

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
הביטו אל-צור הצבתם



chicago jewish historical society

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CHICAGO JEWISH *History*

From Jewish Immigrant to Union General in Under Ten Years

Early Chicago Jew Rose to Alderman, Civil War Hero and Washington Governor

By David Gleicher

Not many Chicagoans rose faster and further than Edward S. Salomon: Arriving as a 17-year-old immigrant in 1855, Salomon became, in succession, a store clerk, bookkeeper, lawyer, alderman, Union Army lieutenant, captain, major, colonel, and brigadier general, Cook County Clerk, and, at age 32, governor of Washington Territory.

Salomon was born in Schleswig-Holstein (northwest Germany, near the Danish border) on December 25, 1836, where he attended the equivalent of high school. In 1855, he immigrated to Chicago. He started in business as a clerk in a store, and then as a bookkeeper in a hat and cap shop on Clark Street. In 1858, Salomon began studying law with Norman Judd, a prominent attorney, and Lewis Davis, a justice of the peace. Salomon's studies led to his admission to the Illinois Bar in 1859. Sometime thereafter, he became a partner in the firm of Peck, Buell, and Salomon.

Answers Army's Call

Like many lawyers, Salomon also became involved in politics. He began as an ally of Chicago Democrat Stephen Douglas, and in 1861 was elected alderman of the 6th Ward (located from Randolph to North Avenues, the lake to Western). While serving as alderman, in July, 1861, Salomon answered Lincoln's first call for volunteers for the Union cause, and enlisted as a second lieutenant in the 24th Illinois Regiment, commanded by Colonel Frederick Hecker. Hecker, a non-Jew, had been a leader of the democratic movement in Germany before and during the upheavals of 1848. He had spoken out many times in favor of full civil rights for Germany's Jewish population, a fact remembered by Chicago's Jewish community, most of whom had also emigrated from Germany.

Over the next year, the 24th saw no action and a dispute arose between Hecker and some of his officers. Hecker and his supporters, including

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Meeting Recalls Career of Rabbi Jacob Weinstein

Panel shares recollections of KAM rabbi and the Hyde Park community

Several hundred people attended this quarter's open meeting that reviewed the work of former KAM Temple Rabbi Jacob Weinstein. Held at KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation in Hyde Park, the meeting featured a panel of Weinstein's colleagues and family and included reminiscences from several of his friends.

Ruth Levine, Weinstein's daughter, Rabbi Arnold Jacob Wolf, current rabbi at KAM Isaiah Israel, KAM archivist Jessica Young, former alderman Leon Despres, and community leaders Robert Lifton and Sam Golden served on the panel addressing the topic, "The Activist Rabbi: Jacob Weinstein and Hyde Park, 1936-1967."

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Chicago Jews of today may not readily remember Edward Salomon, but he was one of the most colorful Jews to live in the city before the Civil War. As a lawyer, politician and soldier, he left a distinct mark on Chicago, the Washington territory and the entire country.

Local historian David Gleicher is an attorney specializing in federal, criminal and civil litigation. He lectures widely on Chicago Jewish history and is the author of a forthcoming Tradition Magazine article on the origins of the Chicago's Hebrew Theological College.

President's Message

In March 1989, this publication featured an article on a great number of files delivered to our Society by the family of the late Robert Adler containing correspondence between himself and many Jews stranded in Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia as Hitler came to rule in these countries. The letters dealt mainly with the desperate pleas by Jews, who were strangers to the Adler family, requesting Adler's assistance and hoping for affidavits to support their immigration to the United States. This correspondence now rests in the Chicago Jewish Archives and is as yet unpublished. We are fortunate now, however, to have available to us a new book of World War II European correspondence. In *Letters from Prague, 1939-1941*, Raya Czerner Shapiro and Helga Czerner Weinberg, two sisters and long-time residents of Chicago, collect a number of letters between their parents and several relatives trapped in Europe. The book is available from Academy Publishers of Chicago.

Raya and Helga came to Hyde Park during World War II to join their parents, Irma and Max Czerner, leaving behind their grandmother, uncle and others in Prague. After the recent deaths of both parents, the sisters discovered a number of letters between them and their family stranded in Prague. The letters begin in 1939 and cease in 1941 when the grandmother and uncle were transported and murdered by the Nazis.

The letters have been translated into English and a number have been selected for inclusion in the new book.

These letters are haunting. They recall with horror how those who were left behind desperately sought to escape — and how all the doors of the world were closed to them. It is a moving experience to read



President
Walter Roth

such correspondence when it is between Jews who were strangers to each other, as in the Adler correspondence, but it is doubly moving when it is between members of a close-knit family torn asunder by events beyond their control.

Chicago Jews, and the community generally, are now fortunate that Helga Weinberg and Raya Shapiro have seen fit to share these letters with us so as to enable us better to remember and recall the tragedy that befell our people in Europe in our lifetime. I highly recommend the book to all of you.

On a somewhat less somber note, I would like to congratulate our Vice President and Program Chairman, Burton H. Robin, on being awarded a Distinguished Professorship Award by the Board of Trustees of the City Colleges of Chicago and the Cook County College Leaders Union. Burt has been a professor in the Physical Science Department at Kennedy-King College for many years and the award was given to him by his peers for his role as an outstanding teacher and leader. We congratulate Burt and wish him continued success in all his endeavors.

Walter Roth
President

A Particular Kind of Help

It is the happy business of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society to chronicle and preserve records of the Jews of Chicago since the frontier years. The stories of their lives and their faith, their occupations and their escapades, their triumphs of love. We take oral histories and build a library of them for future generations to cherish as we do.

Underlying all of our work is an inescapable awareness of mortality. We read and write about people whose lives have ended, and too often we learn that

others, whose oral histories might have been illuminating, have grown too frail to teach us. We ride time, and only for the time that we have.

Still, we dare to believe that this Society is now so firmly established that it will survive us all and go on thriving into the future. Other leaders and other members will pick up where we leave off, swell our ranks, and continue our good work. As today's Jewish news becomes tomorrow's Jewish history, the Chicago Jewish Historical Society will be there to keep the records for our students, for our children, for our builders.

