



Temple Israel FOUNDATION

Biographical Information Sheet

Ballin

Dr. Max Ballin

Born: Nordhausen, Germany, August 13, 1869

Died: Detroit, March 3, 1934

Carrie Leppel Ballin

Born: St. Louis, September 10, 1877

Died: Detroit, March 28, 1975

In Leadville 1897-1901

Evidence indicates that the two Ballin households belonging to Dr. Max and Siegfried Fred Ballin were related. It is likely the two men were cousins, although there is a possibility they were brothers. (No current evidence confirms the latter.) The first of the pair, Dr. Max, was born in Nordhausen, Germany on August 13, 1869, and arrived in the United States during 1896. He immediately came to Leadville¹ where he partnered in a medical practice² with prominent Jewish physician Dr. David Heimberger³ at 303 Harrison Avenue,⁴ suggesting they may have had a prior relationship. Dr. Max also engaged in mining and partnered in several claims in the Leadville area.⁵

Dr. Max, who wasted no time making his mark on the Leadville community, attended a stag party in honor of Joe Neuman's birthday on March 25, 1897:

By the end of 1897, Dr. Max and other Leadville physicians were preoccupied with a scarlet fever outbreak in the city. Dr. Lee Kahn⁶ had stepped down as city physician and Dr. Cole now assumed the position, but he and other doctors testified to City Council in November regarding their opinions of the disease. One of the Janowitz⁷ children had been ill with what many believed to be scarlet fever and the city attempted to prosecute Dr. Max's partner, Dr. David Heimberger, on the grounds that he had failed to report the case. Several Leadville physicians testified that the boy was instead infected with rubella and not scarlet fever while Dr. Cole and several other doctors testified the sickness

was in fact scarlet fever. After a lengthy, heated courtroom debate and resulting testimony from a multitude of local doctors, the Judge dismissed the charges against Heimberger and stated that while all appropriate precautions had been undertaken, the actual disease in question was simply mistakenly diagnosed.⁸

On November 29, 1898, Judge Krell sent miner Otto Slaback to the state hospital in Pueblo on the testimony by Dr. Max and another local physician stating Slaback suffered from alcoholism and as a result "...grew violent, exhibiting unmistakable evidence of being of unsound mind."⁹

On February 7, 1899, Dr. Max's friend and colleague, Dr. Lee Kahn, passed away from complications related to the surgical removal of a bowel obstruction. The funeral was held at Temple Israel on March 1. Dr. Max was one of six Leadville physicians to serve as pall bearers.¹⁰ On March 8, Dr. Max was elected as a member of Leadville's Board of Trade¹¹ and president¹² for The Leadville Turnverein Society:

On June 18, 1899, Dr. Max traveled to Denver to attend a meeting in preparation for the Turner's annual Rocky Mountain Festival held at the Weston Hotel in Leadville that year.¹³ Dr. Max also served as a physician for the Denver & Rio Grande railroad line and in July was called upon to tend to passengers injured in a four-car derailment, the result of hitting a broken rail and crashing about nine miles west of Leadville.¹⁴

On May 30, 1900, Dr. Max left Leadville on a three-week trip that took him to Atlantic City for the annual meeting of the American Medical Association and then to Philadelphia where he represented the Leadville Turners at their annual meeting.¹⁵ On June 22, 1901, Dr. Max was elected to the admissions committee for the Colorado Medical Association.¹⁶



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Carrie Leppel Ballin was born at St. Louis during 1877.¹⁷ She was the second daughter of prominent Leadville liquor wholesaler and Prussian-Jewish immigrant Morris Leppel¹⁸ and his wife Betty.¹⁹ Carrie moved to Leadville with her parents and two sisters in 1879.²⁰ She would grow to adulthood in Leadville and marry Dr. Max at her parents' Leadville home on July 10, 1901.²¹

On August 10, 1901, a malpractice suit was filed in the Leadville District Court against Dr. Max. The episode coincides with his abrupt departure from the city to Detroit, a move facilitated by Dr. Donald McClean, who at that time was the dean of Michigan surgeons, and had invited Dr. Max to join the organization.²²

Dr. Max and Carrie likely left Leadville in late August of 1901 for their new home in Detroit.²³ It is unclear if the couple was present in Leadville when the trial was moved up to the district courts on November 15, 1902.²⁴

Dr. Max died in Detroit on March 3, 1934, as a result of coronary thrombosis.²⁵ His obituary, which offered quite a long list of accomplishments, said that Dr. Max had a full and rewarding life:

Carrie did not remarry and would survive Dr. Max by over 40 years, passing away in Detroit on March 28, 1975, a few months shy of her 98th birthday.²⁶



