

Tippecanoe County History

Tippecanoe County was organized in 1826. The city of Lafayette, incorporated in 1853, is the county seat. The first congregation, Ahvas Achim Congregation, was formed Lafayette in 1851. They had a Hebrew school and a cemetery, and by 1869 had built a temple by architect Jacob Welschbiling; this synagogue was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. The name of the congregation was changed to Temple Israel in 1919. The congregation sold the building in 1969 and built in nearby West Lafayette.



Temple Israel in Lafayette (Tippecanoe County), which is still in use as a church today, as it looked when listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

In 1889, another minyan came together to organize the Sons of Abraham, the Orthodox congregation. At first, they held services in a rented space, until a temple could be built in 1916. A second synagogue was built in 1940 and still in use today. This temple sits in the middle of a neighborhood, so that when it was built, members could walk to temple as is the custom in the Orthodox tradition. The Sons of Abraham have a cemetery within the Ahavas Cemetery for their burials. There was a Sisterhood of Sons of Abraham. ¹

The city of Lafayette has had a long history of Jewish business owners. Heintz Rosenwhitzengery was listed as a peddler in 1860, Samuel Bom was a grain dealer in 1869, Henry Rosenweig was a clothier in 1865 and in 1875 he was also listed as a pawn broker, Leo Dreyfus was a butcher in 1869 working for *Meyer and Kurtz* a butcher shop owned by Charles and Daniel Kurtz, Henry Strauss and A. Strauss were clothiers in the 1860s, Emanuel Ullmann owned *E. Ullman & Co* in 1869, M. Ullmann owend a store that sold groceries and provisions, and Solomon Wise, who was a trustee of Ahavas, owned *S. Wise and Bros Store*, a notions and drygoods store.



Other influential individuals included Jacob Kurtz who worked as the City Clerk in 1875, Jacob Lion (Leon) who was was a clothier, had a cigar shop, and was a Trustee of Ahavas when formed; Mose Berger, Oscar Winski, and the Perlman brothers were all junk dealers in the



The two congregations in Lafayette (Tippecanoe County) share land for their respective burial grounds.

1940s. Mose Berger also owned *Berger Steel*. Harry Rosenthal owned *Harry Rosenthal's* in 1940. The Loeb family has a long history in the county as business owners and for their participation in many philanthropic activities. Julius L. Loeb opened *Loeb & Hene* in 1875; by 1940, it was still in the family, owned by Samuel Loeb. Louis Loeb was listed as a peddler in 1865. The Loeb family gave money for a fountain at Purdue University, located in West Lafayette.

Footnotes

¹ Sam Harris, An Address by Sam Harris for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Congregation Sons of Abraham, Lafayette, Indiana 24 September 1989.