

Turner Hall  
Submitted by Karen Alpert Entous  
August 6, 2019

## ***Turner Hall***

**The 1898 St. Croix fire left many poor families destitute and as many as 50 ramshackle buildings burned. Earlier in the day a joint meeting of Jewish congregations was held at Turner Hall. The purpose was to pray for peace and a victory in the war against Spain. Several Jewish businessmen had left their stores to participate. As a result, many did not have the time to get back to their homes or stores and save valuable merchandise or goods.**

**1898-5-9 Pray For Our Arms. Hebrew Americans Beseech That Victory May Attend. Orthodox Jewish Congregations of the City Join in a Union Meeting at Turner Hall-Addressed by Dr. Frey and Mayor Truelsen. Dr. Frey spoke of the outrages by the Spanish people in the past. "In this country the downtrodden people of all nations find a refuge and protection...The Spanish war was not for the purpose of enlarging the territory of the United States, or its revenues, but was a war for humanity."**

Present were W. M. Abrahamson, I. Abrahamson, Mayor Truelsen, Rabbi Sigmund Frey, I. L. Cook, Judge McGindley, E. Orecofsky, Rev. Mr. Abromnovsky, I. Shapiro, S. Kassmir. Speakers were Mayor Truelsen, Judge McGindley, I. L. Cook, Rabbi Dr. Frey, E. Orecofsky, I. Abrahamson..

## **Mayor Truelsen**



**Mayor Henry Truelsen**

**Portrait of Henry Truelsen, Mayor 1896-1900, Duluth, Minnesota  
Born October 1844 in Schleswig, Germany. Died in Los Angeles, California Dec. 4, 1931.**

## **Rabbi Sigmund Frey**

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The year 1899 brought more changes to Rabbi Sigmund Frey (1852-1930) when he submits his resignation with Temple Emanuel after three years (1896-1899). His next rabbinic position is at Leavenworth, Kansas. He becomes a Master Mason in Leavenworth. Eventually his work takes him to Los Angeles, California.

In 1909 he became a superintendent of a Jewish Orphans Home in Southern California; 535 Mission Road for fifteen years. He and his third wife Hermine Garf Frey and family live with a staff at the orphanage.

Faced with another fire, Rabbi Frey heroically rounds up with his staff and safely evacuates over 50 orphans in Los Angeles. Fortunately there was no loss of life. The fire began with a short circuit in the attic and quickly spread destroying the building. What is also lost is his valuable library of books that included a first Greek Bible, ancient manuscripts, parchments, (valued at \$15,000); and office books and papers.

Rabbi Sigmund Frey is considered the first professional social worker in Los Angeles, California. His daughter Ruth Frey Axe follows him in his footsteps and also becomes a social worker. His son Dr. Aaron Berthold (Bert) Frey becomes a surgeon in Los Angeles, California. Ruth and Bert are children from his third marriage (1897 Minneapolis, MN) to Hermine Garf Frey.

He had two older children with his second wife Emma Abrams Frey, but unfortunately she died of heart failure in 1895 a short time after the birth of their daughter Bertha. Their older son Harold Frederick Frey worked for a publishing house and later becomes a consulting psychologist in Pasadena, California. Harold's wife, Jean Frey is also a social worker.

Rabbi Frey was the author of *Homer and the Bible, Comparison of the World's Literature and Rabbinic Lore, Caveant Consules*.

### The Daily Mirror 1910 historical Los Angeles posting.



ing he wore.

system.

HEROIC RESCUES.

## CHILDREN'S LIVES IN PERIL; JEWISH ORPHAN HOME BURNS.

*Coolness of Sisters and Superintendent Save Sixty Boys and Girls at Charitable Institution, Mission Road, Which Is Destroyed by Fire Early This Morning—Escape in Night Clothes.*

THE Jewish Orphan Home, at No. 535 Mission Road, was totally destroyed by fire early this morning. The flames spread with such amazing swiftness that but for the excellent drilling the sixty children, inmates of the home, had received, the coolness of the superintendent, Dr. Sigmund Frey, and the Sisters in attendance, the loss of life might have been frightful.

