



# Temple Israel FOUNDATION

## Biographical Information Sheet

### Rachofsky

David Louis (“Lewis” “D. L.”) Rachofsky

Occupation: Store manager

Born: 1853-1854

Birthplace: Russia

Died: 1930

Rachel Rachofsky

Occupation:

Born: October 1853

Birthplace: Russia

Died:

Minnie Rachofsky

Occupation:

Born: January 1876

Birthplace: Russia

Died:

Esther Rachofsky

Occupation:

Born: July 1878

Birthplace: Russia

Died:

Leah Rachofsky

Occupation:

Born: January 1881

Birthplace: Russia

Died:

Sarah Rachofsky

Occupation:

Born: January 1886

Birthplace: Russia

Died:

Isidore Rachofsky

Occupation:

Born: November 1888

Birthplace: New York

Died:

Bertha C. Rachofsky

Occupation:

Born: October 1889

Birthplace: Colorado

Died:

Aaron Rachofsky

Occupation: Store clerk

Born:

Birthplace:

Died:

Very little information remains of the Rachofsky family’s time in Leadville with only passing mentions of a David Louis Rachofsky and others bearing the family name in local newspapers and city directories. Claims by historian Allen Breck connect David to Rachofskys who held business interests in Central City, Durango, and Boulder, Colorado.<sup>1</sup> Further, David was supposedly an officer in Leadville’s Orthodox Jewish congregation, Kneseth Israel as early as 1892.<sup>2</sup>

The most promising lead on a birth-year for David is a headstone found in the Mount Nebo Cemetery, a Jewish cemetery located in Aurora, Colorado.<sup>3</sup> The headstone notes his birth as 1853 but lacks any other clues. What is clear, however, is that David came to Leadville around 1892, the first year the city directory records him.<sup>4</sup> It is possible he could have arrived earlier, however. The 1885 Colorado State Census lists a Louis Rachofsky living in Central City, Colorado, yet the birth year is off, showing 1875. This Louis Rachofsky is most likely not the David Louis Rachofsky who came to Leadville in the early 1890s as he would have been only sixteen or seventeen years of age when he became an officer for Kneseth Israel, far too young for such a position.



# Temple Israel FOUNDATION

## Biographical Information Sheet

### Rachofsky

An Aaron Rachofsky appears alongside David in the 1892 city directory which notes that both worked for Ben Cohen<sup>5</sup> and resided at 201 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>6</sup> They were clearly relatives in some way, though it is difficult to determine how. Aaron disappears from the city directories in 1894 but David remained in town living at the same address. After 1894, David no longer appears in city directories.

David likely became involved in planning a separate, Orthodox Jewish congregation from Temple Israel during his time in Leadville, eventually developing into Kneseth Israel in 1892.<sup>7</sup> Leadville newspapers reported on the congregation's acquisition of a Salvation Army barracks on West 5<sup>th</sup> Street for use as a synagogue.<sup>8</sup> Unfortunately, no newspapers reporting on Kneseth Israel mention the names of the congregation's officers.

David finally re-appears in the 1900 US Census, listed as living in Denver with his wife, Rachel, and six children.<sup>9</sup> David reportedly immigrated to the United States in 1880 and Rachel immigrated six years later in 1886. David and Rachel married in 1871, many years prior to their immigration. The record states that David was born in Russia, as did his wife and most of his children. In addition to the roughly-matching birth year between the census record and the grave – one stating 1853, the other 1854 – one of his children, Esther, gives credence to this David Rachofsky being the man who settled in Leadville. After David, an Esther Rachofsky is the most frequently mentioned Rachofsky in Leadville's newspapers, listed as a student at Central School and an attendee of a ball hosted by Kneseth Israel, both in 1893.<sup>10</sup> Based on the ages of the children, they all likely lived in Leadville with their father between 1892 and 1894. In 1910 David was still living in Denver with his wife and five of

their six children.<sup>11</sup> The 1920 US Census is the final census in which David is listed, shown to have been still living in Denver with his wife and only two children, Sarah and Bertha.<sup>12</sup> David's gravestone at Mount Nebo Cemetery records the year of his death as 1930.<sup>13</sup>

Michael Rachofsky  
Occupation: Laborer  
Born:  
Birthplace:  
Died:

Michael Rachofsky first appears in the 1894 Leadville city directory listed as a laborer residing at 522 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.<sup>14</sup> David Louis Rachofsky lived at 201 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street so it is unknown whether any familial relation existed. After 1894, Michael no longer appears in city directories or in census records.



# Temple Israel FOUNDATION

## Biographical Information Sheet

### Rachofsky

Abraham (“Abe”) Rachofsky

Occupation: Store co-owner

Born:

Birthplace:

Died:

Harry Rachofsky

Occupation: Company co-owner

Born:

Birthplace:

Died:

J. L. Rachofsky

Occupation: Company co-owner

Born:

Birthplace:

Died:

Numerous Rachofskys appear in local newspapers for Central City, Durango, and Boulder, Colorado between 1890 and 1907, though their connection to David, if any exists, is unclear.<sup>15</sup> Per Allen Breck’s monograph, *The Centennial History of the Jews of Colorado*, one such Rachofsky – Abe or Abraham – may have been David’s brother.<sup>16</sup> Abe, along with Harry and J. L. Rachofsky, owned the Famous Stores Company founded in Durango in 1893.<sup>17</sup>

Mark Rachofsky

Occupation: Company co-owner

Born:

Birthplace:

Died:

Mark Rachofsky is the final person bearing the Rachofsky name who lived in Leadville. A *Herald Democrat* advertisement published in 1913 reveals that he worked at a clothing store at 318-320 Harrison Avenue in some form of partnership with an E. Pelton.<sup>18</sup> Mark’s relation to David Louis Rachofsky, if there was any, is not known.



