

One Hundredth Anniversary  
Touro Synagogue

1828 - 1928



New Orleans, Louisiana

---



*J. Brown*

## HISTORY OF TOURO SYNAGOGUE

When a Congregation reaches the milestone of its Centenary, it is well for its members and for the community which it has served to pause in joyful reminiscence; to do honor to the men and women who upheld its cause, participated in its struggles toward enlightenment and progress, and who kept its traditions alive; to reverence the memory of its spiritual guides who in the period of stress bore the brunt of its conflicts; and to give encouragement to the lay and spiritual leaders and to the members who now carry on for it and its cause.

The following is a fragmentary history of such a Congregation—our own Touro—which was known originally as Congregation Gates of Mercy (Sha'arai Chesed); later, after amalgamating with a Portuguese Congregation, as The Gates of Mercy for the Dispersed of Judah (Sha'arai Chesed Linfutzoth Yehudah)—and at that time named by its unforgettable leader, Isaac L. Leucht, Touro Synagogue, in honor of that loyal son of Israel—Judah Touro—who made both branches of the Congregational House the beneficiary of his generosity.

A parchment taken from the corner-stone of one of its historical places of worship on North Rampart Street gives briefly the corroboration of its founding:

“The Hebrew Congregation—Sha'arai Chesed—worshiping after the custom of German Jews, was formed in the year 5584 Anno Mundi, by twelve Israelites, and incorporated in the year 5588. They worshiped in a room fitted up as a temporary Synagogue, moving from one street to another, until the purchase of a lot of ground for the sum of Four Thousand and Two Hundred Dollars in the year 5605, when a small and plain building was converted into a Synagogue. The increase of their members, however, induced them to resolve to build a new Synagogue, the corner-stone of which is laid this 13th of Abh (July 22) in the year 5610 A. M. and of the Independence of the United States the 75th. The cost of the building as contracted for is Sixteen Thousand Dollars.

Rupert C. Foster, Architect  
Francis D. Motte, Builder.

The present minister Rev. James K. Gutheim is engaged at a salary of Fifteen Hundred Dollars per annum and officiates as Chazan and Teacher.

The names of the Honorary officers for the present year are:

Isaac Hart, President  
John Marks, Vice-President  
Mendez Kursheedt, Secretary  
L. Goldsmith, Treasurer  
Nathan Straus  
Joseph Turner  
Charles Emanuel, Trustees.

Before the year 1852 few records are available except a book of births and deaths, marriage licenses and certificates, and stray references in the Occident, a Jewish periodical. From 1852 to the present day, carefully written minutes of Board meetings, Annual, Regular and Special meetings of the Congregation are preserved. From these records, the following items of interest are culled:

<i>PRESIDENTS</i>	
L. A. Gunst	1846-.....
Isaac Hart	1848-53
L. Klopman	1853-55
A. Rose	1855-56
A. Gensler	1856-58
Joseph Simon	1858-59
S. J. Weilman	1859-60
Samuel Friedlander	1860-65
F. Hollander	1865-72
Ben Gerson	1872-76
A. Lehmann	1876-84
M. W. Newman	1884-85
A. Lehman	1885-88
A. Ermann	1888-96
N. I. Shwartz	1896-98
William Adler	1898-02
Leonard Krower	1902-18
Sam Blum	1918-20
Sigmund Kohlman	1920-22
A. Falk	1922-.....

*SECRETARIES*

Abraham DeYoung	1853-58
Mendez Kursheedt	1858-29
R. Lennig	1859-63
S. Newberger	1863-65
E. Newman	1865-66
P. Thalheimer	1866-70
A. Seeskind	1870-74
B. Oppenheim	1874-82
A. Steeg	1882-89
Jac Trautman	1889-01
Gerson Aletrino	1901-14
Julius Goldman	1914-___

*RABBIS*

A. I. Roley Marks	1839-45
Ferdinand Hirsch	1845-....
Herman Kohlmeyer	1847-48
Harris Goldstein	1849-....
James K. Gutheim	1850-53
Henry Kaufman	1853-55
Joseph Levin	1855-___
Solomon Jacobs	1859-61
Bernard Illoway	1861-....
James K. Gutheim	1865-68
Isaac L. Leucht	1868-72
Joseph Rosenfield	1874-76
L. Lowensohn	1877-78
Isaac L. Leucht	1879-13
Emil W. Leipziger	1913-....

The earliest record of Congregational service is found in a death notice as follows: Hyam Harris, native of Netherlands—aged 54 years—interred June 2, 1828.

The earliest birth record relates: March 16, 1833. Born unto Abraham Green, a son and circumcised the 30th of April, and named Salum, son of Abraham Green. This son was circumcised by the Reverend Joseph Ben Wolf.

The earliest marriage record tells:

“Be it remembered,

that this day to wit,—on the fourth day of the week, of the second month (sic) *Tishri*, in the year of the Creation of the World 5599, corresponding with the 9th day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine and in the sixty-third year of the Independence of the United States of America, and in the presence of Aaron Solomon, Sam Plotz, Joseph Solomon, N. G. Peixotto, all good and lawful witnesses as is required by law,—I did proceed and join in the holy matrimony, David C. Peixotto, a native of Curacao, W. I., and Caroline Solomon, a daughter of Solomon Solomon and Alice Solomon, a native of Charleston, S. C.

Done and performed at New Orleans, State of Louisiana (sic) on the day aforesaid, to wit the 9th of October, 1839 and in the presence of witnesses (sic) aforesaid who have respectfully annexed their signatures to this.