The flames were discovered about 1:30 o'clock by the janitor, Otto Torm, who aroused the superintendent. They seemed to be confined to the attic, but in a twinkling, it appeared, burst out through the windows and ate their way through the roof.

Dr. Frey, assisted by the Sisters, quietly aroused the sleeping children. There was no time to dress them, and in their night clothes, pale-faced and trembling, they formed in line and marched out of the building.

As the children stepped into the night-air and saw the flames leaping from the attic, their fears overcame them. They sobbed and wrung their hands, staring pitifully at the destruction of their home.

It was a trying moment for the gentle Sisters. The children were counted to make sure all were present. In the excitement, some had been missed, and the brave women rushed into the burning building to lead out girls who had failed to wake when the alarm was sounded.

Meantime, the flames gathered headway. People, living in adjoining houses, awakened by the cries and the roar of the flames, rushed out of their houses and stood in their night clothes, gazing at the roaring, twisting flames as they ate their way through the frame building.

An alarm had been sent in to the Fire Department when the flames were first discovered; then a second alarm was sent when it was seen the fire was spreading. Four fire companies responded, but were powerless to save the home.

Conspicuous for heroism was Superintendent Sigmund Frey, whose love for his wards would not permit him to forsake the building, even when the flames surrounded him and the ceiling began to fall in gigantic torch-like chunks. He carried the last of the younger children out, and then remained to search the building to make sure that no one could have been left behind.

Miss Emma Rives, a Sister, was calm while doing her duties of devotion to her charges. She worked amidst smoke and flames, marshaling the children into their drilled fire emergency lines, and sent them out of the building without a hitch. She then returned

to the building and made a search for possible stragglers.

The little tots presented a humorously pathetic picture in the house to which they were taken, which is a part of the Orphans' Home property. All were in their night clothes. The little boys in flannel suits that looked like Zouave uniforms and the girls in flowing white "nighties" which tripped their bare feet.

All appeared good humored and made the best of the sudden adversity. Seven little boys chivalrously gave up a blanket which they had for the use of five little girls who were dressed less warmly.

When the superintendent told them that their former home was a total loss, they piteously agreed that the Lord would provide a new home.

The fire started from crossed wires in the attic, and the wooden partitions caught so suddenly that the top of the house was a furnace of flame before the watchman-janitor gave the alarm. Smoke poured through the corridors and whirled into the bedrooms in such suffocating volumes that, for a time, it seemed as if many children would be overcome before they could be sent from the burning structure.

It is estimated that the total loss will be more than \$75,000 on the building and the contents, which includes Dr. Frey's valuable library. The books burned comprise a set which cannot be duplicated. Many volumes were worth hundreds of dollars, and the most important loss of these was the first Greek Bible printed in this country. Ancient manuscripts and parchments were also burned, and all of the office books and papers.

During the excitement, several drunken Mexicans gathered in the neighborhood and waited for a chance to loot. When they were seen lurking near the older of the Jewish girls, police officers on the scene dispersed them.

Extra police details were sent to keep thieves and looters away. The police department offered aid to any persons whom the authorities of the home felt that they could not accommodate, but the latter relied on their own resources.

The building is one of the landmarks of this city, and has stood for more than thirty years. It was originally the residence of a winery king. The fact that it was in the center of a park and grove kept the flames from spreading and destroying a large portion of the neighborhood.

At 2 o'clock this morning the burning embers and a few watchful firemen marked all that was left of the one place that has offered a shelter for the little orphans. As daylight appeared, groups could be seen kneeling to offer thanks to Jehovah, who had spared them.



ING.

## Sigmund Frey, Noted Hebrew Scholar, Dies

Sigmund Frey, 77 years of age, Hebrew scholar, bibliophile, writer and for thirty-eight years a rabbi, died at his home, 419 Westminster avenue, yesterday afternoon. The funeral services will be held tomorrow morning at 10:30 o'clock at the Home of Peace Cemetery, under the direction of Malinow & Sions, funeral directors, 1218 South lower street. Services will be simple and the Masonic ritual will be used.

