



Temple Israel FOUNDATION

Biographical Information Sheet

Rachofsky

David Lewis (“D. L.”) Rachofsky
Occupation: Store manager
Born: 1853
Birthplace: Russia or Poland
Died: 1930

Rashel/Rachel Rachofsky
Occupation:
Born: 1852
Birthplace: Russia or Poland
Died: 1932

Minnie Rachofsky
Occupation:
Born: 1876-1877
Birthplace: Russia or Poland
Died: 1931

Esther Rachofsky
Occupation: N/A
Born: 1878-1879
Birthplace: Russia or Poland
Died: 1960

Leah Rachofsky
Occupation: N/A
Born: January 1881
Birthplace: Russia or Poland
Died: December 20, 1969

Sarah Rachofsky
Occupation: N/A
Born: 1886
Birthplace: Russia or Poland
Died: 1970

Isidore Rachofsky
Occupation: N/A
Born: 1888
Birthplace: New York
Died: March 11, 1959

Bertha C. Rachofsky
Occupation: N/A
Born: 1889
Birthplace: Colorado
Died: 1973

Aaron Rachofsky
Occupation: Store clerk
Born: 1873
Birthplace: Russia or Poland
Died:

Little information remains of the Rachofsky family’s time in Leadville. Local newspapers and city directories contain only passing mentions of a David Lewis Rachofsky and others bearing the family name in local. Claims by historian Allen Breck connect David to brothers Jacob, Abraham, and Harry Rachofsky who held business interests in Central City, Durango, and Boulder, Colorado.¹ Breck’s assertions are supported in primary sources, including two newspaper mentions, one in which David and Jacob are described as leaving on a trip together² and another referring to David’s attendance at a meeting of the Rachofskys’ New York Store Mercantile Company in Gilpin.³ Breck further wrote that David was supposedly an officer in Leadville’s Orthodox Jewish congregation, Knesseth Israel when it was founded in 1892, but this has been difficult to corroborate.⁴ The 1892 officer list for the community that Breck alluded to has not yet been found.

David was born in Russia or Poland⁵ in 1853,⁶ the second youngest of his brothers after Harry. His listing in the 1900 US Census records cites his immigration year as 1879⁷ and based on the birthplace of one of his children, his port of arrival was New York.⁸ David married Rashel Einfrank (often spelled Rachel),⁹ born 1852,¹⁰ ten years prior to his arrival in the US.¹¹ Together they had at least seven children between 1870 and 1890: Aaron,¹² Minnie, Esther, Sarah, and Leah, all born in Russia or Poland; Isidore in New York, and Bertha in Colorado.¹³



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The first reported appearance of David and his family in Colorado was in Aspen in 1891, which probably occurred right after New York.¹⁴ David, presumably Rashel, and all their children arrived in Leadville around 1892, the first year the city directory recorded David's name.¹⁵ Both he and son Aaron worked as manager and clerk respectively, with Ben Cohen, a dry goods merchant who owned a store at 124 East 6th Street.¹⁶ Although the reason David worked with Ben Cohen instead of opening a branch of the Rachofsky family store is not entirely clear, it might indicate a familial connection between the Rachofskys and Cohens, evidenced by David's brother Abraham marrying Etta Cohen in 1875.¹⁷ According to Breck, Etta was the sister of a Louis Cohen of Central City, Colorado.¹⁸

As far as we know, none of David's brothers lived in Leadville, although Jacob did own property on Harrison Avenue as late as 1897¹⁹ and Abraham was instrumental in financing Isaac Shwayder's immigration to the United States in the 1870s. The Shwayder family is notable for founding the Shwayder Trunk Manufacturing Company in 1912 that eventually became the Samsonite Corporation.²⁰

Only David continued to appear in city directories through 1894, yet his family was clearly in the city as well. His and Rashel's daughter Esther is cited in a student list for Central School²¹ and an attendee of a ball hosted by Knesseth Israel, both in 1893.²² Her minor connection to a Knesseth Israel social function is the only evidence we found that supports Breck's assertion of David's affiliation with Knesseth Israel in the absence of the officer list. Yet Leah, another of David and Rashel's daughters, had her Bat Mitzvah at Temple Israel less than a year later.²³