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Siegfried Fred Ballin

Born: Hamburg, Germany, January 25, 1872

Died: Los Angeles, September 26, 1946

Husband of Frances Fischl Ballin

Frances "Fannie" Fischl Ballin

Wife of Siegfried

Born: Germany, April 4, 1873

Died: Los Angeles, December 17, 1944

Bertha Ballin

Daughter of Siegfried and Fanny Ballin

Born: Leadville, January 13, 1900

Died: Leadville, December 11, 1901

In Leadville 1898-1902

It is unclear when Siegfried Ballin came to the United States from Germany, but he married 24-year-old Jewish-Hungarian immigrant Frances Fischl in Omaha on September 13, 1897.²⁷ The couple probably arrived in Leadville before the end of that same year and took up residence at 224 East 9th Street. Siegfried found employment as a bookkeeper with established Jewish merchant Adolph Schayer's liquor operation.²⁸ The Ballins wasted little time immersing themselves in Leadville society and many members of Leadville's Jewish community attended a lavish card party they hosted at their home on April 8, 1899.²⁹ Siegfried's brother, Eugene Ballin³⁰ of Kansas City, visited them in Leadville on August 31, 1899.³¹ It is unlikely Eugene remained in Leadville for long.

Siegfried and Fannie were ubiquitous players in the local social circuit. Fannie was a card player and a member of the Pesquezo French Euchre Club.³² Equally visible within Leadville's Jewish community, they hosted a card party on the evening of April 5, 1899, that drew several notable Jewish guests:

Mr. and Mrs. S. Ballin entertained a number of their friends in a handsome manner, at their home on East Ninth street, last Tuesday night. Cards and music served to while away a pleasant evening. The dining room was handsomely decorated for the occasion, and a tempting luncheon was provided. Mrs. Ballin was assisted in receiving by Mrs. Joseph Cohn and Mrs. J. Rabbi. Among those present were the Mr. and Mrs. Sam Berry, Mr. and Mrs. R. Fogel, Mr. and Mrs. A. Schayer, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. I. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. L. Janowitz, Mr. and Mrs. Bloomfield, Mrs. Nathan Cohn, Mrs. J. Cohn, Mrs. Carrie Mayer, Mrs. Rosenstock, Mrs. Rabbi, the Misses Hattye Cohn, May Kahn, Eliza Wright and Tillie Kahn, Dr. Ballin, Jacob Kahn and others.³³

On August 12, 1900, both Ballin couples Siegfried and Fannie and Dr. Max and Carrie picnicked at Twin Lakes with Clementine Raabe³⁴ and Albert Liefke.³⁵

Fannie attended a reception in honor of Mrs. Summerfield at the home of Fanny Cohn³⁶ on September 8, 1901,³⁷ and Siegfried enjoyed some success at his Park County mining property:

On December 7, 1901, a notice in Leadville's *Herald Democrat* newspaper recorded that young Bertha, now just a year old, had been suffering from an undisclosed ailment:

Despite the optimistic report, three days later the child submitted to her illness and passed on December 11. She was interred at Leadville's historic Hebrew Cemetery on December 13.³⁸



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Late in 1901, Siegfried acquired the Adolph Schayer operation. Schayer, longtime merchant and cantor for the Congregation Israel, abruptly left Leadville for Denver after the untimely passing of his own daughter in May of 1901. Although the precise date the firm changed hands is unknown, advertisements for the newly named operation began appearing in Leadville papers on January 1, 1902:

On January 23, 1902, it was noted that Fannie had been critically ill for several days but was on the mend.³⁹ Curiously, the Ballin wholesale liquor and tobacco concern inexplicably appears in advertisements during 1903 with the letters “F.” and “S.” transposed:

Siegfried and Fannie, who probably left Leadville sometime during the latter part of 1903, resurfaced in Albuquerque where their next child, Thelma, was born in 1906.⁴⁰ At the time Siegfried registered for the World War I draft in 1918, he was living in Los Angeles.⁴¹ In 1921, his occupation is listed as an “auditor” for the firm of *J.P Gans & Bro.* He and Fannie would remain there for the duration of their lives. Fannie passed away on December 17, 1944.⁴² Siegfried would follow her a year-and-a-half later, on September 26, 1946.⁴³ It is possible Siegfried remarried before his death because a newspaper mentions his wife at that time to be “Hermina Ballin.”⁴⁴ Despite this, he rests next to Fannie and Thelma in a mausoleum at Forest Lawn Cemetery.⁴⁵