Dr. Frey was born in Raussnitz, Moravia, now Czecho-Slovakia, in the year 1853. He came to America as a young man in 1890, was married to Emma Abrams in Wabash, Ind. Two children were born of his union, Bertha and Harold F. Frey, the latter of whom survives and is a resident of Los Angeles. Mrs. Frey passed away in 1895 and two years later, in 1897, Dr. Frey married Hermine Graf, who survives him. Two children were born of his union and both survive their father. They are Ruth and Berthold.

He came to Los Angeles in 1909 to act as superintendent of the Jewish Orphans' Home, a position he filled for fifteen years. When he resigned, he went to Europe and visited the scenes of his boyhood. He returned to Los Angeles, but in a couple of years went to Vienna, where his son Berthold was attending the university, taking a medical course.

Dr. Frey, since his return from Europe, two or three years ago, lived in retirement owing to failing health.

Dr. Frey had written extensively for newspapers and magazines, his articles being for the most part of a literary, historical and philosophical nature. He was a Master Mason, being a member of Hiram Lodge at Leavenworth, Kan.

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Passport photo of Rabbi Sigmund Frey and his second wife Hermine Garf Frey  
1923-5-19 Los Angeles, California

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**Rabbi Sigmund Frey and his wife Hermine Graf Frey Daughter Ruth Elizabeth Frey Axe and son Dr. Aaron Berthold Frey. 1921 Huntington Park, California**

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## **W. M. Abrahamson**



<http://www.garon.us/images2/news/1885-10-18%20W.%20M.%20Abrahamson%20and%20Mark.pdf>

1885 W. M. Abrahamson assistant to Postmaster Day, of St. Paul, is in Duluth on his annual vacation, and will be the guest of his uncle, A. Mark, Isq, of the Louisiana State Lottery company.

[http://www.garon.us/images2/news/1896-6-1%20Abrahamson%20chrisening%20\(bris\).pdf](http://www.garon.us/images2/news/1896-6-1%20Abrahamson%20chrisening%20(bris).pdf)

Photo of W. M. Abrahamson. Becomes the manager of the Empress Theater in Duluth. Empress Hippodrome.

<http://www.garon.us/images2/Duluth/Abrahamson,%20W.%20M.%20news%201914-10-2.jpg>

**Isaac Abrahamson** father of W. M. Abrahamson.

# I. ABRAHAMSON CALLED FROM LIFE

## Well Known Business Man and Prominent Hebrew Dies After a Year's Illness.

Isaac Abrahamson, 62 years old, prominent in the Jewish life of Duluth, died early yesterday morning at St. Luke's hospital after an illness of over a year. Mr. Abrahamson had been in business in Duluth for over 15 years and was well known all over the city.

He was active in church work and was instrumental in building the Jewish synagogue here five years ago, and also aided in raising subscriptions for similar churches in St. Paul, Minneapolis and Chicago during the last few years.

He was president of the Hub Clothing company which went out of business a few years ago, and when he retired from active business three years ago he was proprietor of the Sterling Wine house.

A year ago he was taken ill and was sent to Rochester where he was operated upon by the Mayos, but he never fully recovered, and was an invalid up to the time of his death.

He leaves his wife and four children, William, Julius and Oscar Abrahamson of Duluth and Mrs. J. L. Hirsch of Quincy, Ill.

The funeral will be held today from the Adash Israel synagogue, Third avenue east and Third street.



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## Isaac Louis Cook



## Isaac Louis Cook

**BIRTH** 1 JANUARY 1844 • Russia

**DEATH** 13 FEBRUARY 1901 • Duluth, St Louis, Minnesota, USA

WOMEN WILL AID  
HEBREW SCHOOL



MRS. IDA COOK.

