

## COL. MAX EINSTEIN & MEYER

Among the several research projects exploring KI's past is our recognizing the fact that over the years, the membership has included several distinguished personages. Two of the very earliest were Colonel Max Einstein (1822-1906) who served in the Civil War and Meyer Guggenheim (1828-1905) the legendary and highly successful industrialist who began as a Philadelphia peddler. Interestingly, these two may have had more in common than the published histories and biographies have described individually.

Both the Einstein family and the Guggenheim family were members of Keneseth Israel as early as the 1850's. Max Einstein is mentioned October 31, 1851 and several more times in the Board minutes in the 1850's and 1860's, including when he purchased a first-class seat, trading in his third class seat on May 6, 1858. He was granted accommodations on Aug 4, 1861 with respect to membership fees when he was serving as Colonel of the 27<sup>th</sup> PA Infantry Regiment and when later dispatched to Europe in a diplomatic capacity. (Note: At the 1861 meeting cited above, Dr. Henry Heller was granted the same relief. He was listed as the Surgeon of the 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Reviewing the roster of the 27<sup>th</sup> Reg., there appears to be several names of Keneseth Israel members.) A member throughout the late 1800's, Einstein was listed on the membership rolls (in the annual yearbooks) of the 1890's and his funeral was at KI in 1906. Studying the Board Minutes, we find that Meyer Guggenheim was among a list of seat holders who expressed their desire to become members on Feb 19, 1855 and were approved March 6, 1855. On June 1, 1862 he traded up his third-class seat for a first class seat. A year later, he was among the early contributors to the Temple Fund.

Max Einstein had married Helena Guggenheim (1827-1909) in Philadelphia in early 1849, their first child, Joseph, being born Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> of that year. Their son Abraham, was born in 1851 and died in 1856, and was recorded among the 19 burials that there are records of in Keneseth Israel's cemetery. (This cemetery no longer exists.) The 1850 Federal Census records the Einstein household in Philadelphia including Max (age 26, b. Germany), Helena (age 23, b. Germany) and Joseph (age 8/12, b. Penna.), as well as a Fanny "Gukenheimer" (age 25, b. Germany.) The 1860 Federal Census record of their household is more interesting, in that it includes not only Max (age 35), Helena (age 33) and their children, Joseph (age 11), Louis (age 7), Harry (age 5) and Teresa (age 1); but also Lena Myers (age 24, b. Germany), Cecelia Guggenheim (age 15, b. Pennsylvania (??)) and Henry Guggenheim (age 13, b. Pennsylvania (??).) Note that census records were not perfect, especially with respect to exact age or place of birth, but they are often guides to relative age.

Simon Meyer Guggenheim (a widower, 1792-1867), his children (including Meyer and at least four sisters), Rachel Regina Weil Myers (a widow, 1806-1886) and her children all arrived in Philadelphia together from Canton Aarau, Switzerland in 1847. (This German-speaking region of Switzerland is immediately adjacent to Bavaria, Germany.) Simon shortly thereafter married Rachel Myers, combining the two families into a single household. On Sep 5, 1853, Meyer Guggenheim married his stepsister Babette Myers. According to Guggenheim biographies, the marriage was performed at Keneseth Israel. (Our archives do not contain any marriage records prior to Rabbi Einhorn's record book, the first entries of which are dated 1861. The Board minutes of the 1850's does make reference to marriages having taken place. For example, the following appears on July 27, 1856: "A book was bought to register marriages and one to write out marriage licenses." And on January 6, 1859 two entries indicate that \$2.25 was spent to purchase a book for marriage records and a resolution was passed unanimously that indicated that "Rabbi Deutsch should be informed that he cannot perform marriage ceremonies without the permission of the chairman.")

Why is the 1860 Census record significant? Lena Myers, who resided in the home of Max Einstein as noted above, was probably one of Helena Guggenheim Einstein's stepsisters and Cecelia Guggenheim, also in the 1860 Einstein home, was a sister of Helena and Meyer Guggenheim (see reference to marriage and burial below.) The German-speaking Jewish community of Philadelphia had not yet grown to the large numbers evident by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century; thus, the names were unique.

The 1860 census shows "Myers Guggenheim" (age 31, b. Switzerland) along with his wife Barbara (age 26, b. Switzerland) and children Isaac (age 6), Daniel (age 4) and Maurice (age 2). Also listed is Mary Myers (age 22, b. Switzerland); in all probability a sister of Barbara (Babette) Myers Guggenheim. Listed at the same address as a separate household is Maurice Myers (age 28, b. Switzerland), his wife Matilda (age 18, b. Switzerland) and a daughter, Rosey (age 1, b. Pa.) Also listed in this household is Benjamin Myers (age 17, b. Switzerland.) The probability is that Maurice and Benjamin are brothers of Barbara (Babette) and Mary. The 1870 Federal Census lists the expanded family of "Myers Guggenheim" (age 41, b. Switzerland), his wife Barbara (age 35, b. Switzerland), and children Isaac, Daniel, Morris (Maurice), Solomon, Nettie, Benjamin, Robert, Simon and Willie (William).

The case for inclusion of Max Einstein's wife Helena as a sibling of Meyer Guggenheim comes from scattered sources. In later census records of the Einstein children, their mother's birthplace is listed as Switzerland, home of Simon & Meyer Guggenheim. The biographies indicate that Meyer Guggenheim had sisters, but there is no mention of their names.

Separately, there were Guggenheim marriages performed at KI in the later 1800's. Cecilia (Cacilie) Guggenheim (1838-1892) married Abraham Weinbach (1836-1907) at KI on Nov 3, 1866. Married by Rabbi Hirsch, it is recorded that she was age 28, having been born in Langnau, Canton Aarau, Switzerland. When she died, Mrs. Weinbach was buried at Mt Sinai Cemetery in a plot (VI-902-1) owned by M. Guggenheim. On Jan 21, 1891, Rose Guggenheim married Albert Loeb in New York City. Inasmuch as the wedding was performed by Rabbi Hirsch, it is recorded in the KI marriage records. Her parents are indicated as Meyer Guggenheim and Babetta Myers. A few years earlier, Jeanette (Nettie) Guggenheim married Albert M. Gerstle at KI on Nov 12, 1888. She too was a daughter of Meyer & Babetta Guggenheim. She died in childbirth on Aug 5, 1889.