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MEMOIR

Shabbat in the Orange Grove:
Joseph Wittenstein's Early Orlando History

by

Deborah Gurt *

**Joseph Wittenstein, "A Chronology of the Early Jewish
Settlers in the Orange County Area from 1875 to about 1925"¹**

Joseph Wittenstein's slim manuscript, "A Chronology of the Early Jewish Settlers in the Orange County Area from 1875 to about 1925," outlines the history of Jewish settlement in and around Orlando, Florida. Written in 1975, it situates itself in the historical moment of the United States's bicentennial celebration. Written specifically for this occasion, the work seeks to celebrate a Jewish contribution to American history, to trace the Jewish role in the economic development of the city of Orlando and environs, and to document the texture of Jewish life for early Jewish settlers in the area. Our author does not provide much detail about his family but frames his story within the grand and optimistic narrative of Jewish immigrants seeking refuge from poverty and persecution and finding a land of opportunity in the United States.

With other records we can piece together some details of Wittenstein's biography. Joseph Wittenstein was the first generation of his family to be born in the United States. His mother and father came as immigrants from Imperial Russia. His mother, Esther Shader, arrived from Schedrin,

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¹ Joseph Wittenstein, "A Chronology of the Early Jewish Settlers in the Orange County Area From 1875 to About 1925," 1976, Orlando Public Library, transcribed and annotated by Deborah Gurt. Two copies of the Wittenstein manuscript are held for library use in the Orange County library system, one at the Orlando Public Library (Downtown) and the other at the West Oaks Genealogy branch. Reprinted with permission of the Wittenstein family.

a Hasidic town in the Bobruisk region, in 1907 with her parents, and father Morris Wittenstein arrived from Nemyriv in Vinnitsa, Ukraine, via Argentina in 1894, also with his parents.² Both families initially settled in Pittsburgh, where the elder Shader worked as a carpenter and Wittenstein a cigar maker.

In 1912 Peter David Wittenstein, Joseph's paternal grandfather, purchased a one-hundred-acre citrus grove located on the south shore of Lake Fairview in Orange County, Florida. The following year, Israel Shader, Joseph's maternal grandfather, bought an adjacent dairy farm in Fairvilla. Esther and Morris Wittenstein were married in 1913, and both of their families made the move to Florida. According to the Institute of Southern

The Wittenstein Family at their home at 424 East Central Avenue in Orlando, 1943.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Morris Wittenstein, Bertha Wittenstein Fraiberg, Joe Wittenstein, Esther Shader Wittenstein, and Florence Wittenstein Tobias.

(State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, Mosaic Collection.)

² Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Jewish Life's history of Orlando, the Shader and Wittenstein families were part of a wave of immigration to Orlando, dubbed the "Pittsburgh wave," consisting of several interconnected families who sought to escape the hardships and crowding of the northern city.³ They also believed that a rural way of life would prove more accommodating to Jewish ritual observance, which was clearly important to both families.

Both of Wittenstein's grandfathers were traditionally religious men, Peter David having been a *sofer* (scribe), as well as a lay religious leader trained to perform kosher slaughter and ritual circumcisions. Israel Shader was also traditionally Orthodox and took responsibility for ensuring the new community had the necessities for religious observance. He brought a *sefer torah* for use by the community. Because of the distance between the outlying homesteads and the city of Orlando, the scroll was housed at the home of one family, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Levy, whose land was more centrally located. The Levy grove became the site of weekly Shabbat services as well as High Holiday celebrations, and even the occasional wedding. In 1917 Rose Gleibman and Aaron Harry Levy married in the orange grove using a Zionist flag as their chuppah.⁴

The focus of this manuscript is firmly on the economic footprint of this community, and Wittenstein enumerates the changing business profile of the area, noting the types of Jewish-owned businesses that opened and those that thrived or closed. He traces the ups and downs of economic conditions and their impacts on the Jewish community. This focus on enumerating businesses may in part reflect the tools available to our author. Wittenstein describes his methods for researching his manuscript and notes that for early residents of the area, he relies on the imperfect process of picking out Jewish-sounding names from business directories and census lists. This method leads him astray at least once, as research tools available to us today are broadly expanded. Wittenstein gives us a couple of population milestones to measure the area's growth, noting that Orlando's population in 1915 was 3,894, in 1920 up to 9,282, then in 1930 the

³ "Orlando, FL," ISJL Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities," accessed August 8, 2025, <https://www.isjl.org/florida-orlando-encyclopedia.html>.

⁴ Marcia Jo Zerivitz, "Comments on Wittenstein Memoir," April 27, 2026. Zerivitz, founding executive director of the Jewish Museum of Florida, provided details of the wedding through email correspondence with the author.

area experienced almost 200 percent growth.⁵ Thus, the work in large part consists of lists of names, businesses, and occupations, which gives a sense of the growing population and evolving economic structure of the area, but little in the way of rich description.

Wittenstein's younger brother Neil offers a more fulsome picture of their rural childhood in a 2015 oral history interview.⁶ There he describes in detail the rhythms of laborious daily life on a dairy farm, the family's relative poverty but never hunger. He tells of interactions with neighbors and friends as a nine-year-old driving a milk delivery truck and selling eggs and milk in a nearby Black neighborhood, separate from his regular rounds, to earn some extra cash. He also tells the sad story that ended the Wittenstein family ownership of the dairy as the result of an injury his father sustained and the burdensome cost of medical treatment. He further explains the demise of the family orange business. Citrus farming was a risky endeavor, and two years of subsequent frosts killed off the stocks of the family orange groves.

One notable feature that this document does capture is the longevity of the community. Wittenstein in 1975 references many original businesses remaining in operation to the fourth and fifth generations, including some Shader family enterprises. Unlike many smaller Southern towns, subsequent generations seem to have remained in the area, even if, like our author as a CPA, they pursued white-collar professions. The surroundings, of course, underwent substantial development after World War II, and sections that had been farmland or groves became neighborhoods and industrial hubs. The area transformed with further investment by Walt Disney and the developing tourist economy. Land that had been the Wittenstein and Shader citrus groves beside Lake Fairvilla was developed in the 1960s as the Palomar neighborhood, which became popular with Jewish families, earning it the nickname, "the Golden Ghetto."⁷ This expansion of horizons may be the key to the community's longevity.

