



Temple Israel FOUNDATION

Biographical Information Sheet

Rich

Samuel Rich

Occupation: Watchmaker, dry goods seller, clothier

Born: Ohio, June, 1845,

Died: Denver, July 31, 1901

Julia (Nathan) Rich

Born: Ohio, 1850

Died: Leadville, December 7, 1885

Rosa (Hirsch) Rich

Second Wife of Sam

BORN: Germany, June, 1846

DIED: N/A

Rebecca "Becky" (Rich) Gartensteig Weiss

BORN: Pueblo, Colorado, 1875

DIED: Los Angeles, December 15, 1959

Louis Rich

Born: Pueblo, Colorado, February 11, 1879

Died: Los Angeles, August 4, 1837

Abby Rich

Sister of Sam

Born: Ohio, 1860

Died: N/A

Ed Rich

Brother of Sam

Born: Ohio, 1862

Died: N/A

Isaac "Ike" Rich

Born: Ohio, 1868

Died: N/A

Samuel Rich was born in Ohio sometime during June of 1845.¹ He eventually met and married another Ohio native,² Julia Nathan,³ likely in the late 1860s. The Riches moved from Ohio in the early 1870s, first settling briefly in the San Luis Valley before heading on to Pueblo, Colorado.⁴ Sam's first business venture was a dry goods store he opened during 1873 with Harris Poznanski, who would also make his way to Leadville by the early 1880s.⁵ Sam's Pueblo store was located in the People's Block on Main Street.⁶ The pair ended their short-lived partnership and dissolved their business on April 5, 1875.⁷ Samuel did not relinquish his ambition of being a business owner, continuing to operate a dry goods shop in Pueblo until February 1878 when creditors issued a petition for bankruptcy against him.⁸ During the winter of 1878-79, Samuel split his time between Leadville⁹ and Pueblo,¹⁰ likely scouting for promising relocation opportunities.

Sam and Julia also welcomed two children to their family: Rebecca in 1875 and Louis in 1879.¹¹ Both children were born in Pueblo.¹² After his financial misfortunes in Pueblo proved untenable, Sam moved the family to Leadville.¹³ *The 1880 United States Census*, which incorrectly states that Becky and Louis were born in Ohio, also brims with other mistakes and misinformation.¹⁴

Two entries in the household account for Ed and Abby Rich, recorded as Sam's brother and sister. Ike, a twelve-year-old boy, is also enumerated as Sam and Julia's son. However, this not necessarily accurate. The reality is that this may be another brother of Sam's, whose disappearance from Leadville records coincides with the departure of eighteen-year-old Ed and twenty-year-old Abby, who are shown in census records but never appear in Leadville city directories. They were likely in Leadville for only a very brief time and probably left before the autumn of 1880. An Edward S. Rich listed in the 1880 Denver city directory as an insurance agent may possibly be the same person.¹⁵ However, lack of consistent data points and name



commonalities make it extremely difficult to accurately track Ed, Ike and Abby's movements after Leadville.¹⁶ There are no additional records confirming that Ike is the child of Julia and Sam, and it is consistently recorded that the couple had two children named Louis and Becky.

During 1880, Samuel settled into a clerk position with the Nathan Brothers, with the family living at 208 West 7th Street.¹⁷ The Nathans¹⁸ would open the Lion Clothing House at 313 Harrison Avenue in 1883, where Sam continued his employment.¹⁹ The Nathans — Ed, Abe and Nat — are likely relatives of Julia Nathan Rich, Sam's wife, though this has not been officially confirmed. Sam and Julia became active in Jewish social life in Leadville a few years after their arrival, participating in Purim Balls in March 1883²⁰ and 1884,²¹ a Strawberry Festival hosted by the Hebrew Ladies' Benevolent Association in June of 1884²² and a Simchat Torah celebration in October 1884.²³

The Rich family encountered considerable tragedy during the ensuing years. Sam's father passed away sometime in 1884 but little is known about his death.²⁴ Julia would expire one year later on December 7, 1885 at the age of twenty-nine:

THE LATE MRS. SAM RICH

Crape and black ribbon once more appeared on the door of the Lion Clothing store, No. 213 Harrison Avenue, Monday morning. It is only a year ago that it was placed there out of respect to the memory of Mr. Sam Rich Sr., and on Monday morning it was tied on the door handle again on account of the death of the wife of Mr. Sam Rich, the son of the gentleman who died a year ago.