<sup>1</sup> Allen DuPont Breck, *The Centennial History of the Jews of Colorado, 1859-1959* (Denver: The Hirschfeld Press, 1960).

<sup>2</sup> Allen DuPont Breck, *The Centennial History of the Jews of Colorado*, 136.

<sup>3</sup> "David Lewis Rachofsky," Find a Grave, Mount Nebo Memorial Park id. 75443626 (Aurora, Colorado) <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/75443626/david-lewis-rachofsky> (accessed September 7, 2018).

<sup>4</sup> John H. Ballenger and William H. Richards, *Ballenger and Richards' Thirteenth Annual Leadville City Directory, Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms, Etc. in the City of Leadville for 1892* (Leadville: Ballenger and Richards, Publishers, 1892): pp. 220.

<sup>5</sup> For more information on the Cohen family, please visit: <http://www.jewishleadville.org/cohen.html>

<sup>6</sup> John H. Ballenger and William H. Richards, *Ballenger and Richards' Thirteenth Annual Leadville City Directory, Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms, Etc. in the City of Leadville for 1892* (Leadville: Ballenger and Richards, Publishers, 1892): pp. 220.

<sup>7</sup> Allen DuPont Breck, *The Centennial History of the Jews of Colorado*, 136.

<sup>8</sup> "Bought the Barracks," Leadville Evening Chronicle (Leadville, CO) November 3, 1892: 1; "Home Talent," Herald Democrat (Leadville, CO) December 11, 1892: 7.

<sup>9</sup> "United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M31B-F6T>; accessed 6 September 2018), Louis D Rashofsky, Precinct 1 Denver city Ward 5, Arapahoe, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 32, sheet 7A, family 163, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972.); FHL microfilm 1,240,117.

<sup>10</sup> "Kneseth Israel Ball," Herald Democrat (Leadville, CO) November 25, 1892: 1; "Mid-Winter Gaiety," Herald Democrat (Leadville, Colorado) January 22, 1893: 4; "In the Public Schools," Herald Democrat (Leadville, CO) January 29, 1893: 5.

<sup>11</sup> "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MKWY-4CV>; accessed 6 September 2018), David L Rachofsky, Denver Ward 8, Denver, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 94, sheet 15A, family 322, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 115; FHL microfilm 1,374,128.

<sup>12</sup> "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MX2G-SW2>; accessed 6 September 2018), David L Rachofsky, Denver, Denver, Colorado, United States; citing ED 261, sheet 3B, line 74, family 69, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 162; FHL microfilm 1,820,162.

<sup>13</sup> "David Lewis Rachofsky," Find a Grave, Mount Nebo Memorial Park id. 75443626 (Aurora, Colorado) <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/75443626/david-lewis-rachofsky> (accessed September 7, 2018).

<sup>14</sup> John H. Ballenger and William H. Richards, *Ballenger and Richards' Fourteenth Annual Leadville City Directory, Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms, Etc. in the City of Leadville for 1894* (Leadville: Ballenger and Richards, Publishers, 1894): pp. 220.

<sup>15</sup> Untitled, Boulder Daily Camera (Boulder, CO) May 20, 1895: 4; "Personal Mention," Herald Democrat (Leadville, CO) August 10, 1897: 8; "Local Items," Jewish Outlook 3, no. 23 (Denver, CO) April 6, 1906: 8; "Local Items," Jewish Outlook 3, no. 38 (Denver, CO) July 20, 1906: 8.

<sup>16</sup> Allen DuPont Breck, *The Centennial History of the Jews of Colorado*, 46.

<sup>17</sup> "Big Fire at Durango," Whitehorn News 9, no. 11 (Whitehorn, CO) November 10, 1905: 2.

<sup>18</sup> "Attention, Ladies!" Herald Democrat (Leadville, Colorado) November 9, 1913: 2.



---

#### Bibliography

Ballenger, John H. and William H. Richards. *Ballenger & Richards Annual Leadville City Directory Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms, Etc. in the City of Leadville*. Leadville: Ballenger & Richards, Publishers. Via Lake County Public Library.

Breck, Allen DuPont. *The Centennial History of the Jews of Colorado, 1859-1959*. Denver: The Hirschfeld Press, 1960.

Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection. Search criteria, "Rachofsky" "Kneseth" "Orthodox" "Salvation Army" "Abe Rachofsky" "Abraham Rachofsky" "Esther Rachofsky. Accessed September 8, 2018. <https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/>

Find a Grave. Accessed September 7, 2018. <https://www.findagrave.com/>.

*United States Census*, 1900. Via FamilySearch.org. <https://www.familysearch.org/>.

*United States Census*, 1910. Via FamilySearch.org. <https://www.familysearch.org/>.

*United States Census*, 1920. Via FamilySearch.org. <https://www.familysearch.org/>.

AUTHOR: Quinn Whittington

EDITOR: William Korn

SOURCE: Jewish Surnames/Rachofsky

PUBLISHED BY: Temple Israel Foundation. Leadville, CO; USA. 2018

STABLE URL: <http://www.jewishleadville.org/rachofsky.html>