A. I. Roley Marks,  
Rector.”

The license was granted to the Rev. A. I. R. Marks, October 5, 1839 by Charles Maurian, Parish Judge.

## CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD

*November, 1845.* "As it was found almost impracticable to unite all the Israelites at New Orleans in one congregation, a number of gentlemen lately resolved to establish one with the Portuguese ritual. They accordingly organized on the 21st of August last, under the name of K. K. Nefuzoth Yehudah (the Scattered of Judah), and elected the following gentlemen to serve in their respective offices till the second Sunday in the month of December, 5605, on which day of the year the regular annual election is regularly to take place: G. Kursheedt, President; H. Florance, Vice-President; J. L. Moss, Trustee Senior; J. C. Peixotto, Trustee Junior; J. Rodriguez, Treasurer; and D. C. Labat, Secretary. The signers to the printed constitution amount in number to thirty-four, which has been increased without doubt long ere this. The congregation have already purchased an eligible piece of land for a burial-place. The laws embody but few restrictions, and open the door of admission to all Israelites by application to the board, a majority of whom can admit the applicant. Persons who have married against the Jewish law are excluded."

"The German Congregation in New Orleans prospers, and we learn that they lately have purchased a lot of ground—on which to erect a Synagogue."

*August, 1847.* "Mr. Judah Touro presented to the Congregation Nefuzoth Yehudah, as a Synagogue, "a handsome church edifice," and he is going to defray the expenses for necessary alterations and repairs."

*February, 1849.* The German Congregation sent out the following circulars to all Israelites:

"Subscription List for a Loan to the Hebrew Congregation Sha'arai Chesed, of N. O. For the purpose of building a new synagogue. Shares of said loan to be \$50. each, bearing six per cent interest per annum. Payments to be made in 3 equal installments. The property of said congregation to be responsible for the redemption of said shares. To be redeemed at the convenience of the Congregation."

"Committee—Isaac Hart, A. Haber, Edward Leon, A. Lazard, L. Hess, Joseph Turner, L. Reigensburger, A. DeYoung, Alex Mayer, Lewis Schuller, M. Fleshman, J. Barman, Jno. Marks."

*June, 1850.* "The consecration of the Dispersed of Judah Congregation was to have taken on the 13th of May, but was postponed to the 14th owing to the fact that the minister elect, the Reverend Mr. Nathan, had arrived



RABBI JAMES K. GUTHEIM

1850-1853

1865-1868

only three days before from Jamaica, his former place of residence. The building was presented by Mr. Judah Touro who had purchased it from the Protestant Episcopalian Society. In testimony of this transfer of the building from non-Jewish to Jewish hands, a memorial stone was deposited on the way to the main entrance of the building by Mr. Touro on the morning of the 14th of May. There were only 10 people present on this occasion due to a request to that effect made by Mr. Touro."

"At 5:30 P. M. the dedication ceremony of the Synagogue Nefuzoth Yehudah took place in the presence of a large audience of Jews and Gentiles—the first of its kind ever witnessed in the southwestern section of the Union. The ceremonies were conducted under the Reverend Mr. Nathan, the resident minister, the Reverend Mr. Leëser of Philadelphia, and the Reverend Mr. Gutheim, of the German Congregation of New Orleans."

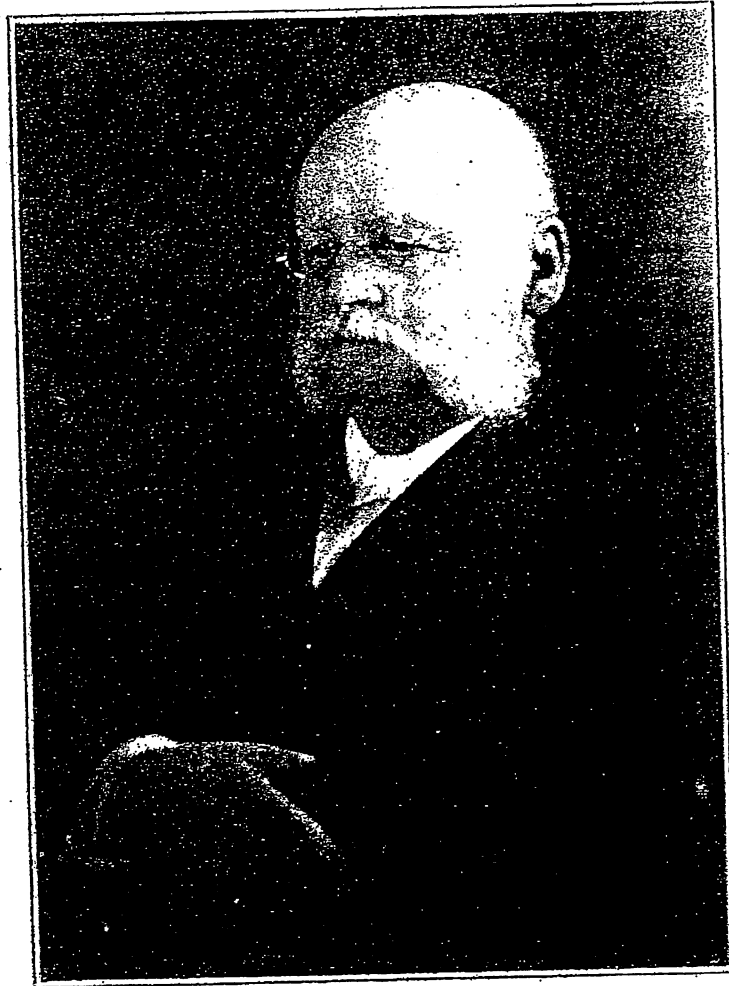
"The arrangements for the accommodation of the visitors were made by G. Kursheedt, Esq., and were highly satisfactory; every seat was numbered, and each person had a corresponding ticket, so that every one was accommodated without confusion or inconvenience, and every seat was occupied."

