



Temple Israel FOUNDATION

Biographical Information Sheet

Zeiler

Ausios and Nettie Zeiler Household

Ausios Meyer Zeiler
Born: 1855, Vienna, Austria
Died: October 29, 1912

Nettie Schillinger Zeiler
Born: 1859, Vienna, Austria
Died: July 4, 1940

Avram Herman Zeiler
Born: March 29, 1882, Vienna, Austria
Died: July 16, 1943

Samuel Zeiler
Born: June 18, 1890, Leadville, Colorado
Died: February 18, 1920

Joseph Zeiler
Born: February 12, 1896, Leadville, Colorado
Died: May 24, 1961

Esther Zeiler
Born: December 1897 or 1898, Leadville, Colorado
Died: June 20, 1969

Joseph and Mrs. Joseph Zeiler Households

Joseph Zeiler
Born: Austria
Died: Unknown

Mrs. Joseph Zeiler
Born: Unknown
Birthplace: Austria
Died: Unknown

Johnny Zeiler
Born: Unknown
Birthplace: Unknown
Died: Unknown

Herman Zeiler
Born: Unknown
Birthplace: Unknown
Died: Unknown



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While not as prominent as some of the leading Jewish families in Leadville, the Zeiler family was nevertheless a long-lasting fixture in the city, residing here from 1887 to 1913. Notably, the Zeilers were emblematic of the opportunities that the United States provided to many Jewish immigrants and their children. Ausios Meyer Zeiler, the patriarch of the major Zeiler branch in Leadville, was a dry goods merchant who maintained a simple, yet stable, business on the city's main street. His sons, however, were able to move on from the family business to attend medical school and became doctors, making comfortable lives for themselves in Los Angeles, California.

Ausios and Nettie Schillinger were born in Austria in 1855¹ and 1859,² respectively. The couple married prior to their arrival in the United States, most likely just before the birth of their first child, Avram Herman Zeiler (who went by Herman) on March 29, 1882.³ The couple gave separate dates for their immigration in the 1910 US Census: Ausios in 1887, and Nettie reportedly in 1890.⁴ It was not uncommon for mothers and children to immigrate later, when the father had established adequate business and housing. The year that Nettie reported is suspect because their second child was born in Leadville on June 18, 1890.⁵

Curiously, it appears that Ausios made his way to Leadville immediately after his immigration rather than first settling in a major port like New York City or an otherwise more established locale. He arrived in Leadville in 1887, the same year he immigrated and in time for the July-published Leadville City Directory to record him.⁶ Such a quick arrival in Leadville after immigration typically indicates a preexisting familial or business associate's presence in the city. The fact that Ausios immediately formed a business with fellow Austrian immigrant Moritz Mankuss does hint at a degree of familiarity between the two. However, any such prior connection is unfortunately unknown.

Ausios' first business endeavor in Leadville was the short-lived tailoring firm of Mankuss & Zeiler, formed with the above-mentioned Moritz Mankuss and located at 120 Harrison Avenue.⁷ Like many early merchants in Leadville, he also lived above the business. In 1888, Ausios opened his new dry goods business, simply named M. Zeiler, at 112½ Harrison Avenue where he also resided.⁸ The business and the Zeiler home changed once during their time in Leadville, from 112½ Harrison Avenue to 112 Harrison Avenue.

Although Nettie's year of immigration is not entirely certain, she and young Herman had nevertheless arrived in Leadville by 1890. The family welcomed their second child, Samuel, in June of that year.⁹ Two more children were born to Ausios and Nettie in the following decade: Joseph, born February 12, 1896,¹⁰ and Esther, born 1897¹¹ or 1898.¹² A Joseph Zeiler appeared in Leadville's 1891 city directory under the employment of Ausios and living above the store.¹³ The exact relation between the two is unclear, but they were likely brothers. Newspaper articles pertaining to Joseph noted that he was married and had two children named Johnny and Herman. However, vital information on the family is absent. Joseph's naturalization record only provided his birthplace, in Austria.¹⁴