⁵ For contemporary numbers, see City of Orlando, *Growth Management Plan: 2024–2050 Growth Projections Report* (Orlando, FL, 2024), accessed May 24, 2026, <https://www.orlando.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/departments/edv/city-planning/2024-to-2050-growth-projections-report.pdf>.

⁶ Jane Tracy, "Neil Wittenstein Speaks at College Park Oral History Night," Orlando Memory, October 20, 2015, accessed May 24, 2026, <https://orlandomemory.org/people/neil-wittenstein-speaks-at-college-park-oral-history-night>.

⁷ "Orlando, FL."

*Wedding of Rose Gleibman and Aaron Levy,
Orlando, 1917, attended by the city's entire Jewish population.
(State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, Mosaic Collection.)*

In 2017 the city's first Jewish congregation, Ohev Shalom, celebrated its centennial. Congregation leaders undertook production of an expansive public exhibit documenting the history of Jews in Orange County, Florida. Members of the extended Wittenstein and Shader family took part in the project, which resulted in the exhibit *Kehillah: A History of Jewish Life in Greater Orlando*, held at the Orange County Regional History Museum from November 2017 to February 2018.⁸ It is worth noting that the original *sefer torah* used by the community on those Sabbaths in the Orange Grove was later buried in the Ohev Shalom cemetery. The period of Jewish institution-building in Orlando began with this congregation and seems to

⁸ David Bornstein, "Kehillah: A History of Jewish Life in Greater Orlando Opening November 12," Heritage Florida Jewish News, October 13, 2017, accessed May 24, 2026, <https://www.heritagefl.com/story/2017/10/13/news/kehillah-a-history-of-jewish-life-in-greater-orlando-opening-november-12/8663.html>.

have been spurred by external pressures, as Wittenstein notes in reference to Jewish exclusion from the Liberty Bonds parade in 1917.⁹

One final observation resonates with what Shari Rabin has described as the “fundamental modern Jewish question: whether and how should they enact their identities as Jews.”¹⁰ Though the early settlers treasured their religious observance and embodied a self-reliant approach to communal life, the closing of this memoir includes Wittenstein’s statement that some of the families lost their Jewish identity over time, and our author assures his readers in 1975 that their background is “kept inviolate and secure from idle gossip.” This statement sits uncomfortably with Wittenstein’s early proclamation that Jewish immigrants to America “brought, with pride, our faith—a faith in one God from which arose other great religions.”

Nevertheless, one contribution of this resource lies in its depiction of migration from city to frontier, where Jewish merchants applied business acumen and innovation to agriculture and technology, advancing practices such as refrigeration, packaging, and mass distribution of produce. Furthermore, it demonstrates the flourishing of grounded religious practice in the semirural environment and its evolution into a broad range of communal institutions to scaffold Jewish life. It tells a Southern story of internal Jewish institution building (and splintering), and external cultural integration, an example at work here of the centrifugal and centripetal forces that Mark K. Bauman describes at work in Atlanta.¹¹ Given that much of the existing Florida Jewish historiography has focused either on influential men such as David Levy Yulee or centered geographically on the greater Miami area, Wittenstein’s memoir opens an unexplored vista on Florida Jewish history.

⁹ Both Wittenstein and the ISJL Encyclopedia entry for Orlando attribute this comment to Mrs. Pauline Berman, and a 1918 Orlando Sentinel article names her husband, N. (Nat) Berman, as chair of the committee of “the Jewish Synagogue of Orlando” tasked with raising funds for the Third Liberty Loan.

¹⁰ Shari Rabin, *The Jewish South: An American History* (Princeton, 2025), xi.

¹¹ Mark K. Bauman, “Centripetal and Centrifugal Forces Facing the People of Many Communities: Atlanta Jews from the Leo Frank Case to the Great Depression,” in *A New Vision of Southern Jewish History: Studies in Institution Building, Leadership, Interaction, and Mobility*, ed. Mark K. Bauman (Tuscaloosa, 2019), 26.

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**Joseph Wittenstein, “A Chronology of the Early Jewish
Settlers in the Orange County Area from 1875 to about 1925”**

GREETINGS! My name is Joseph Wittenstein. I was born on the Shader farm, now the site of the Shader Industrial Park in Fairvilla. My parents were the late Morris Wittenstein and Esther Shader, who came to Orlando from Pittsburgh immediately after their marriage in 1913. I was the first of their four children, the other three being Florence Tobias, Tybe Kahn, and Neil Wittenstein.

For a few years I was the only Jewish child in the Fairvilla area.¹² It was requested of my parents that I be permitted to attend the Epworth League children's functions at the Fairvilla Methodist Church for the reason that "little Joseph needed the companionship of other children." I recall with fondness these church functions.

My early formal education was in the Fairvilla school first located on the northeast corner of Silver Star Road and Highway 441. It had two teachers, each of whom taught four grades. It had two classrooms and forty-three students. A new and larger four-room school was built in the early 1920s near the corner of Silver Star Road and Rio Grande Avenue. Two of the rooms were separated by a collapsible wall, which when opened made our auditorium. My mother was president of the PTA for two of the years I was in school there. My early Hebrew education was charged to my grandfather, Peter Wittenstein. I was tutored each day after school until his departure to Tel Aviv in 1922.¹³

Most Jews are in the United States by grace of a national policy in the middle 1800s permitting our grandparents or great-grandparents who came from scores of countries to settle here. We came to this fertile, rich

¹² Rose Kanner was the first Jewish child born in the Orlando area, in 1904. The family lived in Sanford, twenty-four miles to the north of Fairvilla.

¹³ There appears to have been strong Zionist commitments among the Orlando communities, judging by the number of families mentioned who made aliyah in the 1920s and '30s, as well as the possession of a Zionist flag, which doubled as a wedding canopy on at least one occasion.

*Esther Shader Wittenstein with
her son Joe, Orlando, 1915.
(State Archives of Florida, Florida
Memory, Mosaic Collection.)*

land, and we brought our own Jewish culture. And we brought, with pride, our faith—a faith in one God from which arose other great religions.

We learned that the Liberty Bell, from which pealed forth the birth of freedom, was inscribed with a quote from Leviticus in the Old Testament: “Proclaim liberty through the land to all the inhabitants thereof.” We are grateful that so many of the Jewish people came to America to find freedom and were given the opportunities to thrive and to provide benefits to Americans and to people of the world generally.