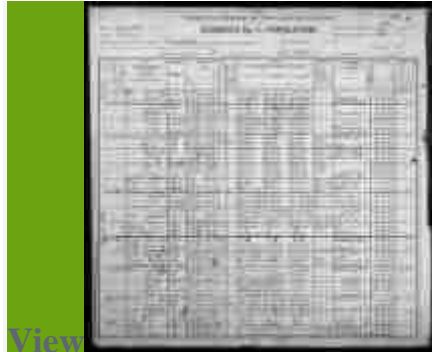
The bazaar being held at 16 West Superior street, members of the Jewish Educational society, of which Mrs. Ida Cook is president, will continue today and tomorrow night. The proceeds will be used for the benefit of the building debt of the Moses Montiflore Hebrew school, 310-12 East Third street. It is planned to make the bazaar an annual affair. There is a variety of hand-made articles on sale, including crochet, tatting and embroidery work. A light luncheon will be served during the bazaar.

The women assisting are Mrs. John Altman, Mrs. Frank Phelps, Mrs. J. I. Hart, Mrs. E. Franklin of St. Louis, and Mrs. M. S. Cook. A number of young women interested in the school will act as waitresses. Tomorrow night a 15-pound loaf of braided bread, now on view in the window, will be cut and formed into sandwiches.

1915-7-23 Mrs. Ida Cook Wife of Isaac Louis Cook

# Isaac L Cook

in the **1900 United States Federal Census**



- [View blank form](#)
- [Add alternate information](#)
- [Report issue](#)

Name: Isaac L Cook

Age: 56

**Birth Date: Dec 1843**

Birthplace: Russia

Home in 1900: Duluth Ward 3, Saint  
Louis , Minnesota

Ward of City: 3d

**Street: West 3d Street**

**House Number: 20**

Sheet Number: 10

Number of Dwelling  
in Order of Visitation: 113

Family Number: 156

Race: White

Gender: Male

**Immigration Year: 1886**

Relation to Head of  
House: Head

Marital status: Married

**Spouse's name: Ida D Cook**

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**Marriage Year: 1865**

Father's Birthplace: Russia

Mother's Birthplace: Russia

Years in US: 14

Naturalization: No

**Occupation: Gen'l Merchant (Furniture dealer) No. 12 First Ave. West**

Months Not Employed: 0

Can Read: Yes

Can Write: Yes

Can Speak English: Yes

House Owned or Rented: R

Farm or House: H

Neighbors: [View others on page](#)

Household Members:

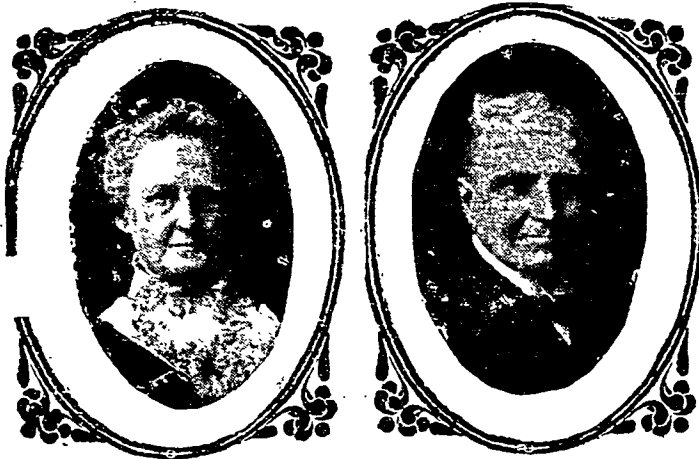
<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
Isaac L Cook	56
Ida D Cook	55
Barnard J Cook	34
<b>Meyer J H Cook</b>	28
Julius Cook	14
Henrietty Cook	20
Etta P Cook	17
Simon P Cook	114
Sigmund Jasephs	23
Wm M Rusenberg	28
Harry Bartel	25

# HAVE BEEN MARRIED FORTY THREE YEARS

JUDGE AND MRS. A. N. M'GINDLEY.



As They Appeared Nearly Half a Century Ago.



As Their Duluth-Friends Know Them Today.

Judge A. N. and Mrs. McGindley of 201 South Fifteenth avenue east, were married forty-three years ago Monday, and seven years more will complete the half century to entitle them to their golden wedding anniversary. Both are in excellent health.