Despite their lengthy tenure in Leadville, surprisingly few newspaper articles exist pertaining to the family. The Zeilers apparently avoided public controversy or activities that would incur gossip. The exception was Ausios' presumed brother Joseph, whose son found himself on the wrong side of the law in 1895. According to a *Leadville Evening Herald* article, police arrested Joseph's son Johnny for stealing coal from the Midland Railroad coal yards. At the trial, Johnny reported that his father told him and his brother Herman to purchase coal from the Sunshine coal office in town but inadvertently found themselves at the railroad's coal yard after their dog ran away. Joseph had moved on from Ausios' business by 1894 and began working



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as a peddler from his family's home at 411 Pine Street¹⁵ with the intention of reselling the coal his sons were sent to purchase.¹⁶ The article humorously poked holes in the boys' story and also detailed Johnny's punishment, placing much of the blame on the parents. Curiously, Herman avoided any repercussions:

Johnny was taken before Judge Nash at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon and Deputy Briggs, and an ore hauler named Shafer both testified to having seen Johnny and his brother Herman at the chute. The father and mother of the children were both in court, and were in a wildly excited condition. They both alleged that the father had sent them to the Sunshine coal office, but as the coal could not be delivered immediately the boys were given permission to get coal from the cars. The only way the boys could explain how they came to be at the Midland coal yards, half a mile distant, was from the fact that their dog, which was hauling the sled, had run away. The peculiarity of the running away was that the intelligent canine knew enough to run directly to the Midland chute, and there stop.

When Judge Nash sentenced the boy to the reform school at Golden there was a wail went up which almost split the ceiling. The mother seized her child, and for a few moments held the court officers at bay, refusing to allow them to take him away. Finally, however, the little fellow was pulled away from the frantic mother and borne down the stairs, howling lustily. Then the parents turned their attention to the judge, who had gone into his office. Not speaking the purest English they

probably concluded that the best course to pursue was to endeavor to reach the judicial heart through the medium of cries and tears. Combined with wild and wild [sic] and despairing ejaculations. Zeiler wringing his hands and begging the judge in his highest key not to send his little boy away, while, to add to the dramatic effect of the scene, Mrs. Zeiler got down on her knees and added a shrill falsetto to the chorus. The grief of the couple was certainly sincere and probably natural enough under the circumstances, but, according to the testimony of Deputy Briggs, who has been watching the coal yards, the parents themselves are largely to blame. According to his testimony the boys are sent to the coal yards by the father himself, and it was also stated that Zeiler peddles the coal thus taken at 25 cents a sack.¹⁷

Soon thereafter, Joseph and his family disappeared from Leadville sources and do not reappear in newspapers or public records in Colorado. Further information pertaining to the family is unavailable.

When the Zeiler name did surface in the newspaper, it most often pertained to the children's current level of education or their social activities outside of school. Herman, for example, was in room two of Leadville's Central School in 1895¹⁸ and in high school in 1899.¹⁹ He also attended a sizeable Halloween party hosted by a Lulu Grabert in 1899.²⁰

Ausios and Nettie's family was largely absent from newspaper mentions from the early 1900s until 1912. Their eldest child, Herman, left Leadville sometime prior to 1906 to attend medical school. He worked as an intern physician in 1906 at the Ancon Hospital (now known as Gorgas Hospital) in



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Panama City during the construction of the Panama Canal.²¹ His service record card listed his then-residence as 165 West 19th Street, New York City. By 1911, Herman had made his way to Los Angeles, California.²² Samuel and Joseph remained in Leadville and began working at their father's tailoring shop in 1911²³ and 1912,²⁴ respectively. In 1912, Ausios also expanded his business to include 216 Harrison Avenue while retaining the old shop at 112 Harrison Avenue.²⁵ Samuel may have been managing the new store at 216 Harrison because the city directory noted that he lived at the address. The entire family made 216 Harrison their new home later that year.²⁶