So we dare to ask you for a particular kind of help. Please remember the Chicago Jewish Historical Society in your will. Write us in — not just for a specific sum of money or a percentage of the whole — but also designate, specifically, the documents and artifacts that you have saved; and we will save them in your name. And so will our successors.

Thank you for considering us.

American Jewish Historical Society Announces Competitions

This quarter's issue of the American Jewish Historical Society newsletter announces three competitions that should appeal to Jewish historians of varying interests and experiences.

First, Sephardic House is holding a competition for research papers dealing with Sephardic folklore, literary works, personalities or community history. There are prizes of \$250, \$150 and \$100 available for the winning manuscripts. The deadline is April 15, 1992. For more information, contact Sephardic House, 8 W. 70th St., New York, NY 10023, (212) 873-0300.

Second, the Jewish Historical Society of New York offers a \$2500 graduate fellowship for students of New York Jewish history.

And third, the American Jewish Historical Society offers an annual prize of \$100 each for the best student article and the best article on local Jewish history submitted to **American Jewish History**. AJHS also gives \$100 to the winner of the National History Day high school competition.

For more information on the New York Society's competition and the AJHS contests, contact AJHS at 2 Thornton Rd., Waltham, MA 02154.



Burton H. Robin,
Vice President and Program Chairman

Society Past President Schwartz Compiles Cemetery Directory

An accurate record of interments in one of the city's oldest Jewish cemeteries has been compiled through the efforts of CJHS Past President Norman Schwartz. The burial ground is the Ohave Sholom Mariampol plot at Oak Woods Cemetery.

Purchased by the Ohave Sholom Mariampol Congregation in 1874, the half acre of land was the first Jewish section in the prestigious South Side cemetery, famous for its graves of Civil War casualties, particularly those of Confederate prisoners of war who died in Chicago's Libby Prison.

In the years after 1874, the congregation of orthodox Eastern European Jews became very prominent, absorbed other synagogues and moved several times. It currently exists as Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel at 425 West Melrose in Lake View. In the course of these changes, cemetery records maintained by the congregation became muddled, inaccurate and incomplete; and Oak Woods Cemetery, which has since created other, general Jewish sections, kept no records for the Ohave Shalom plot.

To make it possible for the Jewish Historical Society better to answer genealogical inquiries, Mr. Schwartz prepared an accurate diagram of the Ohave Shalom plot, indicating each grave and, in more than one thousand instances, who was buried in each. The new diagram, as well as a card file and complete print-out of individual burials, is now available both at the Oak Woods Cemetery office at 1035 East 67th street and at the Anshe Sholom congregation.

"There were many difficulties to overcome," said Mr. Schwartz, "among them fallen stones, missing stones, illegible stones and ones solely in Hebrew without last names or with names whose English spelling is unknown. Although making rubbings of illegible stones sometimes helped, there remained in the end more than one hundred graves which remain unidentified."

Despite these limitations, the results of his efforts will be a boon to genealogists as well as to all who wish to preserve the record of Chicago Jewish history.

— I.J.S. □



Rabbi Jacob Weinstein

Weinstein

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Their stories focussed in particular on Weinstein's work with the Kenwood-Hyde Park community and the problems it faced as it became racially integrated.

Wolf shared a personal story of his long-time acquaintance. There was talk in the early 1960s, Wolf said, that Weinstein would move to the new north shore congregation of Temple Solel with Wolf becoming his successor at KAM. Instead, Wolf went first to Temple Solel and returned to KAM Isaiah Israel years later. "It took me 25 years to get back here," he concluded.

Wolf also revealed that his great-uncle, Rabbi Tobias Schanfarber, had been KAM rabbi for many years, beginning in 1901.

Levine was able to share glimpses of her father's personal side with the large audience that had known him chiefly through his public accomplishments.

Several members of the audience shared their memories of Weinstein as well. Mrs. Lester Asher told of the work her husband, a famous labor lawyer, and Weinstein had accomplished together. Nell Pekarsky, widow of University of Chicago Hillel Rabbi Maurice Pekarsky, recalled the friendship between Weinstein and her husband. Joe Levinson told of Weinstein's humorous side. And Rabbi Solomon Goldman's daughters, Mrs. Naomi Epstein and Mrs. Gayola Zemel spoke of their father's work with Weinstein.

The Society holds four open meetings a year, at locations all around the Chicago area. Look in the newsletter and expect separate mailings to announce the topic and site for the Spring meeting. Meetings are open to Society members, their guests and the general public. □

Society Welcomes New Members

The society is pleased to announce new members from the last quarter. We welcome them into the society and urge them to participate in our efforts to preserve the record of Chicago Jewry.

<i>Penny S. Gold</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Milton</i>
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Leonard</i>	<i>Levenfeld</i>
<i>Adler</i>	<i>Martell Levin</i>
<i>Pauline Dunsky</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Alfred</i>
<i>Richard Hoffman</i>	<i>Lipsev</i>
<i>Rita Korr</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. George</i>
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Richard</i>	<i>Pfeifer</i>
<i>Kraus</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. Kurt</i>
<i>Mr. & Mrs. Henry</i>	<i>Rothschild</i>
<i>Landauer</i>	<i>Robert Wolf</i>

We urge all of our members to consider joining one or more of our standing committees, some of which deal with collecting oral histories, constructing a Chicago Jewish photo archive, arranging for our quarterly open meetings, working toward cemetery preservation and increasing our membership. Call our office at (312) 663-5634 if you are interested in more information.

We urge you as well to consider giving memberships as gifts to friends, family and all the people you know who have left Chicago but not gotten it out of their heart. □

AJHS Announces Centennial Meeting

The American Jewish Historical Society, of which the Chicago Jewish Historical Society is a member, has announced plans for its annual meeting May 14-17 in Washington, D.C. at the Park Hyatt.

This meeting is the society's 100th, and promises to review the group's numerous successes in working to preserve the accomplishments of American Jewry. Attendees will hear presentations on historiography as well as specific topics in Jewish history and will also have the opportunity to tour the Washington Jewish Historical Society's museum and headquarters, a restored synagogue that CJHS President Walter Roth has called "magnificent."

