

Introduction

One of the missions of The Columbus Jewish Historical Society is to record the development of the Jewish community in Columbus. The first Jewish families came to Columbus around 1845 at a time when the Ohio and Erie Canal and the transcontinental railroad reached the area, portending rapid growth and prosperity for the city which would soon become the capital of the State of Ohio.

Revolution and unrest in 1848 led to a mass migration from Germany. A substantial immigration of Jews coming to the New Land included some 480 souls who settled in Columbus in neighborhoods close to the center of the city on Town Street, Rich Street and Bryden Road. They provided the leadership for Orthodox Jewish Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, which later became Temple Israel, the seat of Reform Jewish worship in Columbus.

A famine in the Suwalk area of Poland, and long-term forced conscription into the czar's army, the "May Laws," and other government-sanctioned anti-semitism and pogroms led to mass emigrations from Germany, Poland and Russia in the 1890s and early 1900s and brought many more Jews to Central Ohio. Many spoke Yiddish, settled in an area between Grant Avenue and Oakwood and between Livingston Avenue and Whittier Street. Members of this community founded Agudas Achim, Ahavas Sholom and Beth Jacob Orthodox Synagogues.

The rise of Hitler and atrocities of the Nazi Party in Germany led the third wave of Jewish immigrants to settle in Columbus in the middle 1930s when the Jewish population of the city now occupied neighborhoods in Bexley and Driving Park.

The fourth wave, consisting of about 2000 immigrants came from The Former Soviet Union and Russia in the late 1900s. Many of them settled in apartments just north of Bexley. They, too, became a significant part of the history of the Columbus Jewish Community.

Recording the histories of some of the more recent arrivals was undertaken by Galina Dashevsky. Audiocassettes recorded in Russian by Polina Ashkenazi, Bella Galbmillion, Miron Dashevsky, Jake Krivitsky, Elazar Kaplan, Alexander Kuperberg and Abram Meksin may now be borrowed from the Jewish Historical Society for a small fee and translations of interviews with Lev Dashevsky, Mr. Kuperberg and Madames Ashkenazi and Galbmillian may be found in these pages.

Marvin Bonowitz

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Mr. Kuperberg relates family history and unfortunate experiences during a pogrom

Simon Glazman English White pages

Mr. Glazman's autobiography speaks of Russian history before and since the Revolution

Bella Galbmillion Russian Lavender pages
English Blue pages

Mrs. Galbmillion names family members and historic friends and their contributions

Lev Dashevsky English White pages

Miron Dashevsky speaks of his admiration for his father's knowledge and guidance

Polina Ashkenazy English Pink pages

Mrs. Ashkenazy speaks of her academic career and the careers of her friends and family

Avram Meksin's Photo Album White pages

Architectural engineer Meksin presents photographs of family members and photographs of some of his building projects

June, 2005
ISBN 0-819-80774-5