After nearly three decades of relative quiet for the Zeiler family, their lives changed dramatically in 1912, the same year that Ausios decided to grow his business. Ausios passed away on October 29, 1912, and his funeral service was held at the family's home at 216 Harrison Avenue.²⁷ Longtime Jewish residents Maurice Miller and Harry Mamlock led the burial service at Leadville's Hebrew cemetery.²⁸ Pallbearers included Ausios' early business partner Moritz Mankuss, Maurice Miller, Hyman Isaacs, Abraham Sandusky, Maurice Stager, and Samuel Amter. An administrator sale took place in December, 1912 to sell off the remainder of Ausios' business stock.²⁹

The Zeiler family remained in Leadville for one year after the death of Ausios and continued residing at 216 Harrison Avenue, where Samuel operated a revived dry goods business under his own name.³⁰ The remaining Zeiler family made their way to Los Angeles, California after departing Leadville. (Alan Gardner, a descendent of Ausios and Nettie, describes their lives further below.) Samuel passed away on February 18, 1920,³¹ Nettie on July 4, 1940,³² and Joseph on May 24, 1961.³³ They are buried at Home of Peace Memorial Park in Los Angeles. Avrum passed away on July 16, 1943, and is buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles.³⁴ Esther died on June 20, 1969, in Los Angeles.

The photographs throughout this page (except for the tombstone photograph) and the following information were kindly submitted by Alan Gardner, great-grandson of Ausios and Nettie Zeiler:

Esther Zeiler, as your notes show, was born December 5, 1895.³⁵ She, Herman, and Joseph all ended up in Los Angeles, I have no idea why, but seems it was about 1919.

Esther married Al Lewis Silk sometime in the late 20's. Esther and Al had a daughter Marilyn Audrey Silk (b. April 27, 1931, d. January, 1969).³⁶ I also don't know what Esther did before she married Al, except she owned or was part owner of a dress shop for a while. Esther died in June, 1969.

Marilyn Silk married Monroe Gardner (b. June 9, 1927, d. February 4, 2000) in August 1949. They too had one child: Alan Lawrence Gardner (that's me!).

Alan Gardner married Barbara Ann Bartlett in 1988. They have one child, Laura Ann Gardner. Laura is Ausios Zeiler's Great Great Granddaughter.

Joe Zeiler (b. February 12, 1896) graduated USC medical school, but I'm not sure when. He became a prominent urologist in Los Angeles. He married Elzie Inez Hicks (b. March 21, 1897, d. January 1989) in 1927. They had one daughter: Meyera Zeiler. Joe Zeiler died May 24, 1961, of a sudden heart attack (see obituary).



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I believe Herman Zeiler became a doctor, also in the Los Angeles area, and may have been a pathologist. I may be wrong about this. I also think he had a son also named Alan.

Herman Zeiler, the son of Ausios Meyer Zeiler, studied medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons (now Columbia University). He served as Pathologist on the building of the Panama Canal where he met his future wife, Geneva Eden Dunkle of Huntington, West Virginia. She was a nurse on the same project. (One return visit from Panama is documented online by an entry through Ellis Island.)

Meyer Zeiler (born 1/3/1914) became a pathologist like his father. He married Floria Dena Goldman in Los Angeles 2/14/1942. They had two children, Claudia Zeiler and Andrew Herman Zeiler. Claudia Zeiler has one daughter. Andy Zeiler has two adult children, Zachary Zeiler and Gwendolyn Rose Zeiler. Andrew Herman Zeiler now lives in Boulder, Colorado.

Virginia Zeiler married Sandy Vaughn and lived her adult life in Schenectady, N.Y. They had one son, Michael Vaughn.



¹ Leadville Hebrew Cemetery Database, *Zeiler, Ausios* (d:29-Oct-1912), Blk: C, Lt: 12, Grave: n/a (Leadville, CO: Temple Israel Foundation, 2016).