For information on joining the American Jewish Historical Society, call (617)891-8110. CJHS members who announce their local membership can have a portion of their dues earmarked for return to our Society. □

University of Chicago Commemorates 100 Years of Partnership with Jewish Chicago

*Jews Have Given Much To, Taken Much
From, The University During Its
First Century*

By Walter Roth

As the University of Chicago celebrates its centennial this year, it is timely to recall the ways in which it has given to and received from the Chicago Jewish community. Even as Chicago Jews were instrumental in founding the University, so too have they benefited from one of the few major American universities that has never had a quota policy restricting the admission of Jewish students. With Jews active as students, faculty and trustees of the university from its founding to today, the interaction between the university and the Jewish community has seen many phases.

The story of the University's founding goes back beyond the 100 years of its existence. Not long after an earlier University of Chicago, one which had existed near 34th and Cottage Grove on land given to it by Stephan A. Douglas, ceased operating, several Chicago groups began making plans for a new university. In 1890, with the campaign flagging, Jewish members of the Standard Club came together to raise funds. Under the chairmanship of Berthold Loewenthal, a banker and President of Sinai Congregation, and with the assistance of Sinai Congregation Rabbi Emil

Hirsch and prominent attorney Eli Felsenthal, around 400 people met and pledged to raise \$25,000.

Citing the importance of the campaign in his 1916 *A History of the University of Chicago*, Dr. Thomas Wakefield Goodspeed wrote, "The committee assumed the entire labor of securing the subscriptions...This generous co-operation was one of the essential factors in the final success achieved." In a letter he wrote to the Standard Club in 1891, Goodspeed went even further. He wrote:

I am reminded that a year ago, when we were in utmost danger of failing in our efforts to secure the establishment of the University of Chicago, the Club came to our relief...It has been felt by the denomination that inaugurated the movement and by the Board of Trustees of the University that the action of the Standard Club was one of notable public spirit and liberality.

It will be held in lasting and grateful remembrance, and we hope to erect on our campus a memorial that will tell the story to coming generations.

The "denomination" Goodspeed referred to was the Baptists, and the University of Chicago was founded as a Baptist institution. Despite such religious affiliation, however, it quickly established itself as a school that refused to follow the commonplace university practice of sharply limiting Jewish enrollment. In contrast to many of prestigious East Coast universities, Chicago consistently

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made a place for Jews as students, faculty, administrators and trustees. Through the 1920s and 1930s — an era when anti-Semitism in the U.S. may well have been at its peak — the University boasted between 20 and 30 percent Jewish enrollment.

The University's founding president, Dr. William Harper, was a brilliant scholar of the Old Testament and had taught Hebrew at the Baptist Theological Seminary of Morgan Park and then at Yale University. His agreeing to join the infant university ensured its survival. John D. Rockefeller, who had already given \$600,000, promptly donated an additional \$2,000,000. With ten acres of real estate on the Midway donated by Marshall Field and another \$400,000 the Baptists themselves were able to raise, the University was able to build its campus and faculty. The \$25,000 the Standard Club members were able to raise may not have been significant in the total, but it did represent broad public support at a critical initial stage.

Jewish giving to the University did not stop with that first donation, however. There are several campus buildings named for Jewish donors. Henry Crown Field House and Mandel Hall are located on the central campus as is the new Samuel Kersten, Jr. physics building. The business school is still known informally as Rosenwald



Attorney Eli Felsenthal



University of Chicago, circa 1908

Hall, despite Julius Rosenwald's reluctance to allow any building to be named for him. The school's medical complex is full of institutions named for Jewish benefactors. There are the Max Epstein Clinic, the Goldblatt Cancer Research Center, the Bernard Mitchell Hospital and the Arthur Rubloff Intensive Care Tower. The medical school itself is named for the Pritzker real estate family. And the Regenstein family, of printing fame, gave the money to establish the world-class library.

There have been a number of other examples of Jewish giving to the University as well. The Nathan Cummings family recently gave funds to establish an endowed faculty chair in Jewish studies. The University's Hillel House came about through monies given by the B'nai B'rith organization and the Karasik family, whose son, a marine, was killed in World War II. Ludwig Rosenberger donated an immense collection of German Judaica that remains one of the best collections of its kind in the world. Chicago Jewish historian Philip Bregstone listed an additional two pages of such donations in his 1934 history ranging from the \$75,000 Mr. and Mrs. John Hertz gave, "...to be expended by the University of Chicago in the study of disorders of the pituitary gland and related conditions," to the \$250,000 Louis Kuppenheimer gave to the department of ophthalmology.

In addition to such financial support, many Jews have been identified in leadership roles with the University. Eli Felsenthal and Julius Rosenwald were members of the original Board of Trustees and each served in that capacity

for many years. In 1972, as the University commemorated its 80th anniversary, it elected Edward Hirsch Levi, grandson of Rabbi Emil Hirsch and son of Rabbi Gerson B. Levi, as its president.

Numerous Jews have also served as faculty members at the school. Among the original faculty was Rabbi Hirsch, who held a teaching position at the University until his death. In 1902, Julian Mack, then a city judge and later famous as a federal judge and leader of the American Zionist Movement, became a professor at the law school and held that position for many years. Many current faculty members are Jewish, including several who have won Nobel prizes during their association with the University.

On a lighter note, Jewish culture may well remain most evident through the on-going annual "Latke-Hamentachen" debates. Rabbi Maurice Pekarsky, began the tradition by bringing together Anthropology Professor Sol Tax and History Professor Louis Gottschalk to argue the competing merits of the Purim pastry called hamentachen and the Hanukah potato pancakes called latkes. The debates continue today under the leadership of Rabbi Daniel Leifer, with the latest debate featuring present president Hanna Gray in a performance that was reported to be very funny.

