Flames." *Herald Democrat*. Leadville, CO; USA. October 2, 1907.

⁶ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X74C-XG7> : accessed 2 February 2018), Michael D Phillips, Leadville, Lake, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 4, sheet 3A, line 33, family 67, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 244; FHL microfilm 2,339,979.

⁷ "Appointed Administrator." *Herald Democrat*. Leadville, CO; USA. August 6, 1917.

⁸ "Personal Mention." *Herald Democrat*. Leadville, CO; USA. June 25, 1918.

⁹ "Local Campaign for Jewish Relief Fund." *Herald Democrat*. Leadville, CO; USA. September 14, 1919.

¹⁰ "United States Census, 1930," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X74C-XG7> : accessed 2 February 2018), Michael D Phillips, Leadville, Lake, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 4, sheet 3A, line 33, family 67, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), roll 244; FHL microfilm 2,339,979.

¹¹ Breck, Allen DuPont. *The Centennial History of the Jews of Colorado, 1859-1959*. Denver, CO: Hirschfeld Press, 1961.

¹² "Who's Where In Leadville's Evergreen Cemetery". *Historical Research Co-operative*. Leadville, CO; USA. 1981.