



# Temple Israel FOUNDATION

## Biographical Information

### Berger

Samuel Robert Berger

Born: September 22, 1877. Russia.

Died: November 25, 1958. Long Beach, California.

Married to:

Stella Hecht, 1906-1907 (her death),

Pearle Miller, 1911-1943 (her death),

Josephine Cota, 1956-1958 (his death)

Occupation: Optometrist

Stella S. (Hecht) Berger

Born: 1884. Buena Vista, Colorado.

Died: March 8, 1907. Leadville, Colorado.

Married to Samuel Robert Berger: 1906-1907 (her death).

Pearle (Miller) Berger

Born: August 20, 1889. Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

Died: July 17, 1943. Grand Junction, Colorado.

Married to Samuel Robert Berger: 1911-1943 (her death).

Irene Stella Berger

Born: 1907. Colorado

Died: December 9, 1932. Leadville, Colorado.

Daughter of Samuel and Stella

Elinor Rae Berger

Born: November 7, 1914. Grand Junction?, Colorado.

Died: January 28, 1915. Grand Junction?, Colorado.

Buried in Hebrew Cemetery, Leadville, Colorado.

Daughter of Samuel and Pearl

Dr. Samuel Roberts Berger was born in Russia in 1878. Both of Berger's parents were also from Russia. Berger immigrated to the United States in 1890 when he was 12 years old.<sup>1</sup> He eventually became an optometrist and moved to Denver by 1905. On October 22, 1905, Berger visited Leadville and was entertained by Miss Stella Hecht.<sup>2</sup> She was the daughter of Solomon and Fannie Hecht, who were a successful business family in Leadville. Just a few months later in January of 1906, Samuel and Stella were married.<sup>3</sup>

Mr. and Mrs. Berger had one child, Irene Stella, in March of 1907. After the birth, Mrs. Berger's condition quickly deteriorated and she died of fever three weeks later.<sup>4</sup> However, Irene Stella survived her mother's demise.

After the death of his wife, Samuel continued to live in Leadville practicing optometry. From 1906 to 1908, he lived at 115 E 8<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>5</sup> Then from 1909 to 1911, he and Irene Stella lived at 143 W 7<sup>th</sup> Street with Solomon and Fannie Hecht, his late wife's parents.<sup>6</sup> Life took another turn in 1911 when Samuel married Pearle Miller. His new wife was the daughter of Nathan and Minnie Miller, another prominent family in Leadville.

After his marriage to Pearle, the Bergers moved to 141 E 8<sup>th</sup> Street and lived there from 1912 to 1913.<sup>7</sup> Shortly afterwards, they left Leadville and moved to Grand Junction. Early in 1914, Pearle gave birth to Thelma.<sup>8</sup> On November 7, 1914, the Bergers gave birth to another child, Elinor Rae Berger. Sadly she would only survive a mere ten weeks, dying on January 28, 1915.<sup>9</sup> Lastly, the Bergers also had a son, E. Stanley, in 1918.<sup>10</sup>



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Although Samuel Berger lived in Grand Junction, his daughter from his first marriage with Irene Stella is listed as living in Leadville with Solomon and Fannie Hecht in the 1920 census.<sup>11</sup>

Unfortunately, Irene Stella died young and passed away on December 9, 1932.<sup>12</sup> Samuel continued to be active in Grand Junction until at least 1943.<sup>13</sup> He traveled across the Western Slope visiting towns such as Leadville and offering his services as an optometrist. In the 1940 census, he is listed as living in Grand Junction with his wife Pearle and their two children, Thelma and Stanley.<sup>14</sup> The couple remained together in Grand Junction until Pearle's passing on July 17, 1943. She was curiously returned to Leadville and interred, away from both the Miller family and the Berger family, in the Masonic section of Evergreen cemetery.<sup>15</sup> Samuel removed to Long Beach, California shortly after Pearle's expiration. He would marry one more time, to Josephine Cota at Los Angeles on June 29, 1956.<sup>16</sup> He would pass at Long Beach from unknown causes on November 25, 1958.<sup>17</sup>

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SOURCE: Jewish Surnames/Berger

PUBLISHED BY: Temple Israel Foundation. Leadville, Colorado; USA. 2022.

STABLE URL: <http://www.jewishleadville.org/berger.html>



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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 1910 Census.

<sup>2</sup> "Personal Mention." *Herald Democrat*, October 22, 1905. Accessed July 5, 2016. <https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

<sup>3</sup> "The Marriage Record For 1906." *Herald Democrat*, January 1, 1907. Accessed July 5, 2016.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

<sup>4</sup> "Death of Mrs. S. R. Berger." *Herald Democrat*, March 17, 1907. Accessed July 5, 2016.

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

<sup>5</sup> 1906-1908 Leadville City Directories

<sup>6</sup> 1909-1911 Leadville City Directories

<sup>7</sup> 1912-1913 Leadville City Directories

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 1940 Census.

<sup>9</sup> Leadville Hebrew Cemetery

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 1940 Census.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 1920 Census

<sup>12</sup> Leadville Hebrew Cemetery

<sup>13</sup> "Advertisement." *Eagle Valley Enterprise*, February 26, 1943. Accessed July 5, 2016. <https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 1940 Census.

<sup>15</sup> Manly, Nancy. *Who's Where In Leadville's Evergreen Cemetery*. Leadville, CO; USA. *Historical Research Co-operative*. 1981.

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<sup>16</sup> Ancestry.com. *California, U.S., Marriage Index, 1949-1959* [database on-line]. Provo, Utah, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.

<sup>17</sup> Ancestry.com. *California, U.S., Death Index, 1940-1997* [database on-line]. Provo, Utah, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000.