Mrs. Julia Rich was not quite 29 years old when she died, and leaves her husband and two children to mourn her loss. Her little girl is 11 years old, and her son about 6. She died in terrible agony, having suffered from enteritis [enteritis] for the past five days. A notice of the funeral will appear hereafter.²⁵

Determining when Adolph and Simon's sister Rosa arrived in Leadville is a speculative enterprise. She does not appear in official census records or city directories but was noted as having lived in the city prior to September of 1886. Records show that Rosa was the most likely candidate as the eldest of the Leadville Hirsch siblings. She probably immigrated from Germany at the age of twenty-five²⁶ and joined her brother Adolph Hirsch²⁷ in New York City during June of 1872,²⁸ after establishing himself there. Rosa and Sam married on September 5, 1886.²⁹

RICH-HIRSCH

An event that was not given publicity on the menu card at the Tabor Grand Sunday night was the marriage of Mr. Samuel Rich to Mrs. [Miss] Rosa Hirsch, both of this city. At 6:30 o'clock Judge Rose stepped from a carriage at the ladies' entrance and made his way to the richly-appointed parlors that were flooded with light. Here the families of the high contracting parties were gathered, and presently the lady appeared upon the arm of the gentleman. The ceremony was imposing, and its conclusion Mr. and Mrs. Sam Rich were showered with congratulations. A magnificent nuptial dinner had been prepared for them in the dining room of the hotel, and to this the dining room of the



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*hotel, and to this the guests,
preceded by the happy couple,
prepared to celebrate a
consummation that is sanctioned by
a host of friends. Mr. Rich is one of
Leadville's most prominent
merchants, and for years has been
among the foremost of its
enterprising citizens. Mrs. Rosa
Hirsch, is the sister of Mr. A. Hirsch,
the well known wholesale merchant,
and the press unites with a legion in
wishing them the most profound
happiness and contentment through
life.³⁰*

Samuel, who became the proprietor of the Lion Clothing House by 1886,³¹ almost immediately faced financial setbacks by early 1887, having lost his clothing store³² and being indebted for \$1,373.35 to Frankenthal & Co. for merchandise acquisitions.³³ Rosa's brother Adolph partnered with David May³⁴ and tried to save the business. They held the mortgage on the Lion Clothing House in an effort to satisfy mounting debts incurred by new brother-in-law Sam Rich.³⁵ Joseph Shoenberg³⁶ would ultimately purchase the clothing business and all its assets from the partners for \$21,900 on April 8, 1887.³⁷ The final mention of the Samuel Rich family in Leadville was on April 23.³⁸ Shortly afterward the freshly minted Rosa Rich and her husband removed to Denver, where Sam found employment as a clerk for local clothier³⁹ Max Amter.⁴⁰

Curiously, the 1899 Denver city directory shows Samuel as head of household and working as a traveling salesman,⁴¹ and the 1900 United States Census records the same.⁴² However, Rosa also is listed in the directory as head of household in 1900,⁴³ a year prior to Sam's death. Rosa essentially disappears from documentation at this time, indicating that she either moved away from Denver, remarried, or both.

Samuel Rich passed away from unknown causes in Denver on July 31, 1901. Originally interred at The Hebrew Cemetery Association's section of Denver's Capitol Hill memorial park, he was moved to the Temple Emanuel cemetery in 1923. There is no memorial marker on his grave.⁴⁴

Becky married David Gartensteig at Denver on April 5, 1892.⁴⁵ Their marriage produced one child, Julius, born in 1893. Gartensteig passed away unexpectedly in 1903.⁴⁶ Becky remained in Denver, and married Mitchell Weiss in 1907.⁴⁷ The union probably did not last much longer, as Weiss would die by the time Becky is recorded living in son Julius' home in New York City during 1920.⁴⁸ By 1930, she had made her way to her brother Louis Rich's Los Angeles home. Louis, then a divorced automobile broker, and Becky shared this arrangement⁴⁹ until his death on August 4, 1937.⁵⁰ Becky stayed in Los Angeles until her own passing on December 15, 1959.⁵¹