At this commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the United States, it is fitting to mention at least a few Jews who left their indelible imprint on the development and culture of this country. To start with there was Haym Salomon, who helped finance the revolution that started it all. There was Steinmetz, who discovered how to harness electrical power. There was Tesla, who harnessed the power of Niagara Falls and for whom that power plant is named.¹⁴

In the theater there was Edward G. Robinson, Paul Muni, and many others. The greatest impresario of all was Sol Hurok, who died recently.

¹⁴ Wittenstein is apparently mistaken about Nikola Tesla’s heritage. The Serbian engineer was the son of Eastern Orthodox parentage and was not Jewish.

Among the movie industry greats were Louis B. Mayer, Darryl F. Zanuck, and others. Musicians who will always be remembered include George Gershwin and Irving Berlin. Writers include Edna Ferber, George S. Kaufman, and Neil Simon. Entertainers are never-to-be-forgotten personalities like Eddie Cantor, Al Jolson, and Jack Benny. America and the world will always be grateful to Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, who arrested and almost vanquished infantile paralysis. There is the famous chemist Leo Sternbach, who invented librium and valium to keep us all at ease. I could go on and on but the real purpose of this message is to discuss the early Jewish settlers of Central Florida.

An area of Central Florida known as Orange County was established on December 29, 1824, and was carved from a much larger area of the state known as Mosquito County. The first county seat was the town of Enterprise on the north shore of Lake Monroe. The size of Orange County was adjusted at a later date, and a northern section became Seminole County and the town of Enterprise became a part of Volusia County.

Orlando became the county seat in 1856, but was not yet an incorporated town. My written source of the early history of the area was *Webb's Historical Index and Bibliography*.¹⁵ In 1880 the county had a population of 6,618 persons.

By way of background, I was asked to prepare the early Jewish history in the area by the Bi-Centennial Committee and to include such items as Civil War Memories of local Jewish citizens. The then Jewish census of the U.S. was quite small. In a recently published book, *In Search of a Dream* by Professor Irving Howe, he states that there was a substantial migration of Jews from Germany to the United States after the 1848 revolution in Germany.¹⁶ Also, following the assassination of Czar Alexander II in Russia in 1881, there began a migration of Jews from Russia and Poland during the next twenty years. Far and away the out-migrations from Germany, Russia, and Poland were to the United States rather than Palestine, as Zionism had not become important and Palestine was much more remote than the United States to the Jewish people of Europe. As the first

¹⁵ Wanton S. Webb, *Webb's Historical, Industrial and Biographical Florida* (New York, 1885).

¹⁶ No publication is listed in WorldCat with the bibliographic information Wittenstein provides here. It may be he is referring to Howe's classic *World of Our Fathers* (New York, 1976).

Looking west down Pine Street, Orlando, 1882.
(*Photograph by Stanley J. Morrow, State Archives of Florida,*
Florida Memory, Mosaic Collection.)

large Jewish influx began about 1850, there was, therefore, a comparatively small number of people of the Jewish faith in the U.S. at the beginning of the Civil War period, and they were settled mainly in the large centers of population and were basically nonagrarian in occupation, as European nations had limitations of ownership of land by Jews.¹⁷

Jews of all classes were discriminated against in the European countries, thus the better educated, those trained in some skills and crafts, as well as the lower classes migrated to America. In other ethnic groups the elite, the skilled, and the better educated were not forced to emigrate as they were happily established in their countries and did not have to seek better livelihoods and conditions for themselves and their families. Thus,

¹⁷ This presentation leaves out the early establishment of a Jewish agricultural settlement near Micanopy, Florida, by Sephardic businessman and utopian Moses Elias Levy, which lasted from 1822 to 1835.

according to Professor Howe, the amalgam of the Jewish immigrants had a normal proportion of the better classes, permitting an easier, general economic adjustment.

The early surge of Jewish in-migrants saw the various barriers to acceptance into American social and economic communities, and they realized that education was the vehicle for social and economic advancement. They thus exploited themselves so that their children would receive higher educations. Enough of early Jewish-American background.

Florida's early settlers during the late 1800s and the early 1900s came by steamship from New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Jacksonville, and from Jacksonville they came by paddleboat down the St. Johns River to Sanford and then to other Central Florida areas by stagecoach or railroad. Most of the small railroad lines used to interconnect. The area had two railway companies in 1880 and had several more during the next thirty years. By way of additional background on the development of mid-Florida, the town of Key West was well established and was a thriving area by the time of the Civil War because of its accessibility by water. Many early area residents came to the Orlando area from Key West, which was an unblockaded Southern seaport town during the Civil War and which had lost its commercial importance after the close of that war. The Central Florida area started to develop after the War between the States because of the overland rail route from large eastern areas of New York, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Baltimore to Jacksonville.

From Jacksonville one would travel via the St. Johns River south to Mellonville, now Sanford, on the south side of Lake Monroe and Enterprise on the north side of the lake. Rail transportation opened the mid-Florida area for business and visits as an alternate to traveling by ship from northern coastal cities to Key West.

The mid-Florida area had many small railroad companies. They have all since been abandoned and consolidated into one main railroad. The small rail companies permitted the people to settle away from the edge of navigable streams and led to land development for other uses. The area was a source of lumber and naval stores, such as turpentine for paint manufacture and tar for caulking small structures and seagoing vessels to make their wooden joints and seams waterproof.

Further by way of background, counties were established at a size, and the county seats centrally located therein, so that county residents

could make a round trip from their homes to the county seat by horse and wagon to transact business during the course of a day and return to their homes by nightfall. Orange County is approximately 1,008 square miles in size. To give some basis of comparison to visualize the size of the county, it is about one-eighth of the size of the State of Israel at the time of its establishment.

