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Cleveland, brief history of Jewish community of, 1928.

CLEVELAND, OHIO.

Cleveland is the largest city in Ohio, U. S. A., and is situated at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River on Lake Erie. Its present population is 1,010,300.

The first Jewish settler in Cleveland was Simson Thorman, who arrived from Unsleben, Bavaria in 1837. Cleveland's population was then 5100. Other German Jewish immigrants soon followed.

In 1839 the first congregation, the Israelitish Society, was organized with a membership of 20. In 1840 a cemetery was purchased.

A considerable number of Jews from Hungary settled in Cleveland beginning with the year 1855. In 1881 there began an influx of Russian Jewish immigrants. It is estimated that the present Jewish population of Cleveland ~~numbers~~^{is} 90,000.

The Jews of Cleveland are well represented in all the industries, trades and professions. In the first decade of this century a flourishing cloak and suit industry attracted a large number of Jewish workmen to Cleveland. There are many carpenters, builders, painters, plasterers, paper hangers, cigar makers, cap makers, waiters and bakers among the Jewish workmen. A good proportion of them are in the trade unions, some of which are almost entirely Jewish.

Jews are active in the business life of Cleveland as manufacturers, merchants, financiers, brokers and realtors.

The two oldest existing congregations in Cleveland are Anshe Chesed, (Euclid Ave. Temple) reform, established 1845, and Tifereth Israel, (The Temple) reform, founded in 1850 as a result of the withdrawal of some members from the older congregation who demanded reforms in the ritual. Tifereth Israel is now the second largest liberal congregation in the United States.

In 1865 the Hungarian Jews of Cleveland organized the B'nai Jeshurun (Temple on the Heights.) Anshe Emeth Beth Tefilo (The Jewish Center) established in 1875 is the other large conservative congregation. The four

synagogues above mentioned are housed in beautiful, new places of worship which are among the finest structures in the city. There are besides some twenty-five smaller orthodox congregations.

The Jewish Welfare Federation comprising all the Jewish agencies interested in social welfare was organized in 1902. The following agencies are members of the Federation: Camp Wise Association, (a summer camp for children) Council Educational Alliance, (recreational and cultural centers) The Hebrew Free Loan Association, Independent Montifiore Shelter Home, (shelter for homeless strangers) Jewish Big Brother Association, Jewish Big Sister Association, Jewish Day Nursery, Jewish Orphan Home, Jewish Social Service Bureau, (formerly Hebrew Relief Association) Montifiore Home for the Aged, Mt. Sinai Hospital, Orthodox Jewish Orphan Home, Orthodox Old Home, Welfare Association for Jewish Children.

The Jewish Welfare Federation receives its financial support from the Cleveland Community Chest, the central charity fund raising agency of the city to which Protestants, Catholics and Jews belong. The Federation's budget expense for 1928 amounted to \$1,050,576.

Cleveland is the home of the Jewish Orphan Home which was founded by the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, District #2 in 1868. ^{at the present time} It ~~now~~ cares for 191 boys and 150 girls. It is one of the best known and expertly administered orphanages in the United States and is now completing its new cottage group in University Heights, a suburb of Cleveland.

The Bureau of Jewish Education, established in 1924, subsidizes seven Hebrew day schools and six Saturday and Sunday religious schools in various parts of the city for children whose parents are not affiliated with Temple or Synagogue schools. It also supports two training schools for Religious and Hebrew School teachers. There exist also a Talmudic School - The Yeshiva Adath B'nai Israel - and three Yiddish Schools.

There is a Yiddish daily in Cleveland, the Jewish World, established in 1913 and two Anglo-Jewish weeklies, the Jewish Review and Observer, established in 1888 and the Jewish Independent, established in 1906.

Among the other Jewish organizations in Cleveland are the Cleveland Zionist District, the Council of Jewish Women and the Hadassah Organization.

Bibliography:

The Cleveland Year Book and Directory, 1927; The Cleveland Jewish Society Book, 1925-26; The Jewish Independent New Year Issue, Sept. 1928; Jewish Encyclopaedia Vol. IV "Cleveland."