By 1900, David, Rashel, and their children made their way to Denver, which became the family's permanent home. David was still living in Denver with his wife and five of their six children in 1910.²⁴ The 1920 US Census, the final census in which both David and Rashel are listed, showed they still lived in Denver with only two children, Sarah and Bertha.²⁵ By 1930, Rashel still resided in Denver with Sarah and Bertha.²⁶ David died in 1930 and is buried at Mount Nebo Memorial Park in Aurora, Colorado.²⁷ Rashel died in 1932 and is buried alongside David.²⁸ Sarah died in 1970,²⁹ Bertha in 1973,³⁰ Esther in 1960 under the last name of Hirschfeld after her marriage to Hyman Hirschfeld,³¹ and Minnie in 1931 under the last name Bem after her marriage to Alfred Bem.³² All four are also buried at Mount Nebo. Leah married Joseph Meyer Silver on October 21, 1903 and eventually made her way with her new family to California.³³ She died on December 20, 1969 and is buried in that state.³⁴ Like their sister, the final two members of the family, Isidore and Aaron,³⁵ also moved to California after assuming the last name Reich. It is not known when Aaron passed away, but Isidore's death index recorded his death as March 11, 1959.³⁶



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Rachofsky

Michael Rachofsky
Occupation: Laborer
Born: N/A
Birthplace: N/A
Died: N/A

Mark Rachofsky
Occupation: Company co-owner
Born: Est. 1887
Birthplace: N/A
Died: N/A

Michael Rachofsky first appears in the 1894 Leadville city directory. He is listed as a laborer residing at 522 West 3rd Street.³⁷ David Louis Rachofsky lived at 201 West 5th Street. Whether any familial relationship existed remains unknown. After 1894, Michael no longer appears in city directories or in census records.

Mark Rachofsky is the final person bearing the Rachofsky name who lived in Leadville. A *Herald Democrat* advertisement published in 1913 states that he worked at a clothing store at 318-320 Harrison Avenue in a vague partnership with an E. Pelton.³⁸ Mark was likely the son of Harry Rachofsky, one of David's brothers.³⁹



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- ¹ Allen DuPont Breck, *The Centennial History of the Jews of Colorado, 1859-1959* (Denver: The Hirschfeld Press, 1960), P47.
- ² *Messrs. J.L. Rachofsky of Boulder ...* (Boulder, CO: *Boulder Daily Camera*), February 5, 1894, P4.
- ³ *Personals* (Leadville, CO: *The Gilpin Observer*), February 8, 1900, P1.
- ⁴ Breck, *The Centennial History of the Jews of Colorado*, P136.
- ⁵ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MKWY-4CV>; accessed July 11, 2021), David L Rachofsky, Denver Ward 8, Denver, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 94, sheet 15A, family 322, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 115, FHL microfilm 1,374,128.
- ⁶ *Find a Grave*, database and images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/75443626/david-lewis-rachofsky; accessed July 11, 2021), memorial page for David Lewis Rachofsky (1853–1930), Find a Grave Memorial ID 75443626; citing Mount Nebo Memorial Park, Aurora, Arapahoe County, Colorado, USA, maintained by WalksWithAngels (contributor 47205696).
- ⁷ "United States Census, 1900," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M31B-F6T>; accessed July 12, 2021), Louis D Rashofsky, Precinct 1 Denver city Ward 5, Arapahoe, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) 32, sheet 7A, family 163, NARA microfilm publication T623 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1972), FHL microfilm 1,240,117.
- ⁸ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MKWY-4CP>; accessed July 11, 2021), Isidore Rachofsky in household of David L Rachofsky, Denver Ward 8, Denver, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 94, sheet 15A, family 322, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 115, FHL microfilm 1,374,128.
- ⁹ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MKWY-4CK>; accessed July 11, 2021), Rachel Rachofsky in household of David L Rachofsky, Denver Ward 8, Denver, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 94, sheet 15A, family 322, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 115, FHL microfilm 1,374,128.
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- ¹¹ "United States Census, 1900," Louis D Rachofsky.
- ¹² "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MKWY-K8T>; accessed July 11, 2021), Aaron H Rachofsky, Denver Ward 8, Denver, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 94, sheet 22A, family 470, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 115, FHL microfilm 1,374,128.
- ¹³ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MKWY-4CV>; accessed July 11, 2021), David L Rachofsky, Denver Ward 8, Denver, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 94, sheet 15A, family 322, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 115, FHL microfilm 1,374,128.
- ¹⁴ *Day's Diary* (Aspen, CO: *The Aspen Daily Chronicle*), August 18, 1891, P4.
- ¹⁵ J. H. Ballenger and W. H. Richards, *Ballenger & Richards Thirteenth Annual Leadville City Directory: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms, Etc. in the City of Leadville, for 1892* (Leadville, CO: Ballenger & Richards, Publishers, 1892), P220.
- ¹⁶ Ballenger and Richards, 1892, P220, 277.
- ¹⁷ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MX2L-QDJ>; accessed July 11, 2021), Ette Rachofsky in household of Abrham Rachofsky, Denver, Denver, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 251, sheet 9B, family 254, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 162, FHL microfilm 1,820,162.
- ¹⁸ Breck, *The Centennial History of the Jews of Colorado*, P47.
- ¹⁹ *Personal Mention* (Leadville, CO: *Herald Democrat*), August 10, 1897, P8.
- ²⁰ "Shwayder Family," Archives @ DU Catalog, accessed July 25, 2021, https://duarchives.coalliance.org/agents/families/37?&filter_fields%5b%5d=subjects&filter_values%5b%5d=Suitcases.
- ²¹ *In the Public Schools* (Leadville, CO: *Herald Democrat*), January 29, 1893, P5.
- ²² *Kneseth Israel Ball* (Leadville, CO: *Herald Democrat*), November 25, 1892, P1.
- ²³ *In Houses of Worship* (Leadville, CO: *Herald Democrat*), June 12, 1894, P5.
- ²⁴ "United States Census, 1910," David L Rachofsky.