In examining some of the early federal census forms, I saw no evidence identifying the population as to religious practice or background, but there was as to country or area of origin and reason for coming to this area. An 1876 county voter list indicates a Jake, Charles, and Mike Cohen. An early map shows the location of a store operated by them on the north side of Church Street between Orange Avenue and what is now Magnolia Avenue. I presume their names are listed in order of age, and J. R. Cohen is shown as an Orlando alderman when the town was incorporated. It also included the following names: J. J. Cone, Philip Geist, Joshua Jacobs, Benjamin Moses, F. H. Moses, and J. J. Stein, some of whom may have been Jewish. Florida's first senator was Jewish. His name was David Levy Yulee. He served from 1845 to 1851. One of his descendants, Samuel Yulee Way, was a former mayor of Orlando.¹⁸

The 1884 population of Orlando was established to be 1,638 persons. There are no official Orange County records prior to 1870 as the courthouse was destroyed in a deliberately set fire during that year. There seems to be a further gap in the records during the 1890s.

An 1885 census lists names of local citizens, who by their names may have been Jewish:

Berlin, David (Wife, M. I.), occupation baker, from Pennsylvania
 Birnbaum, A. H. (Wife, Belle), two sons, Walter and Morton
 Goldin, Rubin (Wife, Muncie) farmer
 Mandhoff, Z. (Wife, M.) son ten, daughter eight, farmer from Russia
 Weinberg, L. K. from Sweden
 Gumpert, S. (Wife, Ida) one son, four daughters
 Bucksbaum, Albert, age forty-four, merchant from Germany, three sons, one daughter
 Abrams, Jacob, engineer
 Habstein, Peter (Wife, Emily) from Prussia, real estate, three children
 Goldstein, ____ (Wife, ____) Germany, merchant, one son, Harry

¹⁸ David Levy Yulee was the son of Moses Elias Levy; Samuel Yulee Way, mayor of Orlando from 1932–34 and 1938–40, was a further descendant.

Cohen, T. (Wife, Augusta) merchant, two sons, one daughter
 Goldin, Rubin (Wife, Anna), ice cream maker from Virginia, wife from North Carolina
 Myerson, Max, thirty-two (Wife, Saide, age twenty-two), Germany, daughter Hattie
 Leventhal, H., age fifty-eight, widowed, Prussia, merchant, came to relieve rheumatism
 Schreiber, M., fifty-nine (Wife, Leida, thirty-three), tailor, Germany, wife from Baltimore
 Marx, Jacob, age sixty, (Wife, E., fifty-eight), Germany

An 1887 business directory included merchants and professionals from surrounding towns of Sanford, Kissimmee, Apopka, Longwood, Tavares and Winter Park. Following is a partial list of the names which I thought to be Jewish-sounding. Their occupations were also listed:

Berlin, David, baker
 Birnbaum, Alfred, dry goods and clothing
 Gazan, Nathan, proprietor, Central Hotel
 Gittlesohn Bros. (Solomon and Wolf), gentlemen's furnishings, trunks, boats, etc.
 Mairson, Julius, dry goods and men's furnishings
 Prag, Maurice, notions and curiosities

A short time later the town of Mellonville had its name changed to Sanford after a General Sanford, who retired to and did a lot of developing in the area. It was larger than Orlando, and its census included 2,378 persons. Its business directory included three Jewish sounding names:

Cohen, Maurice (Wife, Theresa) dry goods, gents. furn. and millinery
 Myerson, Max, grocer and gents furn. (may have moved from Orlando)
 Schreiber, Michael, tailor (may have moved from Orlando)

The preceding items were gleaned from various written sources. The rest of the facts are pieced together from various people in and out of the local area. Early Jewish background information has been supplied in part by Anne Kanner Samuels, who was born in Sanford, also by Stella Moses Orrit and Gertrude Dingfelder. I received assistance on early Orlando area history from Saul Levy, who was a 1917 Orlando High School graduate and now lives in Miami; from Aaron Kanner, who was born in Orlando in 1905; from Myer Shader, who moved to Orlando in 1916; from Pauline Berman, who moved to Orlando from Jacksonville in 1909; from Miss Hat-abel Hyer, who was born in Orlando in 1887; and several others. An 1887

*Aaron Kanner,
three years old, Orlando, 1908.
(State Archives of Florida, Florida
Memory, Mosaic Collection.)*

Sanford directory mentioned three families, others must have arrived immediately thereafter. A Sidney and Fannie Frank had a general merchandise store and had two children, Felix and Flossie. Charles Kanner, first of the well-known Kanner family, came to Sanford in 1889. Frank and Celia Seligman (she being a sister of Charles) preceded Charles but did not remain long, having moved to Quincy, Florida.

Charles Kanner brought his boyhood sweetheart from Roumania, Pauline Abrahams, they were married February 26, 1891, by a rabbi brought in from Jacksonville. They had five children, all of whom were well-educated. They were Abe O., an attorney and one of Florida's first appellate judges; Harry, who became a doctor; Israel, who became an architect; and two daughters, Ruth and Anne, both of whom became school teachers.

The early 1890s saw additional arrivals into the area. There were at least four new Jewish families. Joe Meisterman and his wife Charlotte; a

niece, Bertha Hameister, came several years later to live with them and care for them; a family named Henry Benedict; another named Pepper; and a Mr. and Mrs. J. Feinberg. He came from Alabama but lived in Quincy before coming to Orlando. The latter was a gentleman's tailor and haberdasher. I have a photo of his advertisement in an 1893 newspaper. They had one daughter. She is currently living on Park Lake Street in Orlando. She later became a teacher in Orlando and was married to a man named Ellsworth. They had one son who died in infancy.

Harry Kanner and his son Aaron in an orange grove near Orlando, c. 1912.

(State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, Mosaic Collection.)

The big freeze of December 1894 and January 1895 had drastic economic effects on the area. Many people dependent on agriculture for a living were forced to go elsewhere. The Kanner family left Sanford to go into the ship chandlery business in Miami. Aaron Kanner, now living in

Miami, a son of Harry and Rachel Kanner, had an 1898 newspaper clipping where all the Kanners were arrested in Miami for violating the Sunday blue laws by selling merchandise to fishermen unloading their catch at the docks and were reloading with supplies to go back to sea. The press was sympathetic and had an editorial that ice cream and tobacco vendors and other similar shops should similarly be arrested for selling their wares on Sunday. They returned to Sanford in early 1900 and started farming a newly introduced vegetable in the area called celery.

