



Temple Israel FOUNDATION

Biographical Information

Berryman

Gertrude Martha Berryman Kahn

Born: 1885

Died:

Gertie Kahn was born Gertrude Martha Berryman to James H. and Hattie J. Berryman in 1885.¹ Her parents were Presbyterian, they and her brother Charles came to Leadville around 1887. Mother Hattie ran the Lake County Hospital and Poor House from 1899² to 1904,³ where the family also resided.⁴ This did not help her brother Charles, who accidentally shot himself with a Smith & Wesson .38 caliber hammerless revolver in the hallway of the family home on August 16, 1903. Though the 19 year-old received immediate medical attention and surgeons were able to remove the bullet, it had pierced his lung and stomach and he died from internal hemorrhaging later that evening.⁵ Gertie's father James, died at the age of 52, in Leadville, on April 1, 1911 after suffering for a week from an undisclosed illness.⁶

Hattie was a bit of a social butterfly, and attended many social functions around Leadville in her youth. Unlike her brother, Gertie was fortunate to be at home in the hospital when she had an attack of appendicitis in March of 1901. She survived the incident, but it took weeks for her to fully recover.⁷ Though Gertie and Maurice were dating as early as December of 1905,⁸ her parents did not announce the couple's engagement until January 13, 1907,⁹ a mere eight days before they married on January 21 at the Temple Israel synagogue. The legal proceedings were conducted by Judge Charles Cavender and afterwards Adolph Schayer gave the Jewish marriage rites.¹⁰

¹ "The Grammar Schools". Leadville, CO. USA. *Herald Democrat*. June 11, 1899. P11.

² Ballenger and Richards. Leadville, CO; USA. 1899. P35.

³ Ballenger and Richards. Leadville, CO; USA. 1904. P37.

⁴ Ballenger and Richards. Leadville, CO; USA. 1904. P72.

⁵ "His Last Words Denied Suicide". Leadville, CO. USA. *Herald Democrat*. August 17, 1903. P4.

⁶ "James Berryman Laid At Rest". Leadville, CO. USA. *Herald Democrat*. April 6, 1911. P8.

⁷ "Personal Mention". Leadville, CO. USA. *Herald Democrat*. March 14, 1901. P8.

⁸ "Society". Leadville, CO. USA. *Herald Democrat*. December 31, 1905. P10.

⁹ "Society". Leadville, CO. USA. *Herald Democrat*. January 13, 1907. P8.

¹⁰ "Berryman-Kahn Temple Marriage". Leadville, CO. USA. *Herald Democrat*. January 22, 1907. P5.



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