As the University begins its second century, it promises to remain what it always has been for Chicago Jews: a place that has challenged them, recognized them and welcomed them. □

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Strange Careers of Gangsters Eisen Remain Tangled

*Confusion Continues Decades Later Between
Name-Sharing Gangsters*

By Joe Kraus

Maxie Eisen was one of the most notorious gangsters in Chicago history, Jewish or otherwise. He was a West Side tough who slugged his way through ghetto punks and election officials. He became an associate of the Miller Brothers and eventually parleyed his connections into a position in the leadership council of Dion O'Banion's gang. He devised a successful racketeering operation that fixed prices on kosher meats and sacramental wine. And he was an underworld figure of sufficient clout that he was tabbed to serve as the facilitator for a legendary conference between the fighting Capone and O'Banion gangs.

His career took him through so many different roles in the underworld and showed him to be prominent in so many different areas of the city that it is hard to believe one man could have had so much energy. And it is hard to believe for a very good reason: he was two different men.

That is, at any rate, there were two prominent Chicago Jewish gangsters named Maxie Eisen, both of whom were active in the early days of Prohibition and both of whom won for themselves notoriety in the rough-and-tumble underworld of the day.

West Side tough

The Maxie Eisen identified as "Maxie Eisen, No.2" by the National Commission on Law Enforcement's 1931 catalogue of 330 Chicago gangland characters is likely the older, by a slim margin, of the two. He is listed alongside Samuel "Nails" Morton and Hirschie and Maxie Miller of the Miller Brothers as someone who specialized in "booze." The group as a whole is listed as part of the "Twentieth Ward Group," which identified them as Lawndale area Jews.

Less well known than the colleagues listed beside him, Maxie Eisen, No. 2 seems to have grown up in much the way they did: as someone toughened by the constant ethnic conflicts that were inevitable as different groups jockeyed for demographic control of the city's different neighborhoods. Although we know little of his background, he was likely part of the group of boys (later young men) who eventually won control of the West Side for Jews through their boxing skills, audacity and general toughness. He was one of the "neighborhood boys" whose illegal activities contemporary memory has largely forgiven and who,

perhaps appropriately, have recently been made out to be Jewish heroes.

It's hard to tell what role Eisen, No. 2 played in the West Side booze rings, but Jews in general seem to have lost control of large-scale bootlegging by the middle 1920s. With that loss of control, West Side Jewish toughs were diffused throughout different gang networks. Perhaps as a sidekick to Nails Morton or perhaps on his own, Eisen, No. 2 emerged before long as one of the leading figures in O'Banion's Near Northside syndicate.

The O'Banion Gang was an oddly ecumenical assortment. At its peak, it was the most terrifying gang in the city; O'Banion, not Capone, was labelled "Chicago's arch criminal" by Chief of Police Morgan Collins. O'Banion himself was Irish, but his chief lieutenants were a variety of backgrounds. Earl "Hymie" Weiss, his second-in-command, was, despite his nickname, Polish. Louis Alterie and Vincent "Schemer" Drucci were Italian. George "Bugs" Moran was Irish. And Morton and Eisen were Jewish.

No. 2's influence

While some degree of Capone's success may have come from his willingness to work closely with ethnic groups other than the Italians – Irishman "Machine Gun" Jake McGurn and the Jewish Jake Guzik were probably the two best known examples – O'Banion was wide-open and reckless by comparison. That openness gradually took its toll on the group's

leadership. With Morton killed in a Lincoln Park horse riding accident and O'Banion, Weiss and Drucci killed in quick succession by Capone forces, the gang confronted an ever-changing cast of bosses.

How much influence Eisen managed to attain at his peak is, like so much about criminal history, hard to tell. He was cited in a number of newspaper reports as part of the council that took over after O'Banion's death. Mention of his name grew less and less frequent, however, and he seems to have drifted out of the gang's leadership altogether within a year or two of O'Banion's death. That was, of course, a fortunate time not to be associated with the gang that had come to be controlled by Bugs Moran, a gang that would go down in history as the victims of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.

Preyed on Jews

At about the time Maxie Eisen, No. 2 was fading from the gang scene, Maxie Eisen, No. 1 was operating in a big way. Coming from outside the tight-knit Maxwell street area ghetto, Eisen, No. 1 was in many ways the opposite of Eisen, No. 2. Where No. 2 had been associated with the group of Jews who had, as folk history has it, "made the West Side safe for the Jews from the Poles," No. 1 preyed

on the Jewish community. He leaves a reputation as a veritable monster. Those who talk of him seldom say anything pleasant and those who knew him best decline to talk at all.

He first left his mark in 1919 when he was sentenced to prison for six months for a felony indictment that he had connections enough to reduce to a petty larceny conviction. When he next ran into the law in 1925, he had grown more sophisticated. By the time he was brought to trial for a grand jury indictment on charges he had thrown a bomb into a Jewish meat market, the prosecution's key witness had conveniently died.

The ruthless racketeer

From 1925 to 1928, Eisen, No. 1 left his mark as one of the most ruthless racketeers the city had ever known. Targetting both the Lawndale and Garfield Park neighborhoods, Eisen and his crew terrorized small and disorganized Jewish merchants. Forming what he called trade associations – with names like the Hebrew Master Butchers' Association, the Master Bakers of the Northwest Side and the Wholesale and Retail Fish Dealers' Association – he coerced merchants into paying him dues and fixing their prices. As John Landesco wrote in his 1929 *Illinois Crime Survey*, "The activities of these 'racketeers' are confined to the small dealers of their own race on the northwest side. Illiterate and ignorant of the law, the victims are easily impressed by bravado and meekly submit to methods of extortion, intimidation, bombing and murder."

During those years, Eisen would be involved in a long list of shoot-outs and criminal investigations. One such incident, reported in detail by Landesco, is representative of the brazen cruelty of his methods:

On February 3, 1927, Herman and Louis Stein, two brothers having a fish market on Roosevelt Road in the 3900 block, were leaving the Randolph Market when they were approached by Maxie Eisen and his business agent, Max Granat. They were told they could peddle fish no longer, the city permit they had meant nothing, and there were too many of them in the business for all of them to make a living. A warrant was issued for the arrest of Eisen and Granat by Judge Padden in the Racine Avenue Court. They were indicted and released on bonds of four thousand dollars each. Reprisal quickly followed, however, for with apparently no fear of the law, Eisen visited the shop of the Stein Brothers on April 26, kicked over several barrels of herring and shot Herman in the leg. He was again indicted, charged with assault with a deadly weapon. The complaining witnesses were afraid to

identify the criminal. The case was dismissed for want of prosecution.