Part of the Kanner family moved to Palatka, and Harry, who followed his brother Charles to Sanford, also brought his boyhood sweetheart from Roumania and they were married in 1904 in Sanford by a rabbi brought from Jacksonville. They moved to Orlando in 1905 and bought a shoe store from Eugene Duckworth, who many years later became mayor of Orlando. The store was located on Orange Avenue. Two other Kanner brothers came to Sanford. They were Kalman, who had come about 1905, and Asher in 1910. Asher had two sons, Murray and Jack, who are both residing in Sanford at this time.

Dr. P. Phillips settled in Orlando in 1898 and became one of the most prominent citrus growers in the area.¹⁹ Kissimmee had at least one Jewish settler who came in the early 1890s. His name was Moses Kotz. They were in the hardware business, and their business was known as Kotz and Makimson Hardware Co. The business exists today as Makimson Hardware Co. The Kotz family were highly respected citizens. There is a dearth of facts regarding Jewish settlers until 1904, when the Ben Solomon family arrived. At least three of their children were born in Orlando; their names were Morris, Helen May, and Thoba. Ben's wife, Minnie, was the sister of Mrs. Charles Kanner. The Solomons had what was for Orlando a large store on the east side of Orange Avenue between Pine and Church Streets near or next to the Guernsey Hardware Store. Among my sources of information was an old-timer named Lucille Fair, who was an Orlando High

¹⁹ Phillips was an intriguing character in Orlando history, at one time the largest citrus grower in the world with a massive and successful operation. His medical credentials are a subject of dispute, but he was a devoted philanthropist, and his foundation is still extant, distributing twelve million dollars annually in support of arts, education, health, children and youth, and social services, according to the Dr. P. Philips Foundation website. Dr. Phillips Charities, accessed May 7, 2026, <https://drphillips.org>.

At the Solomon home in Orlando. CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Rose Berman, Pauline Berman, Dr. Eugene Hoffman, Belle Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Klein, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stalberg, Hymie Levine, Minnie Solomon, Ben Solomon.
(State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, Mosaic Collection.)

School graduate of 1926. Her family lived across the street from the Solomon family on the corner of Orange Avenue and Livingston Street. Lucille said she loved to sit on the Solomons' porch and listen to Celia, one of the Solomon girls, practice the piano. Celia graduated from Rollins and later from Juilliard in New York and became a concert pianist and teacher of music.

The Harry Kanner shoe store was across the street from the Solomon store, and Aaron, the first of their three children, was born here in 1905. He was an Orlando High School graduate of 1923. He is a well-known attorney in Miami. Harry closed or sold his shoe store and opened the New York Bargain House on or near the corner of Church Street and Orange Avenue. Harry was a horse fancier and owned a well-known trotter named Nutland Patch, a son of Dan Patch. The horse was raced at local area fairs. Harry Kanner also owned a beautiful buggy and rode around the town on Sunday afternoons. This had been mentioned to me by one of the old-timers as the Kanners being the only Jewish family to participate

in this activity. They had two other children born in Orlando. They were Rosebud (Mrs. Albert) Friedman, now residing in Miami, and the late Samuel Kanner, who was an attorney.²⁰

Next to arrive were Nat and Pauline Berman, who moved here in 1909 from Jacksonville. They had two daughters, Sylvia (Mrs. Al) Prince and Zelda (Mr. Jack) Gross. Nat Berman opened a tailoring shop. In several conversations with Mrs. Berman, she indicated that they were the third family that acknowledged being Jewish, the other two being the Solomons and the Kanners. Other old time families—the Benedicts, Pollacks, Feinburgs and possibly the Peppers—were still here at that time. Sometime later Nat Berman went into the real estate business in the employ of Henry Benedict.

Mrs. Berman was a charter member of the Orlando Civic League and the United Missionary Society, which was the forerunner of the Young Women's Community Club.²¹ Nat was a charter member of the Lions Club of Orlando.

A 1909 Orlando City Directory lists the Benedicts, Bermans, Kanners, and Solomons as recognizable Jewish names. Henry, David, Samuel, and Rose Levy settled in Geneva in 1912 and went into citrus and beef cattle. Rose Levy still lives there at this time. Rose Edith Jacobson of Sanford is related to them.

The next contingent of Jews came from Pittsburgh in 1912.²² First of these was Peter David and Bella Wittenstein, later followed by Mr. and Mrs. Moses Levy. Wittenstein bought land and a grove of one hundred acres on the south shore of Lake Fairview, and the north border of the property was Lake Silver. This later became a well-known residential area known as Palomar. The area occupied by Robert E. Lee Junior High School was part of a grove originally planted by Peter and Morris Wittenstein.

²⁰ According to the ISJL entry, Rosebud (Rose) Kanner (b. 1904) was the first known Jewish child born in the Orlando area. "Orlando, FL."

²¹ See "The Young Women's Community Club," Riches, Orlando Public Library accessed May 5, 2026, <https://richesmi.cah.ucf.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/orlandolibrary/ywcc>. The involvement of a Jewish woman with a Christian social service organization in the 1920s shows a certain ecumenicism.

²² The ISJL Encyclopedia describes this group of migrants "the Pittsburgh wave." According to Wittenstein here, it consisted of his parents, the Wittensteins and Shaders, as well as the Levy, Levine, and Meitin families, including several households and generations over the span of a few years between 1912 and 1915. "Orlando, FL."

The Levys bought a twenty-four-acre grove on what is now Edgewater Drive with the north boundary of what is now Princeton Street. This property became the center of the College Park area. Peter Wittenstein also had a large sweet potato farm on the present site of Interlaken just west of Palomar, and what is now Maury Road was for many years known as Wittenstein Road.

Also from Pittsburgh came the Harry Levine family, who had a nice home on the corner of Orange Avenue and Concord Street, the present site of the Firestone Tire Store. They stayed until 1923 and moved to Tel Aviv. Their three sons remained in the family business known as the Florida Leather Co. When the Levine sons left the area, they sold the leather business to other members of their family, the Louis Abramowitzes and the Morris Tetenbaums.

The Levines were followed by the Israel and Rose Shader family in 1913, who bought a grove on the west side of Lake Fairview. Israel Shader was a very religious person and brought from Pittsburgh the first *sefer Torah* to the Orlando area. As the Shaders, Wittensteins, and Meitins lived north of the central area, the local Jewish citizens apparently agreed to let the *sefer Torah* remain at the Levy grove as it was pretty much the central area between Orlando and the Fairvilla area to the north. All of the Shader children were in Orlando. They were Jacob and Fannie Meitin; George and Sarah Miller; Morris and Esther Wittenstein, who were the first of the Shader family to arrive; Isadore and Gittle Shader; Myer and Beatrice Shader; and Ben and Bessie Shader. Several of the third and fourth generations of the Shader and Wittenstein families are well known in the area, and the fifth generation is growing in numbers.