"At the opening of the doors by Rev. Leëser and Rev. Gutheim, the procession entered, consisting of the Rev. Nathan and 5 members of the congregation, each of the latter bearing one of the Books of the Law. The procession moved to the steps of the Ark while the choir sang, where they halted a while before depositing the Books of the Law in the Ark. After the deposit, the ministers returned to the platform where Rev. Nathan made a prayer for the congregation and a prayer for the government. Then the choir sang the 150th Psalm, followed by the evening service, read by Mr. Leëser. This closed the ceremony."

"The Synagogue building was situated on the corner of Canal and Bourbon Streets, in one of the greatest thoroughfares of the city. At the time of the dedication there were 170 seats in the men's Synagogue, but there was room for 300 more."

*August, 1850.* "Plans were being laid for a new Synagogue to be erected by the Shangaray Chased Congregation, whose President was Mr. Hart. The old building on Rampart St. was pulled down, and commencement made on the new structure, which was expected to be completed in December. The cornerstone was laid on the 22d of July, by the ministers of the city. Mr. Gutheim made an address."

*March, 1851.* "During the building of the German Synagogue, the congregation worshiped in the large dining-room of the St. Louis Hotel, until this hotel was rented by the St. Charles Hotel. Then, at the invitation of the Sephardim, they worshiped at the Portuguese Congregation."



RABBI ISAAC L. LEUCHT  
1868-1872      1879-1913

*April, 1851.* "The consecration of the Synagogue Shangaray Chased took place on the 5th of March, 1851. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. Gutheim, assisted by Rev. Nathan of the Portuguese Congregation."

*May, 1852.* "Free Hebrew schools were opened by both the German and the Portuguese congregations, under the supervision of the respective rabbis. Rev. Nathan's assistants were Rev. Kohlmeyer, Miss Hart, and Mr. Jones."

*September, 1853.* The Congregation is in financial difficulties on account of an epidemic. Appeals through the country netted over \$3,148. All delinquent members had their dues remitted.

*January, 1854.* Announcement is made to the Board of the "demise of one of the brightest ornaments among our Jewish brethren—Judah Touro, Esq.—on the 18th inst. Members of the Congregation are requested to assemble on the morrow, the 20th inst., at 72 Rampart Street and proceed from there in solemn procession to the residence of the late Judah Touro and join the funeral of the same."

*November, 1855.* Rabbi Gutheim resigns.

*December, 1855.* Reverend Jos. Levin is elected Rabbi.

*May, 1856.* Congregation and Board of officers receive and accept an invitation from Congregation Dispersed of Judah to participate in ceremonies for laying the corner-stone of a new House of worship.

*October, 1857.* Congregation is invited to send representatives to Baltimore to protest against inequalities practiced against Jewish citizens of United States in Switzerland and to petition Congress to amend its recent treaty with Switzerland.

*March, 1859.* An appeal from the Jewish deputies of London in regard to the Mortara case is referred to the Committee on Conference.

*November, 1859.* Rev. Solomon Jacobs is given full power to act "in all religious and clerical matters appertaining to his office of Rabbi and minister of the Congregation."

*December, 1859.* A circular from Sir Moses Montefiore asking relief for Jewish fugitives from Tangiers to Gibraltar was referred to a Committee on Conference with other congregations so that concerted action be taken.

*April, 1860.* Resolution is passed abolishing the "auctioneering" of "Mitzvos" at the Synagogue provided the deficiency occasioned in the Treasury be otherwise covered.

*August, 1860.* Rev. Solomon Jacobs dies. Burial conducted by Rev. Herman Kohlmeyer.

*September, 1861.* Rev. Bernard Illoway arrives to take up his duties as minister.

Permanent seats are placed before the Ark for the use of the minister and principle officers.

*October, 1861.* Male choir is organized composed of S. Wickert, E. Keiffer, F. Hollander, S. Blum, S. Adler, E. Heidingsfelder, G. Mayer, S. Moses, Chazan.

*September, 1865.* James K. Gutheim is elected minister. In a letter of acceptance, Rabbi Gutheim writes:

"In the exposition of the word of God, it will be, as it has hitherto been, my constant aim to disseminate correct, pure, and enlightened views concerning the doctrines, principles, and practices of our Holy Religion while I shall advocate with a discriminating conservative spirit whatever may tend to secure the order, decorum, solemnity, beauty and devotion by which our divine service ought to be characterized."

*March, 1866.* A mixed choir of ladies and gentlemen is organized.

*April, 1866.* Rev. Gutheim is asked for an expert opinion as to the propriety under the rules of "Minhag Ashkenas" to install a melodeon or organ. The Rabbi's answer in the affirmative in an exhaustive opinion is spread on the minutes in English and German.