² *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167014414/nettie-zeiler>: accessed March 12, 2023), memorial page for Nettie Schillinger Zeiler (1859 – July 4, 1940), Find a Grave Memorial ID 167014414; citing Home of Peace Memorial Park, East Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, USA, maintained by cstreib (contributor 47532191).

³ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/138010361/avrum-herman-zeiler>: accessed March 12, 2023), memorial page for Dr Avrum Herman Zeiler (29 Mar 1882–16 Jul 1943), Find a Grave Memorial ID 138010361; citing Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, Los Angeles County, California, USA, maintained by ! woowoo (contributor 49949980).

⁴ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MK4H-VTR>: accessed March 12, 2023), Myers Zieler, Leadville Ward 1, Lake, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 68, sheet 1B, family 21, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 121, FHL microfilm 1,374,134.

⁵ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/53327395/samuel-zeiler>: accessed March 12, 2023), memorial page for Samuel Zeiler (June 18, 1890 – February 18, 1920), Find a Grave Memorial ID 53327395; citing Home of Peace Memorial Park, East Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, USA, maintained by Diana Brown (contributor 46969899).

⁶ T. B. Corbett and J. H. Ballenger, *Corbett & Ballenger's Eighth 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 1887* (Leadville, CO: Corbett & Ballenger, Publishers, 1887), P277.

⁷ Corbett and Ballenger, 1887, P189.

⁸ J. H. Ballenger and W. H. Richards, *Ballenger & Richards' Ninth 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 1888* (Leadville, CO: Ballenger & Richards, Publishers, 1888), P267.

⁹ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/53327395/samuel-zeiler>: accessed March 12, 2023), memorial page for Samuel Zeiler (June 18, 1890 – February 18, 1920), Find a Grave Memorial ID 53327395; citing Home of Peace Memorial Park, East Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, USA, maintained by Diana Brown (contributor 46969899).

¹⁰ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167728916/joe-zeiler>: accessed March 12, 2023), memorial page for Dr Joe Zeiler (12 Feb 1896–24 May 1961), Find a Grave Memorial ID 167728916; citing Home of Peace Memorial Park, East Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, USA, maintained by Scott G (contributor 453).

¹¹ "California, U.S., Death Index, 1940-1997," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/11865435:5180?ssrc=pt&tid=17438138&pid=240013272130>: accessed March 12, 2023), Esther Silk; citing *California Death Index, 1940-1997* (Sacramento: State of California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, n.d.), Social Security no. 547688289.

¹² "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1934-2014," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/57141739:3693?ssrc=pt&tid=17438138&pid=240013272130>: accessed March 12, 2023), Esther Silk; citing *Social Security Death Index, Master File* (Washington, D.C.: Social Security Administration, n.d.), Social Security no. 547688289.

¹³ J. H. Ballenger and W. H. Richards, *Ballenger & Richards Twelfth 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 1891* (Leadville, CO: Ballenger & Richards, Publishers, 1891), P261.

¹⁴ "Colorado, U.S., State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1868-1990," database and images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/158322:61194?tid=&pid=&queryId=7a15f57a95571ba305c05ef015e383&_phsrc=mFk48&_phstart=successSource: accessed March 12, 2023), Joe Zeiler, Leadville, Lake, Colorado; citing *Naturalization Cards, 1880 – 1906*, (Denver: National Archives at Denver, n.d.), NAI number 1307044.

¹⁵ J. H. Ballenger and W. H. Richards, *Ballenger & 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, CO: Ballenger & Richards, Publishers, 1894), P262.

¹⁶ J. H. Ballenger and W. H. Richards, *Ballenger & Richards Fifteenth 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 1895* (Leadville, CO: Ballenger & Richards, Publishers, 1895), P278.

¹⁷ *Is Caught Stealing Coal* (Leadville, CO: *Leadville Evening Chronicle*), February 12, 1895, P4.

¹⁸ *The Month's Roll of Honor* (Leadville, CO: *Leadville Evening Chronicle*), February 11, 1895, P4.