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Isaac Rich

Occupation: Pressman, painter

Born: New York, 1858

Died: Leadville, December 8, 1882

Isaac Rich was born in New York during 1858 to German immigrants.⁵² He made his way to Leadville by way of Denver,⁵³ and during 1880 he was employed as a pressman with F.M. Longshore & Co. At the time, Rich resided at the corner of Southwest Chestnut Avenue and Pine Street.⁵⁴ He appeared in the Leadville city directory for only a single year. His death was the next recorded instance of his presence in Leadville. Isaac Rich died on December 8, 1882 at the age of twenty-four and was interred in Leadville's historic Hebrew Cemetery.⁵⁵

His relation to Samuel Rich or Jacob Rich, if any, is unclear.



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Jacob “Jake” Rich
BORN: Russia, 1841
DIED:

Mrs. Jacob Rich
BORN: N/A
DIED: N/A (Likely Leadville - 1884 or 1885)

Jacob Rich was born in Russia during 1841.⁵⁶ By 1880 he had moved to Leadville, where he partnered in business with Isaac Barash in J. Rich & Co., a laundry operation located at Second and Pine Streets. During February of the following year he would branch out and start his own tailoring shop⁵⁷ located at 316 Harrison Avenue from 1881⁵⁸ to 1886.⁵⁹ Jacob was socially engaged within the Leadville community. Although married, his wife’s identity was unknown.⁶⁰ Jacob frequently moved while domiciled in Leadville. He first settled at Pine Street in 1880,⁶¹ then moved to West Spruce Street,⁶² 112 West 6th Street,⁶³ and 113 West 4th Street⁶⁴ over the ensuing years. Jacob attended a Purim Ball in March 1884.⁶⁵

Jake, while noted to have been married while in Leadville,⁶⁶ was enumerated as a widow in the *1885 Colorado State Special Census*.⁶⁷ No records have been uncovered about the death of Jake’s wife. When located again in 1900, he claims to have been remarried by then for eight years but lived alone in a Denver boarding house.⁶⁸ Jake later resurfaced in the *1910 United States Census* in Chico, California as a divorced and retired clothing merchant.⁶⁹ None of these records identify his wives, which may have numbered a total of three. Jake’s travels might have taken him to the Southern Ute Indian Agency, located in Southwestern Colorado. If this is the same Jacob Rich from Leadville, then at that time he was married to a woman named Ruth, who also had a son, Isaac, aged thirteen years.⁷⁰

His relation to Samuel Rich or Isaac Rich, if any, is unclear.