*March, 1868.* Rev. Gutheim is asked to suggest "modifications of our divine services and religious ceremonies in conformity with well-defined doctrines and principles, as well as with the progressive spirit of Judaism." The Rabbi suggested 8 changes:

1. The removal of the Almemor (central desk) and the construction of a platform and readers desk facing the Congregation.
2. The adoption of the triennial cycle of Bible Readings.
3. The abolition of "calling up," and employment of the reading of the Law as a service of reverence.
4. Reading the Prophetic Portion in English.
5. The abolition of certain "mitzvos" or honors.
6. The adoption of a new ritual with a special recommendation of the Minhag America.
7. Introduction of family pews.
8. Abolition of the second holidays.



RABBI EMIL W. LEIPZIGER

1913—

*April, 1868.* The proposals of Rabbi Gutheim are all adopted with slight amendment except the one referring to the abolition of the second holidays. On this action is deferred.

*June, 1868.* Probably owing to dissension caused by the introduction of reforms, Rabbi Gutheim sends in his resignation.

*June 11, 1868.* A meeting was called to act upon a petition signed by 132 members urging the Board to use the best efforts to have the resignation withdrawn. The meeting takes action by proceeding in a body to the residence of Rev. Gutheim, with the result that Rabbi Gutheim agrees to reconsider provided Temple Emanuel of New York will release him from acceptance of their call.

*July 13, 1868.* Isaac L. Leucht of Baltimore is elected Cantor.

*July 30, 1868.* Notification is received that Temple Emanuel will not release Rev. James K. Gutheim.

*September 20, 1868.* Rev. Gutheim insists upon the acceptance of his resignation, after dissatisfaction with reforms which had been introduced had become more articulate.

*November, 1868.* Rev. Isaac L. Leucht is authorized to perform all such functions which have devolved upon the minister hitherto, until the vacant office is filled.

*March, 1869.* Rev. Leucht makes announcement to the Board of his engagement to Miss Mathilde Kahn and invites the Board members to the home of his fiancé Wednesday, March 3.

*March 31, 1869.* The congregation is invited by Dr. I. M. Wise of Cincinnati to send representatives to a Conference for the purpose of considering matters of general importance.

*September 2, 1869.* Isaac M. Wise announces his desire to come to New Orleans for three lectures on the Gospel and the Talmud and offers to conduct services during the Sabbath of his stay. The Congregation gratefully accepts his offer.

*May, 1870.* Isaac L. Leucht is elected Cantor and Minister pro tem.

*June, 1870.* Resolution is passed that a new Synagogue be built in a different location. A Building Committee had already been appointed.

*November, 1871.* The Board and Membership receives a cordial invitation to attend the ceremonies of the laying of the corner-stone of Temple Sinai.

*November, 1871.* Resolution is passed that Dr. Gutheim be asked to deliver a lecture to the congregation during his stay in the city, whither he had come to assist in the corner-stone ceremonies of Temple Sinai.

*September, 1872.* Rev. E. Halff is elected Cantor.

*June, 1872.* Resolutions are passed thanking Rev. Leucht for the zeal and ability with which he discharged his duties as Cantor and minister for his whole term of four years; and regretting the loss of his valuable services.

*July, 1873.* The services of Rev. Henry S. Jacobs of Congregation Dispersed of Judah is sought for an occasional lecture. He was also appointed to act as minister at the dedication of a new Synagogue.

*August, 1873.* Action is taken to call a meeting of various New Orleans congregations and societies for the purpose of raising funds for the stricken city of Shreveport.

*September 18, 1873.* Synagogue is rededicated.

*April, 1874.* Position of minister is offered Henry L. Jacobs who declined because of his acceptance of a previous call to the 19th St. Synagogue of New York.

*November, 1874.* Rev. J. Rosenfield is elected minister.

*September, 1876.* The congregation is invited to participate in the consecration ceremony of the Dispersed of Judah Synagogue.

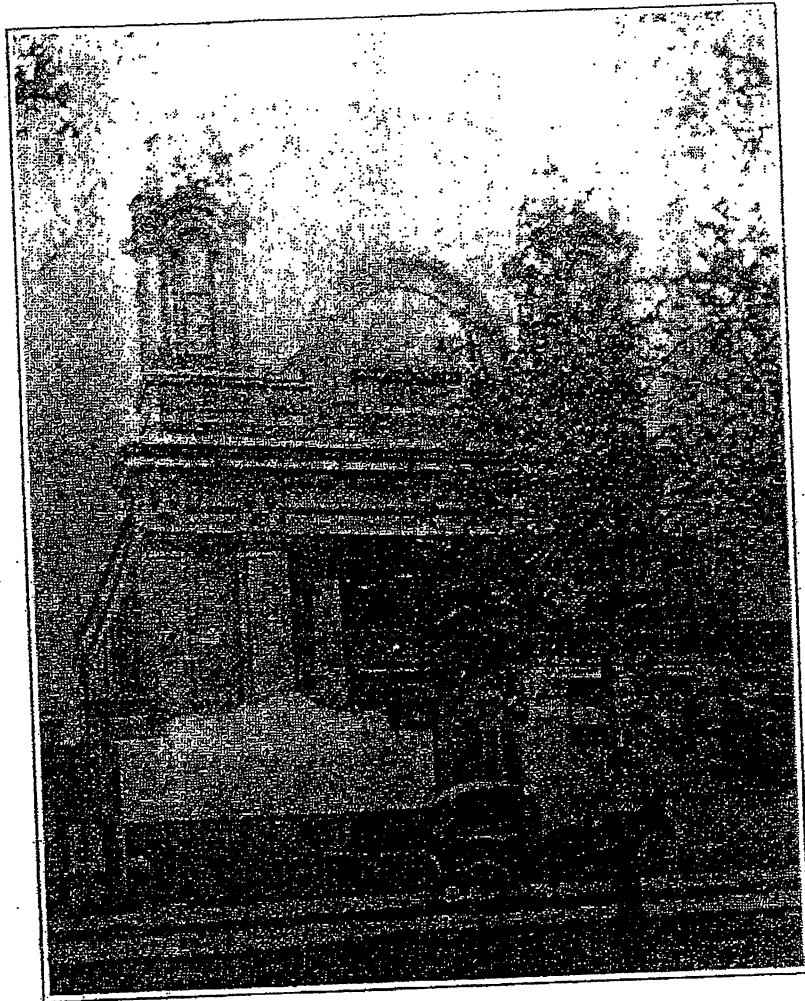
*December, 1876.* Rev. Rosenfield dies.