Peter David Wittenstein was considered a learned man. His family migrated from White Russia to Argentina several years earlier and then to the United States in 1884. In Russia he was a scribe, a person authorized to write Torahs, all of which are handwritten. He was also a lay religious leader, a *shochet* and a mohel. A *shochet* was a man trained and authorized to slaughter animals to provide kosher meat and fowl. A mohel is one trained in circumcision. A few years later Rabbi Wm. Wittenstein, who later became the Chief Rabbi of Paterson, New Jersey, bought into the family grove, and his family spent a large part of winter months here. His son Sol, who was married to Dora in 1922, was a well-known insurance agent in the area. Their son, Sheldon, currently operates the business.

The Shader family of Orlando, date unknown. TOP: Fannie Meitin, Sarah Miller, Esther Wittenstein; CENTER: Israel Shader, Rose Shader; BOTTOM: Ben Shader, Myer Shader, Isadore Shader. (State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, Mosaic Collection.)

A few facts about the Orlando area in the early 1900s. The first paved street began at the Church Street rail depot and ran easterly to Main Street, now Magnolia Avenue. An early Orlandoan, Daisy Muir, had the honor of making the first drive on the new paving in her surrey. The north and south extension on Main Street was of clay and began at Lake Lucerne on the south and went to Livingston Street on the north. This street had the leading hotels from the Tremont near Anderson Street to the Wyoming on the block between Livingston and Amelia Streets. Among its famous patrons were John L. Lewis, founder of the CIO, and Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau.

Later Orange Avenue was paved from Lake Lucerne north to Washington or Jefferson Streets. All paving was about eight feet wide (a regular

parking area in a car lot is ten feet to twelve feet in width). When buggies or wagons were passing each other, each kept one set of wheels on the paving, giving about one-half of the road to the other vehicle. The paving was later extended north to Marks Street, the site of the Orlando water system. Many old-timers will remember the old stand-pipe water tower on the southwest corner of Marks and Orange Avenue.

The fashionable places to live were west of Orange Avenue on Central Street; on Hughey Avenue from Washington Street to South Street; the area around Lake Lucerne; north on Orange Avenue; and north on Magnolia Avenue.

A 1915 Orlando directory shows the city population to be 3,894 persons, and Orange County had 8,135 residents. An example of describing one's location in earlier directories would be to state, for example, that he occupied the third building on the north side of Livingston Street between Orange Avenue and Magnolia Avenue. Orlando was now more populated and more sophisticated and devised a numbering system for buildings and homes. The 1915 directory had a professional section with several small display advertisements by doctors, dentists, and lawyers. The residents with Jewish-sounding names and their occupations are listed:

Benedict, Joseph & Sylvia, Florida Real Estate and Invest. Co.
 Feinberg, Jacob & Naomi, gents furnishings
 Kanner, Harry & Rae, dry goods
 Kanner, Kalman, dry goods
 Berman, Nat & Pauline, empl. Florida Real Est. and Inv. Co.
 Kaplan, Irving, waiter
 Levine, Harry & Esther, citrus grower, 502 N. Orange
 Isen, Max, dry goods, 601 W. Church Street
 Meisterman, Joseph & Charlotte, 301 West St.
 Phillips, Dr. P.
 Solomon, Benjamin & Minnie, clothing store
 Stalberg, Harry & Hannah, pawn broker
 Harris, Ansel & Yetta, fruit grower

The Levy, Meitin, Shader, and Wittenstein families are not listed as they did not live inside the city limits.

Regular Saturday religious services (minyans) were held at the Levy grove. All of the Jewish residents were Orthodox, or had Orthodox leanings in their religious observance. Their businesses were closed on the

Sabbath, and the Saturday services served the Jewish religious requirements and much of the social requirements of the area. During High Holidays those attending the services would spend the night between the first and second days of Rosh Hashanah at the Levys. They would also spend the night following Kol Nidre there. They slept in the various rooms and on the veranda surrounding the house, as the walk in the deep sand to their homes and return would be too strenuous. Their horses were often “anchored” and were fed in the surrounding grove.

The Kanners and Solomons, Orlando's first two Jewish families, date unknown.
 BACK ROW: A.O. Kanner, unidentified man; MIDDLE ROW: Harry Kanner, Pauline
 Kanner, Grandmother Abrams, Minnie Solomon, A.O. Kanner; FRONT ROW:
 Herman Kanner, Ruth Sandler, Celia Solomon, Blanche Bollas.
 (State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, Mosaic Collection.)

Following the original Pittsburgh group were some additional arrivals. Max Isen and his wife came in 1914 and opened a dry goods and grocery store at the corner of Church and Terry Streets. An interesting sidelight was that Mrs. Isen brought her sister from New York who later became the wife of Aaron Harry Levy, son of Moses Levy. They were the

parents of Dr. Morton Levy. A family named Greenberg came in 1915 and opened a fine ladies dress shop, but according to Lucille Fair, it was too high-style and expensive for the area. The store was not a success and the Greenbergs later moved away. A family named Friedman lived on the corner of Concord and Hughey Streets and was an early citrus grower and real estate owner. A family named Richman was also an early settler. They lived on a grove in Maitland and later moved to a house on Concord Street. They had a son named Paul who became a Reform rabbi, and a daughter named Lillian. A family named Roseman also lived on West Concord, and their daughter, Laura, was an early 1920s high school graduate.

A family named Hirsch was here in the late teens and had a store on Bryan Street near Central. Perry Weinberg and Harry and Hannah Stalberg came to Orlando from Key West about 1915. Weinberg had an Orange Avenue jewelry store, and Stalberg opened a pawn shop. Ivan and Minnie Burman came from Indianapolis and purchased a laundry business about 1918. He later leased and operated the San Juan Hotel that was Orlando's finest for several years. They had a daughter named Tybell who graduated from Orlando High School. She later married Dr. A. H. Spivack, a prominent Orlando surgeon for several years.