Gangland mediator

Eisen's position as a major independent operator in Chicago's underworld may well have been sealed on Oct. 21, 1926 when he served as the facilitator for a conference that brought together representatives of all the city's major gangs, including the Capone and Moran forces that were feuding bitterly in the aftermath of the killings of O'Banion and Weiss. The conference helped produce a relatively long period of gangland peace and Eisen left his mark on the proceedings with his reported complaint, "We're a bunch of saps, killing each other this way and giving the cops a laugh."

Eisen would remain a figure to be reckoned with for several years. As late as 1930, he would be included on a highly publicized list of "public enemies" subject to capricious vagrancy charges and I.R.S. harrassment.

Historians confuse the Eisens

The coincidence of two Eisens has confused a number of researchers over the years. Fred Pasley, in his 1930 *Al Capone: The Biography of a Self-Made Man*, included a series of rogues gallery portraits of O'Banion gang members.

Reading the reputation of Eisen, No. 1 into the person of Eisen, No. 2, he wrote, "Maxie Eisen, the Simon Legree, so-called, of the pushcart peddlers; dean of the racketeers; a Uriah Heep of hypocrisy."

Herbert Asbury made a similar mistake in his 1940 *Gem of the*

Prairie, one of the most widely cited sources for gangland history. Describing the famous peace conference Eisen, No. 1 presided over, Asbury wrote, "Maxie Eisen, who had embarked upon a private career as a racketeer levying tribute from pushcart peddlers [was] present as peacemaker." Eisen, No. 1 had been a racketeer at least since just after World War I. Eisen, No. 2 never became a racketeer and, as a close associate of the O'Banion gang, would clearly have been unable to serve as an impartial facilitator between his old gang and the Capone forces.

Other confusions

While the Eisens are a glaring example of what confusion can arise from duplicate naming, they aren't the only one. Two of the Miller Brothers have suffered comparably. Harry Miller, brother of rum-runner Hirschie, was a Chicago policeman from 1918-1939. Most notorious as the partner of Harry Lang in the unsuccessful police attempt to kill Capone heir Frank Nitti, he was also a much decorated officer. For most of the same years, the well known Judge Harry B. Miller doled out some of the little legal justice Chicago's gangsters would receive.

In a more serious and less easily spotted confusion,

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Salomon

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Salomon, resigned. Despite the 24th's unsettled state, Salomon was promoted to major, all the while, serving as alderman. A portrait of Salomon taken about this time shows him with a determined look and proud mustache determined—mustache. He has the serious look found in photos of the time, and looks older than his 25 years.

Chicago Jews Join War Effort

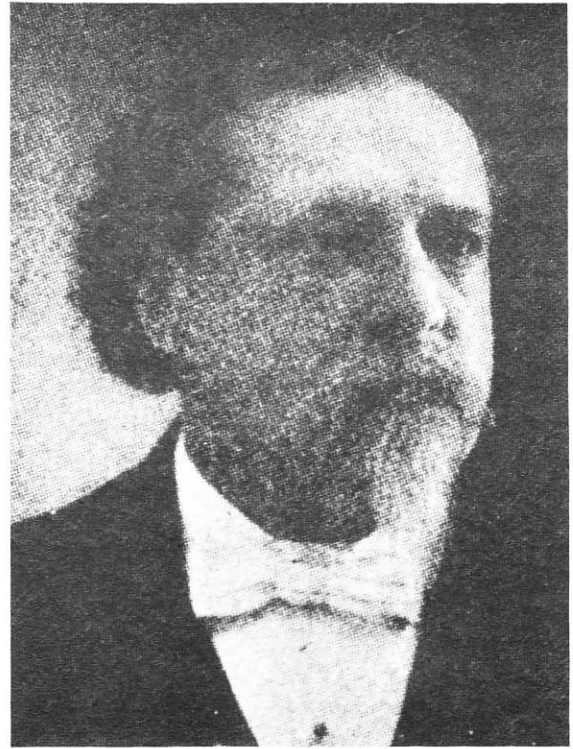
In August, 1862, Lincoln had issued another call for troops. Hecker was forming another regiment, the 82nd Illinois, which would consist mainly of Chicago-area German-Americans. The Chicago Jewish community decided to establish a Jewish company in that regiment. On August 13, 1862, a mass meeting was held at the hall of the Jewish Concordia Club for the purpose of raising funds to equip the Jewish company. Led by Salomon, Henry Greenebaum (Chicago's first Jewish alderman) and Chicago City Clerk Abraham Kohn, the call went out to raise \$10,000 to equip 100 men. After three days, \$11,000 was raised for the Jewish company, which was nicknamed the Concordia Guard. Officially, the Guard was Company C of the 82nd Regiment. However, there were non-Jews in Company C, and there were Jewish soldiers in other units of the 82nd. In fact, Salomon's brother-in-law, Captain Joseph Greenhut, commanded one of the 82nd's non-Jewish companies.

About 100 Jewish soldiers enlisted from Chicago. That number does not seem high, until it is remembered that Chicago's Jewish population in 1860 was not much more than 1,000. Percentage-wise, it is as if today's Chicago Jewish community would send 23,000 soldiers to a war effort.

Salomon was promoted once again, to lieutenant-colonel, second-in-command to Hecker of the entire regiment. He apparently resigned from the Chicago City Council, as his last recorded meeting was on August 11, 1862. On August 26, the 82nd marched off for training. Its first major battle was Chancellorsville, which Salomon missed: He was home sick in Chicago.