*May, 1877.* L. Lowensohn is elected minister of Sha'arai Chesed Congregation at a salary of \$1,200.

*September, 1878.* Rev. Lowensohn dies in the prevailing epidemic. Resolutions passed states of this leader devotedly "that in his death this Congregation has lost a true and faithful minister and humanity a good and benevolent fellow being."

*December, 1878.* For the first time, the question of amalgamating with the Dispersed of Judah is broached. On December 23, at a special meeting, the subject is dismissed because minority reports lead to unpleasant discussion.

*January, 1879.* A letter from Temple Sinai is read commenting sympathetically on the death of A. Davidson, Cantor, and Rev. L. Lowensohn, resolving "to call upon their ministers—Rev. J. K. Gutheim and Rev. I. L. Leucht—to render to their suffering brethren spiritual advice and assistance whenever occasion requires."



NORTH RAMPART STREET SYNAGOGUE

Erected 1850

Farewell Service held in 1873

1879. Rev. J. M. Chumaciero of the Dispersed of Judah serves the Congregation when called upon.

*June, 1879.* Rev. I. L. Leucht leaves Sinai and is elected minister from August 1, 1879.

*June, 1879.* The Congregation joins the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Rev. Leucht and President A. Lehmann are appointed delegates.

*June 27, 1880.* Special meeting is called to consider again merging with Dispersed of Judah. In August, 1880 and February, 1881. Committee on Consolidation reports progress.

*February 6, 1881.* Consolidated is effected and members of the Dispersed of Judah were privileged to become members of the Gates of Mercy at half the price paid by other members.

The list of the members of the Portuguese Congregation contained such names as: M. Aletrino, Elias Aaron, B. Emanuel, B. Florance, J. Henriquez, S. G. Kreeger, John Lazarus, J. M. Morais, S. Moses, Alex Moses, E. R. Moses, Philip Phillips, W. J. Rosenthal, B. Rosenberg, A. Reinach, J. U. Rosenthal, E. B. Soares, Mathias Solomon, H. A. White.

*June, 1881:* Rev. Leucht informs Ritual Committee that it is against his conviction to read in the prayers the phrase Mechayeh Hamesim ("who bringeth dead to life"), but agrees to read "Mechayeh Nafshoth Hamesim" ("Who bringeth to life the souls of the dead.")

*July, 1881:* The question of abolishing the second day of the holiday is again brought up by Rev. Leucht and after some discussion, is dropped for the present.

*November, 1885.* The Congregation resigns from the Union of Hebrew Congregations on account of views expressed at a conference in Pittsburgh by the President of the Hebrew Union College: "We desire no Rabbis inculcated with such doctrines." Rev. Leucht fights for a reconsideration but loses.

*June, 1886.* The Directors are apprised of the death of Rev. James K. Gutheim.

*June, 1889.* Ritual is abbreviated. Morning service for the Sabbath is made to last one hour including the sermon.

*April, 1891.* Sentiment of the Congregation is expressed overwhelmingly in favor of allowing worship with covered or uncovered heads as the worshiper desires. The second day of the holidays is also abolished provided that such said day celebration is not desired by at least ten members.

February, 1893. Rabbi first officiates without hat or gown.

September 8, 1895. Union Prayer Book is introduced.

November 9, 1895. Pursuant to a call from the Rev. I. L. Leucht a meeting of Ladies of Touro Synagogue takes place Saturday November 9, 1895. An organizing committee is appointed which reported three days later at the home of Mrs. A. Erman, and thus launched "The Woman's League" of Touro Synagogue, which since has been a powerful arm of help in the spiritual and material growth of the Congregation.

Through its years of service it has been lead by the following Presidents:

Mrs. Gus Lehmann	1895-1899
Mrs. Jacob Katz	1899-1902
Mrs. Marks Isaacs	1902-1906
Mrs. M. Feingold	1906-1908
Mrs. M. Waldhorn	1908-1910
Mrs. Harris Hyman	1910-1918
Mrs. Otto Mayer	1918-1926
Mrs. Chas. Rosen	1920-.....

1901. Preparations are made for entertaining the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

1903. The sixtieth birthday anniversary of Rev. Leucht is celebrated in connection with the twenty-fifth year of his ministry.

1904. Beth Israel Congregation offers \$20,000 for the present Synagogue.

1905. An offer of \$40,000 is made.

1905. Knights of Columbus offer \$45,000.

April, 1906. Resolution is passed not to sell unless offer comes to \$75,000.

1907. Sale is authorized for \$60,000.

Ground is bought at St. Charles and Berlin Streets for \$17,000.

Offers are made by Temple Sinai, Rayne Memorial, St. Paul's, The First Presbyterian, the First Unitarian Churches and the Training School tendering the hospitality of their auditorium to Touro.