About this same time Orlando was developing into quite a citrus packing center. The W. B. Mouser packing house was at the corner of South Street and the railroad. The C. A. Marsh packing house was at Jackson Street and the railroad. There were two other packing houses at Amelia and the railroad and another on Concord Street. There was Orange Crate manufacturing plant, the Pounds Crate Co. on Garland Street, and the rail spur that supplied crates to these and other packing houses. The Cain-O'Berry Boiler Co., which later became the Harry P. Leu Company, sold the packing house machinery to these and other establishments.

Sanford also had good growth during this same period. In about 1910 a Fleisher family moved there and were prominent growers. The same year Abraham and Stella Moses settled there and shipped fruit and produce to the famous wholesale Washington Market in New York. A son Morris and his wife, Frances, also came to Sanford, and another son, Paul, handled the New York end of the business. They became large celery and cabbage growers. In 1914 Sam and Clara Benjamin came from New York

and opened a dry goods business. They had four daughters and one son, Frank, who is a CPA in Jacksonville.

Isaac and Fannie Schwartz came from Key West in 1915 and opened a grocery store. Dr. Roy Brown, a dentist, came there to practice upon his graduation. He was a nephew of the Schwartzes. Harry and Bertha Bandel came in 1916. He moved to Orlando a few years later when two brothers, Max and Louis, moved here with their families. In 1917 Saul and Faye Robbins and son Milton came to Sanford. A year later Al Raefield, a cousin of Faye's, opened a general merchandise store. He became most active in Jewish communal affairs and was an early president of Orlando's first Jewish congregation. The middle 1920s brought Julius and Gertrude Dingfelder to Sanford. He was a grower and civic leader. Their two children are Margaret (Mrs. Arthur) Corey of Orlando and Simon Dingfelder of Tampa.

Back in Orlando again, Hyman and Esther Lieberman came here in 1915. He was employed by Ben Solomon and later they opened their own millinery store. Their children were Bea (Mrs. Irving) Lippton and the late Orwin Lieberman. They were followed in 1917 by Louis and Bertha Lieberman. A son William settled in Leesburg, and a daughter, Esther, married Sam Fleisher from Sanford.

This now brings us to the era of World War I. Saul Levy, an Orlando High School graduate of 1917, joined the U.S. Navy. Isadore Shader was with the U.S. Expeditionary Forces in France. Morris Levine and Myer Shader were in other branches of the Armed Service.

Pauline Berman told me that there were parades and functions extolling patriotism and exhorting people to buy Liberty Bonds, the World War I equivalent of E Bonds. There was editorial comment in the local paper that Jews and Negroes were conspicuously absent from the Liberty Bond rallies. This was refuted by Mrs. Berman, who said that the Jewish citizenry were not specifically invited as there was no recognized Jewish organization in the Orlando area.²³ She feels that this led to the purchase of an available building, which became Orlando's first synagogue. I was told that it was a small church that had formerly belonged to a Seventh Day Adventist group and was located at the corner of Central and Terry Streets, which at that time was in a very nice residential area. Congregation Ohev Shalom was organized in the home of Harry Kanner in 1917.

²³ See note 9 above.

*Hyman and Esther Lieberman at the Hat Box,
their store located on South Orange Avenue in Orlando, 1922.
(State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, Mosaic Collection.)*

His residence, near the corner of Pine and Terry Streets, was a short block to the south of the first synagogue.

A Mr. A. Stetner was elected the first president of the new congregation. I could not determine Mr. Stetner's occupation, but I did find someone who remembered that for many years he was a winter visitor from New Haven, Connecticut, and that he had a reputation as a good card player. The second president was a Mr. Perry Weinberg, a respected jeweler. Neither name appears in the 1921 Orlando directory, so they may have resided outside the corporate limits. Weinberg died in Orlando in 1930 and is interred at Congregation Ohev Shalom Cemetery.

The Samuel Klein family, he was a brother of Pauline Berman, who moved away to California. The 1920 federal census showed that the Orlando population was now up to 9,282 persons. The 1921 city directory listed the following names that were identifiably Jewish but I know to be incomplete as several other Jewish families were living inside the city limits. Again, not included were those outside the corporate limits:

Jeanne Berman
Jonas and Yetta Cohen

Ned and Pearl Berman
 Leo Goldberg
 Rose Berman (mother of Nat)
 Emil and Cecilia Metzinger
 I. N. and Minnie Burman
 Dr. P. Phillips
 Harry and Mamie Cohen
 Sol and Dora Wittenstein

After World War I, many people were able to go to the northern cities to visit family or for business. I fondly recollect that they would bring back kosher salami and halvah, a candy made of almonds, honey, etc., to share with many local Jewish people. It was a great treat to have these food items.

There were at least two prominent men who were Spanish-American War Veterans. They were Phil Rosenberg and Sol Samuels. Phil owned land and operated the Astor Hotel, which was on Orange Avenue on a site now occupied by the CNA Building, and Sol was manager of the Rialto Theatre, a popular movie house on West Church Street a few doors west of Orange Avenue. I remember their marching in many parades.

Following World War I, Orlando started having spectacular growth. First there was a short nationwide depression, or period of economic readjustment, as the nation was in transition from a war economy to a peace economy. Then in Florida followed a period of prosperity that was known as the Florida Boom. Land speculation was rampant. Prices advanced so rapidly that land changed ownership two or three times before the first real estate transaction would have a chance to be recorded in the county courthouse. Fortunes were made by many and like today, when the economic excitement subsided, many of those holding properties at that time ran into economic problems. The boom ended here about 1926 or 1927 after it crested in 1925 and became part of a national recession climaxed by the stock market crash of 1929.