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- ¹ JewishGen, comp. *JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR)* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008.
- ² "United States Census, 1880". (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d).
- ³ State of California. *California Death Index, 1940-1997*. Sacramento, CA, USA: State of California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics.
- ⁴ *Samuel Rich*, (Pueblo, CO: Colorado Daily Chieftain). April 24, 1873. P4.
- ⁵ For more information on the Poznanski family, please visit: <http://jewishleadville.org/poznanski.html>
- ⁶ *New Dry Goods House*. (Pueblo, CO: Colorado Weekly Chieftain). May 15, 1873. P4.
- ⁷ *Dissolution Notice*,. (Pueblo, CO: Colorado Daily Chieftain). April 23, 1875. P3.
- ⁸ *City and Vicinity*. (Pueblo, CO: Colorado Daily Chieftain). February 2, 1878. P4.
- ⁹ *Hotel Arrivals*. (Leadville, CO: The Leadville, Daily Evening Chronicle). January 13, 1879. P3.
- ¹⁰ Personal. Pueblo, CO: The Colorado Daily Chieftain
- ¹¹ "United States Census, 1880".
- ¹² Elsnor Records, 1867-1905. Dallas, TX: SMU. 2020.
- ¹³ W. M. Clark, W. A. Root, and H. C. Anderson, *Clark, Root & Co.'s First Annual City Directory of Leadville and Business Directory of Carbonateville, Kokomo and Malta for 1879* (Denver: Daily Times Steam Printing House and Book Manufactory, 1879): pp. 131.
- ¹⁴ "United States Census, 1880". [database with images]. Sam Rich, 1880; citing enumeration district ED 81, sheet 424B, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d), roll 0091; FHL microfilm 1,254,091;
- ¹⁵ TB Corbett and JH Ballenger. *Corbet, and Ballenger's Eighth Annual City Directory: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms etc. in The City Of Denver for 1880*. (Denver, CO: Corbet and Ballenger Publishers.1880). P305.
- ¹⁶ "United States Census, 1880."
- ¹⁷ John H. Ballenger, Thomas B. Corbett, and W. C. Hoye, *Corbett, Hoye & Co.'s First Annual Leadville City Directory of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms, Etc. in the City of Leadville for 1880* (Leadville: Democrat Printing Company, 1880): P306.
- ¹⁸ For more information on the Nathan family, please visit: <http://jewishleadville.org/nathan.html>
- ¹⁹ *The Lion Clothing House*. (Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Herald). October 21, 1883. P4.
- ²⁰ *Purim*. (Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Herald). March 23, 1883. P4.
- ²¹ *Tuesday Night's Ball*. (Leadville, CO: Carbonate Chronicle). March 15, 1884. P5.
- ²² *The Hebrew Festival*. (Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Herald). June 13, 1884. P4.
- ²³ *The Law's Holiday*. (Leadville, CO: Carbonate Chronicle). October 11, 1884. P6.
- ²⁴ *The Late Mrs. Sam Rich*. (Leadville, CO: Carbonate Chronicle). December 12, 1885. P7.
- ²⁵ "Julia Rich," Hebrew Cemetery (Leadville, Colorado. Temple Israel Foundation.)
- ²⁶ Year: 1900; Census Place: Denver, Arapahoe, Colorado; Roll: 119; Page: 4; Enumeration District: 0079
- ²⁷ For more information on the Hirsch family, please visit: <http://jewishleadville.org/hirsch.html>
- ²⁸ The National Archives in Washington, DC; Washington, DC, USA; *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1897*; Microfilm Serial or NAID: M237; RG Title: *Records of the U.S. Customs Service*; RG: 36
- ²⁹ *Rich-Hirsch*. (Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Evening Herald). September 6, 1886. P4.
- ³⁰ *Rich-Hirsch*. (Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Evening Herald). September 6, 1886. P4.
- ³¹ *A Clean Sweep*. (Leadville, CO: Leadville Evening Chronicle). June 23, 1886. P4
- ³² *Cheap Joe's Deal*, (Leadville, CO: Leadville Evening Chronicle). April 8, 1887. P4
- ³³ *Court Notes*. (Leadville, CO: Leadville Evening Chronicle). April 7, 1887. P4.
- ³⁴ For more information on David May and his family, please visit: <http://jewishleadville.org/may.html>
- ³⁵ *A Merchant's Retirement*. (Leadville, CO. Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle). March 25, 1887. P4.
- ³⁶ For more information on the Shoenberg family, please visit: <http://jewishleadville.org/shoenberg.html>
- ³⁷ *Cheap Joe!*. (Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle). April 11, 1887. P4.
- ³⁸ *Money Saved is Money Earned*. (Leadville, CO: Leadville Evening Chronicle). April 23, 1887. P4.
- ³⁹ JH Ballenger and Richards. *Ballenger & Richard's Sixteenth Annual City Directory: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms etc. in The City of Denver for 1888*. (Provo, UT: Brigham Young University Internet Archive. 2011). P748.



⁴⁰ Though there are no records that document Max Amter as a Leadville resident, he has several relatives who called Leadville home during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For more information on the Leadville branch of the Amter family, please visit: <http://jewishleadville.org/amter.html>

⁴¹ JH Ballenger and Richards. *Ballenger & Richard's Twenty-seventh Annual City Directory: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms etc. in The City of Denver for 1899.* (Denver, CO: Ballenger and Richards Publishers. 1899). P955.

⁴² Year: 1900; Census Place: Denver, Arapahoe, Colorado; Roll: 119; Page: 4; Enumeration District: 0079.