September 29, 1907. Farewell service is held with great emotion on Atzereth Eve.

February, 1908. Building plans are discussed. Resolution is passed to contract for a \$95,000 building plan to be financed by \$12,000 on hand and \$30,000 in notes for the old building. \$15,000 to be raised by contributions, and \$40,000 borrowed.

*May, 1908.* Corner-stone is laid with simple ceremonies.

*December 25, 1908.* Closing service is held at Rayne Memorial. The sermon is delivered by Dr. Jno. A. Rice. The Congregation, in appreciation of the hospitality gives a set of the Jewish Encyclopaedia to the officiating minister.

*January 1, 1909.* The new Synagogue is dedicated. A minute from the record states:

"The dedication of our new Synagogue on St. Charles and Berlin Street took place on Friday evening, January 1, 1909. An immense gathering was present both of members and visitors including many of different denominations. The ceremonies began by the entrance of the Rabbi and others bearing the scrolls of the Law. The following participated: Dr. I. L. Leucht, Dr. Samuel Sale of St. Louis, Messrs. Leonard Krower, M. Waldhorn, Jac Trautman, N. I. Shwartz, Samuel Levy.

*June, 1912.* Subject of obtaining an assistant Rabbi is broached.

*March, 1913.* The matter is further discussed at the home of Rabbi Leucht.

*March 26, 1913.* The name of Rabbi Emil W. Leipziger of Terre Haute, Ind. is submitted and Rabbi Leipziger is duly recommended for the position of Assistant Rabbi and is later elected.

*January 25, 1914.* Rev. Leucht's seventieth birthday anniversary is celebrated with much eclat. Representatives from all the Jewish institutions and other agencies with which Rabbi Leucht was affiliated participated in what was considered a great communal occasion.

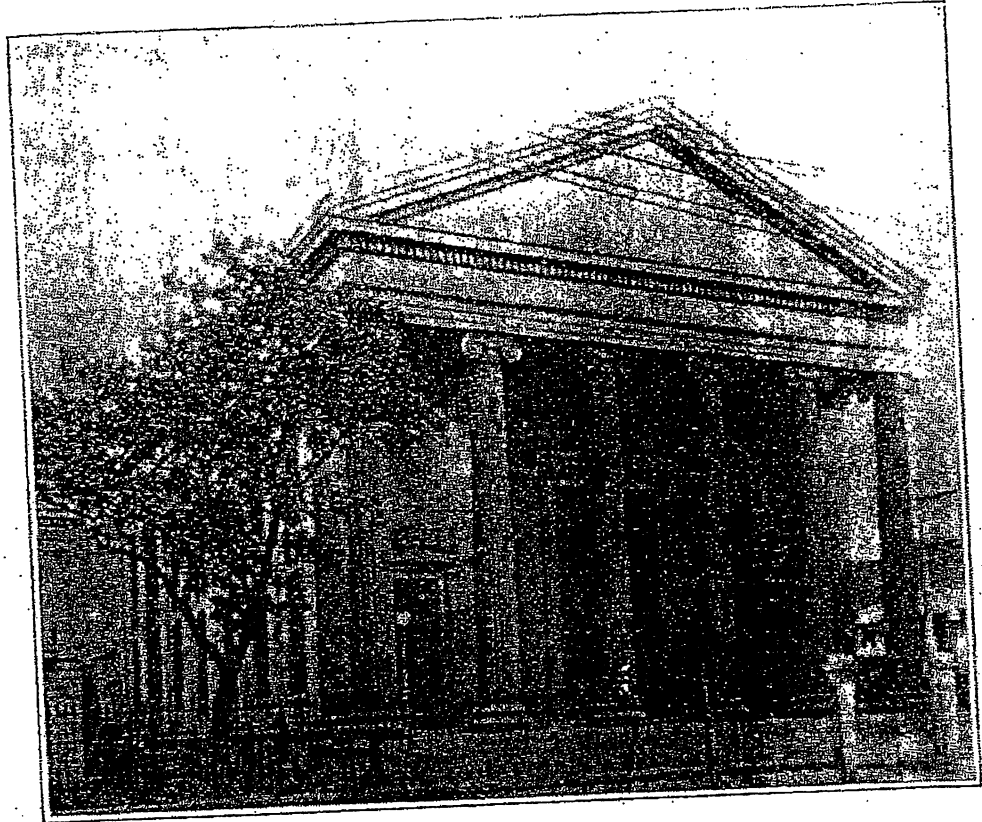
*June 4, 1914.* Rabbi Isaac L. Leucht passes away and the obsequies on June 6th are another demonstration of the esteem and respect in which he is held by the whole community. Rabbi Emil Leipziger and Mr. Ralph J. Schwarz conduct the obsequies in the Synagogue.

*July 29, 1914.* Rabbi Emil W. Leipziger is elected Rabbi of Touro Synagogue beginning September 1, 1914.

*October 13, 1918.* Resolutions are passed allowing Rabbi Leipziger a leave of absence to become a Chaplain in the United States Army.

*June, 1920.* Touro Congregation worships with Temple Sinai while the Touro Auditorium is being redecorated and altered for acoustical correction.

*September, 1920.* New Union Prayer Book is adopted.



CARONDELET STREET SYNAGOGUE

Erected in 1873

Farewell Service Held September 30, 1907

*September, 1921.* Young Men's Club is organized with Louis Rosen as first President. He was succeeded by Simon Schwartz.