¹⁹ *Pupils' Roll of Honor for March in Leadville's Public Schools* (Leadville, CO: *Herald Democrat*), April 4, 1899, P7.



²⁰ *In Society's Whirl* (Leadville, CO: *Herald Democrat*), November 5, 1899, P2.

²¹ "U.S., Panama Canal Zone, Employment Records and Sailing lists, 1884-1937," database with images, *Ancestry*

([https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/125227:61857?tid=&pid=&queryId=61e85a8c91c3679c330c11018aea365c&_phsrc=mFk113&_phstart=successSource)

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²² "Medical News," *The Journal of the American Medical Association* 57, no. 1-13 (August 1911): P569.

²³ J. H. Ballenger and W. H. Richards, *Ballenger & Richards Thirtieth Annual Leadville City Directory for 1911: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms, Etc.* (Leadville, CO: Ballenger & Richards, Publishers, 1911), P277.

²⁴ J. H. Ballenger and W. H. Richards, *Ballenger & Richards Thirty-First Annual Leadville City Directory for 1912: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms, Etc.* (Leadville, CO: Ballenger & Richards, Publishers, 1912), P271.

²⁵ Ballenger and Richard, 1912, P271.

²⁶ *Funeral of M. Zeiler* (Leadville, CO: *Herald Democrat*), November 1, 1912, P5.

²⁷ *Funeral of M. Zeiler*, November 1, 1912, P5.

²⁸ Leadville Hebrew Cemetery Database, *Zeiler, Ausios* (d:29-Oct-1912), Blk: C, Lt: 12, Grave: n/a (Leadville, CO: Temple Israel Foundation, 2016).

²⁹ *Administrator's Sale* (Leadville, CO: *Herald Democrat*), December 19, 1912, P2.

³⁰ J. H. Ballenger and W. H. Richards, *Ballenger & Richards Thirty-Second Annual Leadville City Directory for 1913: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms, Etc.* (Leadville, CO: Ballenger & Richards, Publishers, 1913), P274.

³¹ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/53327395/samuel-zeiler>: accessed March 12, 2023), memorial page for Samuel Zeiler (June 18, 1890 – February 18, 1920), Find a Grave Memorial ID 53327395; citing Home of Peace Memorial Park, East Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, USA, maintained by Diana Brown (contributor 46969899).

³² *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167014414/nettie-zeiler>: accessed March 12, 2023), memorial page for Nettie Schillinger Zeiler (1859 – July 4, 1940), Find a Grave Memorial ID 167014414; citing Home of Peace Memorial Park, East Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, USA, maintained by cstreib (contributor 47532191).

³³ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167728916/joe-zeiler>: accessed March 12, 2023), memorial page for Dr Joe Zeiler (12 Feb 1896–24 May 1961), Find a Grave Memorial ID 167728916; citing Home of Peace Memorial Park, East Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, USA, maintained by Scott G (contributor 453).

³⁴ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/138010361/avrum-herman-zeiler>: accessed March 12, 2023), memorial page for Dr Avrum Herman Zeiler (29 Mar 1882–16 Jul 1943), Find a Grave Memorial ID 138010361; citing Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, Los Angeles County, California, USA, maintained by ! woowoo (contributor 49949980).

³⁵ Esther was most likely born in December 1897 or 1898 per a California death index and social security death index. A birth in February 1895 would also have been only three months before the birth of Joseph. See: "California, U.S., Death Index, 1940-1997," database with images, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/11865435:5180?ssrc=pt&tid=17438138&pid=240013272130)

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³⁶ California's death index places Esther's death on June 20, 1969. See: "California, U.S., Death Index, 1940-1997," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/11865435:5180?ssrc=pt&tid=17438138&pid=240013272130>: accessed March 12, 2023), Esther Silk; citing *California Death Index, 1940-1997* (Sacramento: State of California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, n.d.), Social Security no. 547688289.



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