One of the portraits above shows Judge McGindley when a young man of 26, four years after he was admitted to the bar by the supreme court of Illinois. Both the portraits above of Mr. and Mrs. McGindley were taken soon after they were married. The ceremony occurred at Quincy, Ill., April 4, 1861. Mary Louisa Clark, the bride, was one of the social leaders of Quincy. Her portrait at that time will be of keenest interest to the generations that have grown up since, as showing the style of dress that was then in fashion.

Judge and Mrs. McGindley came to

Duluth temporarily in 1882, afterwards removing to Dakota. Seventeen years ago they returned, and he has been actively engaged in the practice of law since that time. They have two daughters, Mrs. Olive F. Wiginton of Minneapolis and Mrs. Cora Mitchell widow of Elmer Mitchell, for several years alderman from West Duluth and candidate for mayor on the Republican ticket in 1888. Mrs. Mitchell resides at Chaney, Wash., where she is teacher of languages in the state Normal schools.

Drew McGindley, an adopted boy of 6 years, is the only member of the family who will be present to witness the forty-third anniversary. Drew was the son of an old friend of the judge. The child's mother died, and after the funeral services Drew's father gave the little fellow into the keeping of Mr. and Mrs. McGindley.

Judge A. N. McGindley 1904-4-3



## DEATH OF JUDGE A. N. M'GINDLEY

Long a Well Known Figure in  
the Duluth Courts—Was  
78 Years of Age.

JUDGE A. N. MCGINDLEY.



Ex-Judge A. N. McGindley, aged 78, died at his residence, 101 South Fifteenth avenue east, yesterday afternoon from an attack of catarrhal fever. He was ill only a few days. The funeral arrangements will be announced later.

The late judge is survived by his widow and two daughters, Mrs. Olive Wigginton of Minneapolis and Mrs. Cora Ward of Portland, Ore., and one son, Austin Drue McGindley, of this city.

The judge, who was a native of Ohio, was one of the oldest members of the bar in Duluth, he having practiced law in this city for the last 25 years, coming from Moberly, Mo.

He was a member of Palestine and Eastern Star lodges of the Masons and also of the Odd Fellows.

While Judge McGindley was a resident of Missouri he was appointed judge to fill out an unexpired term.

1911-3-22

E. Orecofsky ? Maybe Orecofsky?

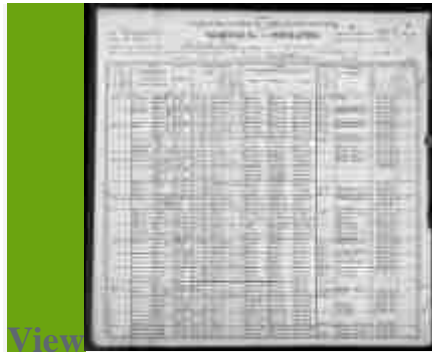
Reverend Abromnovsky ?

I ? Shapiro ?

S. ? Kassmir maybe Sam Casmir ?

## Sam Casmir

in the **1900 United States Federal Census**



View

- [View blank form](#)
- [View/Add alternate info](#)
- [Report issue](#)

Name: Sam Casmir  
[*Sam Kassmir*]  
[Sam Casmer]

Age: 34

**Birth Date: Jan 1866**

**Birthplace: Russia**

Home in 1900: Duluth Ward 4, Saint  
Louis , Minnesota

Ward of City: 4

**Street: East 3d St**

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**House Number: 226**

Sheet Number: 9

Number of Dwelling  
in Order of Visitation: 105

Family Number: 145

Race: White

Gender: Male

**Immigration Year: 1893**

Relation to Head of  
House: Brother

Marital status: Married

**Marriage Year: 1888 Mary Kassmir**

Father's Birthplace: Russia

Mother's Birthplace: Russia

Years in US: 7

Occupation: Salesman Furniture

Months Not  
Employed: 0

Can Read: Yes

Can Write: Yes

Can Speak English: Yes

Neighbors: View others on page

Household Members:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
Louis Casmir	50
Lena Casmir	49
Eva Casmir	18
Selma Casmir	12
Sam Casmir	34
Mary Casmir	31
Lena Casmir	10
Sarah Casmir	8

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Ida Casmir	4
Essie Casmir	1