*June, 1922.* Union Services are held during the summer with Temple Sinai.

*May, 1924.* Authorization is given Max Kohler, Chairman of a committee, to buy the property adjoining the Synagogue on Pitt and General Pershing Streets.

*May, 1925.* The Special Committee on Building a new Sabbath School and Social Hall reports a project amounting to \$72,000—\$45,000 for the Building, \$12,000 for the new property, and \$15,000 for carrying, collection, and loss.

*September, 1927.* The Young Men's Club expands into a Brotherhood open to all the men of the congregation and to those unaffiliated with any congregation. Dr. Isidore Cohn is elected the first President.

*December 18, 1927.* Congregational authorization is given to go on with the project of building. The efforts of the Campaign Committee under the leadership of Max N. Kohler netting pledges to the amount of \$55,000. Authorization is further given to borrow necessary funds and to increase the membership dues not less than twenty per cent.

*April 27, 28, 29, 1928.* Touro Synagogue, so named by Rabbi Isaac L. Leucht after the consolidation of the "Gates of Mercy" and the "Dispersed of Judah" congregations, celebrates its Centenary with devotional services Friday the 27th and Saturday the 28th, with a corner-stone laying on Sunday, April 29 at 11 A. M., and a Congregational Dinner at the West End Country Club, Sunday, April 29 at 7 P. M. Dr. Louis Wolsey of Philadelphia is appointed to deliver the message on the evening service.



TOURO'S PRESENT HOUSE OF WORSHIP  
Dedicated January 1, 1909

## CONGREGATION DISPERSED OF JUDAH

At the Farewell Service held at the Carondelet Street Synagogue, September 30, 1907, Rabbi Leucht said:

"I do not know in what year the Congregation Nefutzoth Yehudah was organized or when its first charter became active, but I know that its first synagogue, formerly an Episcopalian church at the corner of Canal and Bourbon Streets, was purchased by Judah Touro and presented to the Congregation as a free gift on the third day of Sivan (May 14, 1850). A corner-stone was placed in the acquired building bearing the following important and eloquent inscription:

"This building was first erected and used as a place of worship for non-Israelites, but through the liberality of Judah Touro, a son of Israel, it was purchased and donated to the Portuguese Hebrew Congregation of the Dispersed of Judah as a place of prayer to the Most High God, the sole Lord and Creator to whom be praise everlastingly. In testimony of which this stone is solemnly deposited beneath the portals through which the faithful are to enter to praise the Lord. New Orleans, 3d of Sivan, (May 14), 5610, the 74th year of the independence of America."

"The daily paper of that time", continued Rabbi Leucht, "relates that owing to the retiring character of Mr. Touro, only a minyan or ten people had been invited to witness the ceremony of placing the corner-stone in its position, and that Touro himself had supplied the necessary mortar. At that time Touro had reached his 75th year.

"The consecration ceremony took place at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and Rabbis Nathan Leeser of Philadelphia, and Gutheim of the German Congregation officiated, executing elaborate program.

"On the 27th of July of the same year the corner-stone of the Rampart Street Synagogue was laid. Mr. Touro again assisted at the ceremony and J. K. Gutheim delivered the oration. During the consecration services of the Portuguese Synagogue, the organ which had been purchased together with the church building was played, but was never used again by the congregation ever after, for when Touro presented the Synagogue, he stipulated that the organ should remain his property to be disposed of by him at will—this fact being characteristic of that time and of the Orthodox view held by Mr. Touro."

"—The Synagogue built on Canal Street was soon removed. It was sold and the sum realized enabled the congregation to erect the present

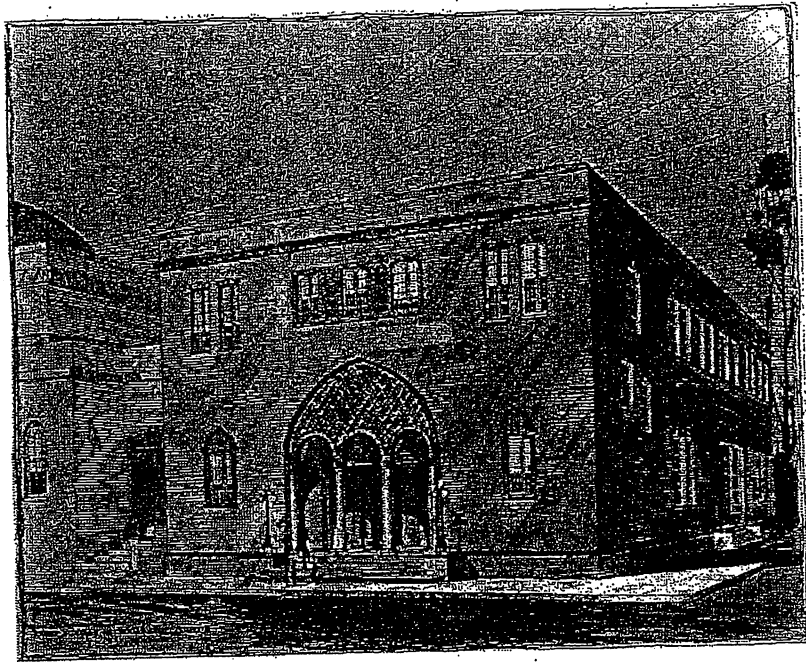
building in which we have worshiped for many years for the sum, without ground, of \$70,000 including the neighboring houses for the Rabbi and sexton.