Saloman at Gettysburg

It was at the battle of Gettysburg, in July, 1863, that Salomon earned his reputation as a war hero. Because Hecker was recovering from injuries suffered at Chancellorsville, Salomon had assumed command of the 82nd. On the first day of the battle, the 82nd covered the retreat of the Union forces under Confederate pressure, helping ensure that the retreat would proceed orderly, and not turn into a rout. On the second day, the 82nd was in the center of the Union line. The Confederates had captured Union rifle pits, and Salomon led the charge which successfully



Edward S. Salomon

recaptured them. In the battle, Salomon had two horses shot out from under him, and suffered severe bruises. He stayed in the middle of the fighting, leading his regiment to victory on the third day of the battle.

Salomon's heroism was recognized in a letter from his superior, General Carl Schurz, to General O. O. Howard, the overall Union commander at Gettysburg. The letter praised Salomon's "coolness and determination under very trying circumstances."

Salomon's abilities were recognized by General Howard. After Hecker's return, Howard assigned Salomon to the command of a Pennsylvania

regiment that was in a state of open mutiny. Salomon restored order to that regiment, and was then appointed Provost Marshall General on General Howard's staff.

Arriving as a 17-year-old immigrant in 1855, Salomon became, in succession, a store clerk, bookkeeper, lawyer, alderman, Union Army lieutenant, captain, major, colonel, and brigadier general, Cook County Clerk, and, at age 32, governor of Washington Territory.

Finishing out the war

After several months, Salomon returned to the 82nd Regiment. In March, 1864, Hecker resigned, and Salomon was named regimental commander. This was followed by his promotion to full colonel. From May, 1864, through April, 1865, the 82nd fought in Tennessee, Georgia, and the Carolinas. In the middle of these battles, after the capture of Atlanta, Salomon was sent to Nashville with orders. However, while Salomon was in Tennessee, his regiment in Atlanta had begun the March to the Sea under

Sherman. Unable to rejoin the 82nd, Salomon was simply given a different brigade to command in the fighting around Nashville. It was not until a few months later, in December, 1864, that Salomon was able to rejoin his regiment. The war's end saw Salomon in Raleigh, North Carolina. The weary regiment returned first to Washington for the grand review of the troops (they were weary because they had to march from Raleigh to Washington). Finally, the day the entire 82nd had been waiting for arrived: The return to Chicago on June 16, 1865.

Salomon was greeted not as Colonel, but as General, because on June 15, he was named Brevet Brigadier General, to date from March 13, 1865. Unlike a regular rank, a "brevet" appointment did not move the officer up in pay. Also, if the officer remained in the army, his rank would return to what it was after the war (like Civil War General Custer, who was killed at Little Big Horn, 22 years later as a colonel). Since Salomon had no intention of remaining a soldier, he remained "General Salomon" to the end of his life.

Return to Chicago

As for the entire regiment, they were feted at numerous affairs and official welcomes. The 82nd's Jewish company, the original Concordia Guard, brought back with them a tattered and worn regimental flag that had been given to them by the Jewish women of Chicago in 1862. That flag stood for the sacrifice of Chicago's Jewish community in the nation's war effort.

Salomon's war record was soon rewarded. In November, 1865, the 28-year-old, who had arrived in Chicago only ten years before, was easily elected Cook County Clerk as a Republican. In 1869, President Grant named him Governor of Washington Territory. He served for only two years, and was, for the most part, a good governor. He courageously vetoed a reapportionment bill, declaring it unfair to the voters of Washington Territory.

Salomon abruptly resigned in 1872. Unfortunately, he got caught up in the loose ethics of the Grant period. He "borrowed" \$28,000 from the territorial treasury to invest in a land deal. When a U.S. Treasury agent discovered the matter, Salomon tried to buy his silence. The agent, however, reported the entire affair to his superiors. Salomon reimbursed the entire \$28,000, but could not remain in office. Rumors were also flying that he had appointed some Democrats to public positions, a far worse offense in the post-Civil War era.

Last days in the west

Apparently, some Washington residents viewed Salomon's offense as a small matter in comparison with his overall good governorship. The attacks on Salomon were impliedly rejected in the praise that the Pacific Tribune heaped on Salomon upon his resignation, specifically stressing his honesty, capability, and good reputation.

Salomon also seems to have been the titular head of the tiny Olympia, Washington Jewish community. On Yom Kippur, 1871, he conducted the services and delivered the sermon for the seven Jewish families then living in the territorial capital.

Sometime after his resignation, Salomon

moved to San Francisco to practice law, and remained there the rest of his life. He also served as a California assemblyman, San Francisco assistant district attorney, and departmental commander of the California Grand Army of the Republic (the Union veteran group).

His last public appearance was on July 4, 1913, as a speaker marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. He died two weeks later, at the age of 76. His wife, Sophia Greenhut, whom he had married in 1860, had died some years earlier. He was survived by a daughter and a son (a doctor, so he was proud). □

About 100 Jewish soldiers enlisted from Chicago. That number does not seem high, until it is remembered that Chicago's Jewish population in 1860 was not much more than 1,000. Percentage-wise, it is as if today's Chicago Jewish community would send 23,000 soldiers to a war effort.

Eisen *(continued from page 7)*

Miller's brother Dave, the boxing referee and restaurateur, had a namesake as well. Dave "Yiddles" Miller was a bit-player in gangland. A member of Frank Ragen's Colts, an athletic club that served as a front for a group of thugs for hire, "Yiddles" was convicted in 1926 of killing James Thomas, a Black man, in a racially motivated attack. Although referee Miller had no connection with "Yiddles," he has often been tarnished by the latter's crimes. John Kobler, in his widely available *Capone: The Life and World of Al Capone*, confused the two and wrote of the referee that he was, "...a white supremacist as brutish as any Southern redneck." That confusion, repeated in a number of other histo-

ries and biographies, is a clear and unfair misrepresentation of the man.