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- ¹ "Illness Is Fatal." *Detroit Free Press*; Publication Date: 4 Mar 1934; Publication Place: Detroit, Michigan, USA; P1.
- ² JH Ballenger and Richards. *Ballenger & Richard's Eighteenth Annual City Directory: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms etc. in The City of Leadville for 1897.* (Leadville, CO: Ballenger and Richards Publishers. 1897). P103.
- ³ For more information on the Heimberger family, please visit: <http://jewishleadville.org/heimberger.html>
- ⁴ Ballenger and Richards. Leadville, CO; USA. 1897. P68.
- ⁵ *Goldbelt and Breece Hill.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). January 1, 1901. P16.
- ⁶ For more information on the Kahn family, please visit: <http://jewishleadville.org/kahn.html>
- ⁷ For more information on the Janowitz family, please visit: <http://jewishleadville.org/janowitz.html>
- ⁸ *Was The Case Scarlet Fever?* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). November 17, 1897. P2.
- ⁹ *Sent To Pueblo.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). November 29, 1888. P8.
- ¹⁰ *Laid To Rest.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). March 2, 1899. P8.
- ¹¹ *Board Of Trade.* (Leadville CO: Herald Democrat). March 8, 1899. P8.
- ¹² *Turner's Give A Smoker.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). March 28, 1899. P2.
- ¹³ *Turners As Hosts.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). June 18, 1899. P8.
- ¹⁴ *Cars Overturned.* (Pueblo, CO: The Colorado Daily Chieftain). July 5, 1899. P3.
- ¹⁵ *Personal Mention.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). May 30, 1900. P8.
- ¹⁶ *Colorado State Medical Society.* (Golden, CO: The Colorado Transcript). June 26, 1901. P2.
- ¹⁷ Year: 1927; Arrival: *New York, New York, USA*; Microfilm Serial: T715, 1897-1957; Line: 17; Page Number: 162
- ¹⁸ For more information on Carrie Leppel and her life before marrying Dr. Max Ballin, please visit: <http://jewishleadville.org/leppel.html>
- ¹⁹ Year: 1880; Census Place: *Leadville, Lake, Colorado*; Roll: 91; Page: 371A; Enumeration District: 078
- ²⁰ JH Ballenger, TB Corbett, and WC Hoyer. *Corbett, Hoyer & Co.'s Second Annual City Directory For 1879 Of The Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms, Etc. In The City Of Denver.* Denver, CO: Corbett, Hoyer & Co: Directory Publishers and Compilers. 1879. P96.
- ²¹ Ancestry.com. *Web: Western States Marriage Index, 1809-2016* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.
- ²² "Illness Is Fatal." 4 Mar 1934; P1.
- ²³ *Personal Mention.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). August 28, 1901. P4.
- ²⁴ *Allege Unskilful Treatment.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). November 15, 1902. P5.
- ²⁵ Ancestry.com. *Michigan, U.S., Death Records, 1867-1952* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015.
- ²⁶ Michigan Department of Vital and Health Records. *Michigan, U.S., Death Index, 1971-1996* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1998.
- ²⁷ *Nebraska, U.S., Select County Marriage Records, 1855-1908* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2017.
- ²⁸ Ballenger and Richards. Leadville, CO; USA. 1897. P69.
- ²⁹ *The World Of Society.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). April 9, 1899. P2.
- ³⁰ As previously mentioned, it is unclear if Siegfried and Dr. Max are themselves brothers and thus Eugene's specific relationship to Dr. Max is not substantiated though they are related.
- ³¹ *Personal Mention.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). September 1, 1899. P8.
- ³² *Society.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). November 24, 1901. P12.
- ³³ *The World of Society.* (Leadville, CO: The Herald Democrat). April 9, 1899. P2.
- ³⁴ For more information on Clementine Kahn Raabe (Davies), please visit the following: <http://jewishleadville.org/raabe.html>, <http://jewishleadville.org/kahn.html>, <http://jewishleadville.org/davies.html>, and <http://jewishleadville.org/raabedaviesraabeaffair.html>
- ³⁵ *Society.* (Leadville, CO: The Herald Democrat). August 19, 1900. P6.
- ³⁶ For more information on the Cohn family, please visit: <http://jewishleadville.org/cohn.html>
- ³⁷ *Society.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). September 8, 1901. P12.
- ³⁸ Manly, Nancy. *Who's Where In Leadville's Evergreen Cemetery.* Leadville, CO; USA. *Historical Research Co-operative.* 1981. P34.
- ³⁹ *Personal Mention.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). January 23, 1902. P6.



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- ⁴⁰ Year: 1910; Census Place: Albuquerque Ward 3, Bernalillo, New Mexico; Roll: T624_913; Page: 20B; Enumeration District: 0012; FHL microfilm: 1374926
- ⁴¹ Ancestry.com. *U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.
- ⁴² State of California. *California Death Index, 1940-1997*. Sacramento, CA, USA: State of California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics.
- ⁴³ *California, U.S., Death Index, 1940-1997* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000.
- ⁴⁴ *Ballin, Siegfried F.* (Los Angeles, CA: The Los Angeles Times). September 30, 1946. P16.
- ⁴⁵ *Find a Grave*, [database and images]. *Memorial Page for Siegfried Fred Ballin (17 Oct 1872–26 Sep 1946)*, Find a Grave Memorial ID [85343188](#), citing Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, Los Angeles County, California, USA ; Maintained by genealogybuff (contributor [47667875](#))



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AUTHOR: Jeffrey P. Grant

EDITOR: William Korn & Andrea Jacobs

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