"On May 5, 1866, the corner-stone was laid. The stone was the one removed from the Canal Street building, and on April 1, 1857, this Synagogue was consecrated by J. K. Gutheim whose consecration sermon made such a deep impression on the hearers that the public requested the same to appear in print."

"We are not able to follow the life of the congregation in all its details. Rabbis Nathan, Gutheim, and Chumaciero, not to forget the venerable sexton daSilva, and Moses Aletrino, worked faithfully for the best interests of the congregation to the end. However, the old members of the Portuguese Congregation had to pay the tribute of life, and the membership grew less and less. The war between the States impoverished a great many of the proud descendants of Spain, and soon it became manifest that the Congregation could not well exist independently. The consolidation (with Gates of Mercy) was practically effected on February 13, 1881. The last service was held at the Rampart Street Synagogue May 7, 1881.

"The new Congregation under the name of Gates of Mercy of the Dispersed of Judah worshiped for a time at our present schoolhouse, until New Year's eve, September 23, when the first reunion service in the repaired Synagogue was held.

"Soon the increasing membership impelled the enlargement of our House of Worship, and in April, 1889, 20 feet were added and the auditorium was remodelled, and since then we have worshiped from Sabbath to Sabbath to this very night, the present incumbent of the pulpit ministering to this Congregation since 1879 when he was elected Rabbi of the united congregations which he was privileged to name Touro Synagogue."



NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SOCIAL HALL  
Under Construction

## TOURO SISTERHOOD

Mrs. Charles Rosen	President
Mrs. Harris Hyman	Honorary President
Mrs. Otto Mayer	Honorary President
Mrs. E. C. Samuel	Vice-President
Mrs. Max Levy	Vice-President
Mrs. E. W. Leipziger	Vice-President
Mrs. Harry Haspel	Treasurer
Mrs. Ben Stern	Recording Secretary
Mrs. B. I. Isaacs	Corresponding Secretary

### *Directors*

Mrs. Seraphine Blum	Mrs. Mose Cahn
Mrs. Albert Schwartz	Mrs. Wm. Baer
Mrs. Max Kohler	Mr. Ralph J. Schwarz
Mrs. Harry Haas	Mrs. Julius Goldman
Mrs. Irwin Isaacson	Mrs. J. I. Lindy
Mrs. Leo Zander	Mrs. Leon Lichtenstein
Mrs. Alfred Alltmont	Mrs. Bernard Levy
Mrs. B. Turkheimer	Mrs. B. M. Isaacs
Mrs. M. B. Sontheimer	Mrs. Percy Stern
Mrs. Louis Levy	Mrs. Chas. Levy
Mrs. Leon Schwartz	Mrs. Mike Cahn
Mrs. S. Davidson	Mrs. Ralph Schwarz
Mrs. Wm. Adler	Mrs. A. Hiller
Mrs. Paul Kling	Mrs. Dave Silverstein
Mrs. J. Goldstein	Mrs. I. Kohlmeyer
Mrs. Harry Goodman	Mrs. Henry Blum
Mrs. Wilfred Gehr	Mrs. Chas. Samuel

## TOURO BROTHERHOOD

Dr. Isidore Cohn	President
Mr. Harry Haspel	Vice-President
Mr. Max Good	Treasurer
Mr. Simon Schwartz	Secretary

### *Directors*

Louis Rosen  
Wilfred Gehr  
Harold Salmon

*TOURO CONGREGATION*

Arnold Falk	President
Jac Trautman	First Vice-President
Max Kohler	Second Vice-President
Louis Hausmann	Treasurer
Julius Goldman	Secretary

*Board of Directors*

Abe Rosenberg	Harry Goodman
Alex Hochstein	P. S. Kaufman
Otto J. Mayer	M. M. Goldman
Ralph J. Schwarz	Herbert Hiller
Harold Salmon	Alfred Allmont
Jacob Marks	M. B. Sontheimer

*Cemetery Commissioners*

Sam Blum  
Adolph Good

*Trustees of Building Fund*

Charles Kohlmeyer  
Ben Connart  
Abe Rosenberg

Gerson Aletrino, Custodian

*General Committee on Touro Centenary Celebration*

Mr. Harris Hyman	General Chairman
Mr. Ralph J. Schwarz	Vice-Chairman & Chairman of Speakers Committee
Mr. Nathan I. Shwartz	Past President of the Congregation
Mr. Sam Blum	Past President of the Congregation
Mrs. Marks Isaacs	Past President of the Sisterhood
Mrs. M. Feingold	Past President of the Sisterhood
Mrs. Harris Hyman	Past President of the Sisterhood
Mrs. Otto Mayer	Past President of the Sisterhood
Dr. I. Cohn	President of the Men's Club
Mr. Arnold Falk	President of the Congregation
Mrs. Charles Rosen	President of the Sisterhood
Mrs. Leon Schwartz	Member-at-large
Mr. Charles Rosen	Member-at-large
Mr. Myron Goldman	Member-at-large
Mr. Harold Salmon	Member-at-large
Mr. H. J. Seiferth	Chairman Publicity Committee
Mr. Mark Kaiser	Chairman Music Committee
Mr. Julius Goidman	Chairman Printing and Program
Mr. Jac Trautman	Chairman Reception Committee
Mr. Harry Goodman	Chairman Banquet Committee
Mr. Max Kohler	Chairman Corner-Stone Dedication
Mrs. Edwin Lazard	Chairman Decoration Committee
Mr. L. Feibleman	Chairman Finance Committee
Emil W. Leipziger	Rabbi and Secretary