But for tangled complexity, it's hard to find a more confusing case of mixed-up identities than between the two Maxie Eisens. The West Side-O'Banion tough and the Northwest Side independent racketeer shared not only a name, but also comparable gangland status and nearly identical eras. Whether they knew one another and what either would have thought about having the other for a namesake are matters for speculation. As historians, though, we ought to be careful when we use the name Maxie Eisen; even today it's hard to tell just to whom it will turn out to belong. □

Photography Committee Announces New Competition

The Society's newly established photography committee is holding a contest for photographs taken in 1992 that reflect Jewish community activities. The committee urges amateur and professional photographers to consider submitting their work.

The committee has not developed its final plans for the competition, but it hopes to announce a variety of prizes for photographers of varying abilities, including a separate competition for high school students.

If you are interested in working with the committee to develop the competition, donate prizes or recruit participants, contact committee chair Janet Hagerup at (708)675-3602.

Competition details will be available within the next several weeks. Look for further descriptions in next quarter's newsletter and other Chicago Jewish publications. □

Minsky Award Winning Manuscripts Mailed *Society Publication Describing Peddlers and Lawndale Available*

Copies of **Chicago's Jewish Street Peddlers and Memories of Lawndale**, the co-winning manuscripts of the first Doris Minsky Memorial Fund, have been mailed to Society members and donors to the Minsky fund. The single volume features both monographs in a single, softcover, bookshelf binding.

Chicago's Jewish Street Peddlers, written by Dr. Carolyn Eastwood, is one of the fullest treatments of Chicago's peddler tradition ever written. Eastwood, who teaches sociology and anthropology at Roosevelt University and the College of DuPage, has long been interested in urban history and policy. Noting that peddlers thrive throughout Chicago today, she writes, "Even without their knowing it, today's peddlers inherit customs and lore, restrictions and rewards from a colorful past...I realized that today's story could not be told without a past and the most impor-

tant and colorful part of that past in Chicago is the story of Chicago's Jewish street peddlers."

Memories of Lawndale by Beatrice Michaels Shapiro recalls the old Jewish west side neighborhood when it was at its bustling peak. Full of characters and memories, it lets the reader take a leisurely stroll through "the largest center of Jewish population that the city has ever had." The accompanying maps and photographs make it almost seem possible to reconstruct a largely vanished era.

The Minsky memorial fund was established to honor the memory of former Society board member Doris Minsky. It came together through contributions from her family and many of the people whose lives she touched. Her son Laurence, in the volume's general introduction, writes, "Through this fund, my mother's work will not only continue, it will grow. My father, brother and I...are pleased that through this fund, the writings of Carolyn Eastwood and Beatrice Michaels Shapiro are being published; their monographs are truly insightful and captivating. Remember and enjoy!"

The deadline for submissions for this year's Minsky Fund award has not yet been set, but local historians can get more information on the competition procedure from Minsky fund chair Dr. Irving Cutler at (708)251-8927.

Additional copies of the book are available for \$5 at Jewish bookstores across the city. □

Chicago Jewish History Roundtable Takes Shape

The effort to establish a Chicago Jewish History Roundtable took two steps forward with its December 3 meeting and with its recent communications with the Chicago Historical Society.

Under the guidance of Society board member Stan Rosen, the roundtable is designed to be a forum in which amateur and professional historians can exchange ideas about their work in progress and about relevant publications and proposals.

The December 3 meeting brought together over twenty students, professors and independent historians to discuss what sort of forum would be most supportive of their work. Some at the meeting raised the possibility that the Chicago Historical Society might be an appropriate co-sponsor for the effort.

As follow-up to that proposal, Professor Rosen shared a letter from Russell Lewis of the Chicago Historical Society at the recent Society board meeting that read in part, "I am pleased to hear that your

December 3 meeting was a good first step, and I am happy to try to help the process forward."

For more information about the status of the roundtable, contact Professor Rosen at (312)996-2623. □

J.C.C. Director To Speak On History of Chicago Through Organization's Eyes

Jerome Witkovsky, the director of the Chicago Jewish Community Centers, will be the featured speaker for the Society's next open meeting on April 26. Witkovsky will speak on the history of Chicago's Jews from the community services' perspective.

The J.C.C. "works to build a more thriving Jewish community," according to Witkovsky, by providing services to Jews of all ages and in all circumstances. "We work with people from age zero to age 110. We offer services from Lamaze classes to burial. I like to say we go from womb to tomb."

Since it has been offering such services since 1903, the J.C.C. and its predecessor organizations have been part of virtually every major Jewish neighborhood in the city's history. Witkovsky points out that the group has typically continued to serve formerly Jewish neighborhoods until the last Jews have left them. "We're the last institution to turn the lights out in a Jewish community," he said, citing the Maxwell Street West Side, South Shore and Albany Park neighborhoods as examples.

Witkovsky's talk for the Society will focus on Chicago Jewish history as it looks from the perspective of an organization that has records of different communities in their coming together, in their peak, and in their decline. He will focus on the different migrations around the city and into the suburban areas.

In addition to the eight community centers it operates throughout the greater Chicago area, the J.C.C. oversees a variety of programs including the Center for Jewish Arts and Letters, the National Jewish Theater in Skokie and Camp Chi, a co-ed overnight camp in Wisconsin Dells for 8-15 year olds.

The meeting will be held at The Bernard Herman J.C.C. at 3003 W. Touhy. As always, it will begin at 1 p.m. for a social hour. The program will start at 2 p.m. There is no admission to the meeting and it is open to the public. □

Nominating Committee Seeks Volunteers

The nominating committee, whose mission it is to seek candidates for Society leadership positions that will open up in the coming year, is looking for volunteers to help it in its work.

The Society depends on all of its members to be active in recording and preserving Jewish history, but its leaders set the priorities and organize the efforts of that volunteer force. In order to maintain the quality the board has shown over the years, the nominating committee will need to give a great deal of thought to potential new leaders currently in the ranks.

If you are interested in volunteering for the nominating committee, contact committee chair and past Society President Norman Schwartz at (312)944-4444. □

Week-Long Celebration to Focus on Colorado Jewish History

A week-long celebration of history will become historic during Colorado Jewish History Week May 25-31, 1992.

Presented by the Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society and the University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies, programs will highlight the history and families of Colorado Jews, yesterday and today.