⁴³ JH Ballenger and Richards. *Ballenger & Richard's Twenty-eighth Annual City Directory: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms etc. in The City of Denver for 1900.* (Denver, CO: Ballenger and Richards Publishers. 1900). P1037.

⁴⁴ JewishGen, comp. *JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR)* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008.

⁴⁵ Ancestry.com. *Colorado, U.S., County Marriage Records and State Index, 1862-2006* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016.

⁴⁶ JewishGen, comp. *JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR)* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008.

⁴⁷ Year: 1910; Census Place: Manhattan Ward 12, New York, New York; Roll: T624_1020; Page: 30a; Enumeration District: 0486; FHL microfilm: 1375033

⁴⁸ Year: 1920; Census Place: Manhattan Assembly District 9, New York, New York; Roll: T625_1201; Page: 11A; Enumeration District: 675

⁴⁹ Year: 1930; Census Place: Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California; Page: 35B; Enumeration District: 0017; FHL microfilm: 2339867

⁵⁰ California Department of Health and Welfare. California Vital Records-Vitalsearch. The Vitalsearch Company Worldwide, Inc., Pleasanton, California. 2024.

⁵¹ Place: Los Angeles; Date: 15 Dec 1959

⁵² "United States Census, 1880," [database with images]. *FamilySearch*. Isaac Rich in entry for D R Mc Namara, 1880; citing enumeration district ED 73, sheet 319A, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d), roll 0091; FHL microfilm 1,254,091.

⁵³ TB Corbett and JH Ballenger. *Corbet, and Ballenger's Eighth Annual City Directory: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms etc. in The City Of Denver for 1880.* (Denver, CO: Corbet and Ballenger Publishers.1880). P305.

⁵⁴ John H. Ballenger, Thomas B. Corbett, and W. C. Hoye, *Corbett, Hoye & Co.'s First Annual Leadville City Directory of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms, Etc. in the City of Leadville for 1880* (Leadville: Democrat Printing Company, 1880): 306.

⁵⁵ "Isaac Rich," Hebrew Cemetery (Leadville, Colorado: Temple Israel Foundation)

⁵⁶ "Colorado State Census, 1885," [database with images]. *FamilySearch* J Rich, 1885; citing NARA microfilm publication M158 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 498,507.

⁵⁷ *J. Rich Tailoring*. Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Herald. February 9, 1881. P1

⁵⁸ Corbett and Ballenger. Denver, CO; USA. 1880. P249.

⁵⁹ Corbett and Ballenger. Leadville, CO. 1886. P218.

⁶⁰ "Athletic Club Ball," *Leadville Daily Herald* (Leadville, Colorado) March 21, 1884: 4.

⁶¹ Corbett, Hoye and Ballenger. Leadville, CO. 1880. P306.

⁶² Corbett and Ballenger. Leadville, CO; USA. 1881. P249.

⁶³ Corbett and Ballenger. Leadville, CO; USA. 1882. P241.

⁶⁴ Corbett and Ballenger. Leadville, CO. 1886. P218.

⁶⁵ "Tuesday Night's Ball," *Carbonate Chronicle* (Leadville, Colorado) March 15, 1884: 5.

⁶⁶ *Society*. Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Herald. December 5, 1880: 4;

⁶⁷ The National Archives at Washington, D.C.; Washington, D.C.; Record Group Title: *Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007*; Record Group Number: 29; Series Number: M158; NARA Roll Number: 5

⁶⁸ Year: 1900; Census Place: Denver, Arapahoe, Colorado; Roll: 117; Page: 3; Enumeration District: 0017

⁶⁹ Year: 1910; Census Place: Chico Ward 2, Butte, California; Roll: T624_73; Page: 5b; Enumeration District: 0005; FHL microfilm: 1374086

⁷⁰ *Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940*; National Archives Microfilm Publication M595, 692 rolls; NAID: [595276](https://www.ancestry.com/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-9?i=100&cat=27476). Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group 75; The National Archives in Washington, D.C.



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SOURCE: Jewish Surnames/Rich

PUBLISHED BY: Temple Israel Foundation. Leadville, CO; USA. 2024

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