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- ²⁵ "United States Census, 1920," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MX2G-SW2>; accessed July 12, 2021), David L Rachofsky, Denver, Denver, Colorado, United States; citing ED 261, sheet 3B, line 74, family 69, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1992), roll 162, FHL microfilm 1,820,162.
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- ²⁷ *Find a Grave*, database and images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/75443626/david-lewis-rachofsky; accessed July 11, 2021), memorial page for David Lewis Rachofsky (1853–1930), Find a Grave Memorial ID 75443626; citing Mount Nebo Memorial Park, Aurora, Arapahoe County, Colorado, USA, maintained by WalksWithAngels (contributor 47205696).
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- ³² *Find a Grave*, database and images (www.findagrave.com/memorial/41038311/minnie-bem; accessed July 12, 2021), memorial page for Minnie *Rachofsky* Bem (1877–1931), Find a Grave Memorial ID 41038311; citing Mount Nebo Memorial Park, Aurora, Arapahoe County, Colorado, USA, maintained by Wednesday (contributor 46961323).
- ³³ *Colorado, County Marriage Records and State Index, 1862-2006*, database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=61366&h=900371539&ssrc=pt&tid=67463001&pid=32167787715&usePUB=true>; accessed July 12, 2021), marriage index for Leah Rachofsky and Joseph M Silver, Denver, Colorado, United States; citing *Marriage Records* (Denver: State Archives, n.d.), film number 001690134.
- ³⁴ *California, U.S., Death Index, 1940-1997*, database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=5180&h=6776867&ssrc=pt&tid=67463001&pid=32167787715&usePUB=true>; accessed July 12, 2021), death index for Leah R Silver, Los Angeles, California, United States; citing *California Death Index, 1940-1997* (Sacramento: State of California Department of Health Services, n.d.).
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- ³⁶ *California, U.S., Death Index, 1940-1997*, database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=5180&h=6086135&ssrc=pt&tid=67463001&pid=32167787717&usePUB=true>; accessed July 12, 2021), death index for Ike Reich, Los Angeles, California, United States; citing *California Death Index, 1940-1997* (Sacramento: State of California Department of Health Services, n.d.).
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- ³⁸ *Attention, Ladies!* (Leadville, CO: *Herald Democrat*), November 9, 1913, P2.
- ³⁹ "United States Census, 1910," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MK4H-ZGF>; accessed July 12, 2021), Mark J Rachofsky in household of Harry Rachofsky, Precinct 17, La Plata, Colorado, United States; citing enumeration district (ED) ED 79, sheet 6B, family 136, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 121, FHL microfilm 1,374,134.



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SOURCE: Jewish Surnames/Rachofsky

PUBLISHED BY: Temple Israel Foundation. Leadville, CO; USA. 2021

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