Exhibits are planned for the Colorado State Capitol and the Mizel Museum of Judaica. Prof. Jonathan Sarna of Brandeis University, one of America's best-known Jewish historians, will spend a week as scholar-in-residence. Other events include a Memorial Day "Roundup Barbecue," a film series and community-wide celebration dinner.

Lasting mementos will include two new books, a souvenir volume called *A Colorado Jewish Family Album, 1859-1992* and a tourist guidebook, *Exploring Jewish Colorado*, in which Denver author and historian Phil Goodstein lists Jewish aspects and little-known facts about towns and historic sites throughout the state.

(Reprinted from *Network*, the newsletter of the American Jewish Historical Society.) □

Late Director's Oral History Discusses Coming Together of Federation and Jewish Education

The late Samuel Goldsmith was an eminent figure in Chicago Jewish life from his arrival in 1930 through the 1980s. As executive director of the organization that evolved into the present day Jewish Federation, he played a pivotal role in shaping Jewish charities and in balancing competing factions of Chicago's Jewish community.

The following is an excerpt of an oral history taken by Society members on August 5, 1986. The Society's files are rich with other oral histories and we invite members to become involved in the ongoing project to interview new subjects and to transcribe and catalogue the ones we already have.

Society: When you started [in 1930] what was the name of the organization you went to work for?

Goldsmith: The Jewish Charities of Chicago. There had been two Federations. One of Orthodox and the other being Reform. They had amalgamated their interests and formed one organization. I had been active in the National Jewish Philanthropic work. At the time I arrived I was chairman of what was called the Bureau of Jewish Social Research in New York. That was a national body that was concerned with the development mainly of Jewish philanthropic interest throughout the country. In that job I had also become the General Secretary of the National Conference of Jewish Social Service and became pretty well known nationally because I travelled a good deal. I didn't realize how much my wife was contributing to everything because I was away a good deal.

Now the man who was a volunteer, Lewis M. Cahn, who had been a manufacturer of men's clothing and related activities, had been very active in Red Cross work and so forth and he was a member of one of the old families here. So when they had formed this amalgamation they wanted a General Secretary to keep the activities going — to help raise the money and so forth. They elected Lewis M. Cahn. He was gracious enough to take the job. He was acting as a volunteer and what he knew about welfare services he knew through his volunteer work.

He had met me many times in the course of pending national meetings and recommended me to the Board here and they chose me and I accepted the job because in addition to my wife, I was tired of

traveling a good deal and not doing very well with it....

Society: You mentioned the struggle over education. What was the problem here?

Goldsmith: The problem was with the Jews. The crazy Jews. I mean after all they had two Federations — one orthodox and one reform, in which some Orthodox rabbis were very active as well as in the synagogal duties — and these groups clashed when they came together. Not in peace. Each felt the other was black, not white, and so forth. Jewish education, in the sense of a community responsibility, was one of the aims and at that time was one of the political adhesives of the Orthodox community. The Orthodox community was primarily localized on the West Side of Chicago. There was a sprinkling of Jews, enough to form several synagogues, along the South Side. Most of those on the South Side were reformed Jews and that's been changed as you well know. It was inevitable that there should be a primary antagonism that grew up not only around the ordinary charitable activities but also their initial financial support. And as the discussion grew, there was debate in general about how much money should go into Jewish education. How worthy is it of support by the community in contrast to support by single synagogues. If synagogues took care of their own people, that would automatically take care of Jewish education. All of that sort of thing was going down and I fought a battle that lasted almost ten years. That went on until they came into the Federated scheme. Because for practical purposes we had to have two Federations, we created what is called the Jewish Welfare Fund because that was a practical way of raising funds to meet what was obviously going to be a growing problem in connection with the support of the Jewish communities overseas as far as funds of this kind could be expended through them to take care of immigrants as the tides flowed overseas into America and so on.

Society: You said that they amalgamated, that they came together. Is that when the two federations were merged, when you came here in 1930?

Goldsmith: That was the coming together.

Society: Did that include the more or less educational parts of each of the federations at the same time then?

Goldsmith: Well, the Reform Federation had no communal responsibilities for Jewish education. Some synagogues had various aspects of what they called educational activities, which were actually lectures. The Sinai Temple Forum was a famous organization and part of the Temple and they brought to Chicago outstanding Jewish lecturers and occasionally rabbis. They were headed by Emil Hirsch who was one of the outstanding rabbis in the early days of the Reform movement here.... □

About the Society

What We Are

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society was founded in 1977 and is in part an outgrowth of local Jewish participation in the American Bicentennial celebrations of 1976. Muriel Robin was the founding president. It has as its purpose the discovery, preservation and dissemination of information concerning the Jewish experience in the Chicago area.

What We Do

The Society seeks out, collects and preserves appropriate written, spoken and photographic records; publishes historical information; holds public meetings at which various aspects of Chicago Jewish history are treated; mounts appropriate exhibits; and offers tours of Jewish historical sites.

Minsky Fund

The Doris Minsky Memorial Fund, established in memory of one of the Society's founders and longtime leaders, seeks to publish annually a monograph on an aspect of Chicago area Jewish history. Members may receive a copy of each monograph as it is published. Manuscripts may be submitted and contributions to the Fund are welcome at any time.

Membership

Membership in the Society includes a subscription to Chicago Jewish History; each monograph published by the Doris Minsky Memorial Fund as it appears; discounts on Society tours and at the Spertus Museum Store and the opportunity to learn and inform others concerning Chicago Jewish history and its preservation.

Membership in the Society is open to all interested persons and organizations.

Dues Structure

Membership runs on a calendar year, from January through December. New members joining after July 1 are given an initial membership through December of the following year. The following dues schedule applies to categories indicated:

Regular Membership.....	\$25.00
Family Membership.....	\$35.00
Patron.....	\$50.00
Sponsor.....	\$100.00
Senior Citizen Membership.....	\$15.00
Student Membership.....	\$10.00
Synagogue or Organization.....	\$25.00
Life Membership.....	\$1,000.00

Checks should be made payable to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. Dues are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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*Indicates Past President

Chicago Jewish History

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