

RECORD GROUP 162

GATES OF PRAYER SYNAGOGUE PAPERS

Accession # 1982.106.2-6
5 folders

Congregation Gates of Prayer, called the "Lafayette Synagogue" because it was located in that part of the city, was founded in 1850. When the congregation moved in 1861 it became known as the "Jackson Avenue Synagogue." In 1920 the congregation moved to Napoleon Avenue and in 1975 it became the first New Orleans congregation to move to Jefferson Parish. Included in this collection is a program for the "Golden Jubilee" [the 50th anniversary of the congregation] in 1901 and history of the congregation appearing in the Jewish Ledger of May 3, 1901 in commemoration of the "Golden Jubilee." Two prominent early members of the congregation are featured in this record group; Moses Heidenheim [1825-1907] was president of the congregation from 1859-62 and then from 1875-97. He helped start the congregation and, in his twenty-five years as president, "saw it through its trials and successes." A Times-Picayune article described his daughter Celestine's [1855-1932] traditional orthodox wedding to Simon Katten [1850-1928] on June 8, 1881. Samson Cerf [1840-1905] was born in Rouxweller in Alsace-Lorraine, where he studied music. Upon arriving in New Orleans he became cantor of the congregation. A newspaper account of his burial service and an obituary are contained in the collection.

Folder 1

Newspaper clipping that described the traditional orthodox Jewish wedding of Simon Katten of Mexia, Texas to Celestine Heidenheim, whose father was president of Congregation Gates of Prayer. Times-Picayune, June 8, 1882.

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Folder 2

Newspaper article in a weekly New Orleans Jewish journal that outlined the history of Congregation Gates of Prayer in celebration of its "Golden Jubilee." Jewish Ledger, Friday, May 3, 1901.

2.

Folder 3

Commemorative program for the occasion of Congregation Gates of Prayer's Golden Jubilee. Included are a photograph of the Jackson Avenue Synagog (sic), a photograph of the Old Synagog (sic) on the corner of St. Mary and Fulton Streets, and photographs of Moses Heidenheim [honored for his years of service to the congregation as president] and President Leopold Levy. Also included is a list of the officers and directors and a roster of members and of the ladies' auxiliary. A history of the congregation is followed with a Memoriam. Golden Jubilee Souvenir Booklet, 1901.

3.

Folder 4

--Newspaper account of burial service for Cantor Samson Cerf [1840-1905]. The coffin was brought into the synagogue, breaking with orthodox tradition. The rabbi had consulted the law and because of Cantor Cerf's years of devoted service to the synagogue, the rabbi found it permissible to bring the casket up to the altar.

--Obituary for Samson Cerf. Photocopy, N.D.

6.

Folder 5

Congregational bulletin [incomplete-missing pages] that included a brief history of the congregation's cemeteries; recounted the service to the congregation by Moses Heidenheim, explained the preparation process for Friday night services, and listed the female members of the Board. This Is Our Temple, circa 1965.

5.