Many who came into the area during this period left indelible marks on the community. I knew many of these people as some were friends of my parents and several were active in the religious or business life of the central Florida area. I will mention several of the prominent names, but not in any particular order and with the hope there have been no omissions. I. N. Burman leased the San Juan Hotel about 1921. It had Orlando's finest public ballroom and restaurant. Pauline (Mrs. Nat) Berman was

very active in Red Cross during World War I. She was an active member of the Sorosis Club.²⁴ She was also the first woman radio newscaster in the United States; she was one of the spokespersons for the Jewish community and was active in many affairs and organizations. The Leader Department store operated by Harry Stalberg was a large, very popular downtown store. The Berger boys, Phil, Sam and Lou, had one of Orlando's finest men's stores known as the Waldorf Shop with excellent name brand merchandise. Phil was married to Naomi and for many years operated Bergers Tavern. The Tavern was a rendezvous for sports and entertainment personalities visiting in the area. Lou married Dorothy Wilson, a cousin of the Shaders. Emil Metzinger built the Fort Gatlin Hotel, which occupied about one-half block on Orange Avenue between Concord and Amelia Streets. Herman's loan office and jewelry store was operated by the first of the Lefkowitz family in the area. Hyman Roth operated Mack's Dress Shop, a fine ladies' store on Orange Avenue.

A costume, tuxedo rental store, and tailoring shop was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Labelman, who came in 1919, the forerunner of LaBelle Furs. The third generation of the family is now in the business. Sol and Dora Wittenstein, who were married in 1920, operated a grocery store on the corner of Summerlin and East Washington Streets. He later became one of Orlando's leading insurance agents. Dora was active in community life and was especially recognized as a long-time board member of the Orange County Parental Home. Morris Wittenstein operated the College Park Dairy, which had a fine reputation and served milk products to several schools and the two area hospitals. The Millers, Meitins, and Shaders operated the MMS Fruit Company, an early area Jewish-owned citrus shipping business and the forerunner of Zellwood Fruit Distributors, now operated by Ralph Meitin and his son, Julian.

One of the early popular well-known eating places was Faulk's Orange Delicatessen, which was located on Orange Avenue between Church and Jackson Streets. A small nice dress shop that fell by the wayside was operated by Sam Weinstein, who moved back to New York and became famous as Samuel Winston Fine Creations. A fancy grocery store was operated by the Barbanels, and Orlando's first kosher butcher shop was operated in that store by Jonas Cohen, a brother-in-law, and was located

²⁴ See "The Orlando Sorosis Club," Riches, Orlando Public Library, accessed May 5, 2026, <https://richesmi.cah.ucf.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/orlandolibrary/sorosisclub>.

on Church Street west of the railroad. They sold out to Morris Wilson and Sidney Blattner from Jacksonville in 1925, who in turn sold to Mickey and Mary Safer in 1927. Jesse and Mollie Rosen, with their baby daughter Ruth Esther, moved to Orlando from Richmond, Indiana, in 1924. He operated the Orlando Fish and Poultry Co. Mollie was active in Girl Scouts, the Sorosis Club, and was one of the organizers of Beth El Congregation. The Friday night services were frequently held at their house. This congregation was the nucleus that later became the Congregation of Liberal Judaism.²⁵

Sanford at this time had several Jewish families who came to Orlando for religious services. Earlier, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Moses donated land and built a synagogue there. Mr. Charles Kanner donated its first Torah. They found they could not support a rabbi so the congregation was dissolved. Several of the members joined Congregation Ohev Shalom in Orlando, and their Torah was brought to Orlando.

Congregation Ohev Shalom was keeping pace with Orlando's growth. Their old location was fast becoming a commercial area, so the Central and Terry Streets location was sold and a fine, new edifice was erected at the corner of Church Street and Eola Drive in 1925. The building was designed and construction supervised by H. George Miller. By this time the Florida Boom reached astronomical heights, and Orlando was growing at a pace far in excess of the recent growth rate brought about by the opening of Walt Disney World. This brought many Jewish newcomers to the area. Although I made inquiry from several long-time residents, it is likely that I have not included all Jewish residents, and beg forgiveness for any omissions. Following are several names and some of their occupations. These people came in the middle 1920s and are listed alphabetically:

J. B. Asher, CPA
 Wm. Berkowitz, family clothing store
 Arstein Brothers, men's clothing
 Morris Baker, shoes
 I. J. Becker, shoes
 Blam family

²⁵ Reform Judaism wasn't institutionally established in Orlando until 1950, but in the 1920s through 1940s there was the nucleus of the community, which met in private homes. For a time, they merged with Congregation Ohev Shalom, later splitting off to officially join the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, now the Union of Reform Judaism. Today they are the Congregation of Reform Judaism.

*Dedication of Congregation Ohev Shalom, Orlando's first synagogue, 1926.
(State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, Mosaic Collection.)*

Sidney Blattner family

Bonime family

Goldsmith family, shoe department in Dickson-Ives Dept. Store

Sam Fischer, Fischer Frocks, later Fischer Seafoods, Cocoa Beach

Louis and Gertrude Ehrlich, men's clothing

_____ Ehrlich, railroad cross ties

Leo Goldberg, wholesale produce

_____ Forst, shoe store

Abraham Fox, retailing

David and Josephine Hillman, wholesale dry goods

Abe and Bluma Haimowitz, 5¢ & 10¢ store

Sam and Freida Haimowitz, real estate and insurance

Ben Greenberg, scrap metal

Jacobson, Louis and Theresa, tie store

John and Pauline Jacobson, Sunshine Dept. Store

George and Bessie Friedland, Maitland, citrus

Lavick S. and Rebecca Frankel, retail clothing

Harry Kottelman family, pawn shop

Kamenoff family, bags and scrap metal

Sam Levenson, real estate and citrus

Philip Kessler, scrap dealer

Meer family, Winter Park, retail store

Philip Metlin family, scrap dealer
 Ed Newald, Dodge auto agency
 Moss Leonard and Ruby
 Ottenberg, Joe and Minnie
 John Petosky, citrus and real estate
 Philip Salonic, dry cleaner
 A. H. Soowal, dry cleaner
 A. F. Stone, F. W. Grand 5¢ & 10¢ store
 Max (Mickey) and Mary Safer, groceries and kosher meat
 Rev. B. Safer
 Sol and Etta Samuels
 Phil Rosenberg, Astor Hotel
 Morris Seigle family
 Ben Sigal family
 M. M. Segal family, Sunshine Dept. Store
 Albert Silverstein
 George Silverstein
 Fred Speigel, artist
 Fred and Blanche Schiff, insurance, auto parts, real estate
 Rosenbloom family, Southern Furniture Company
 Joseph Shapiro family, retailing
 Abe Shapiro family, retailing
 Shulsinger family (kosher butcher)
 Nathan Stein, citrus grower
 Reuben and Feida Tannenbaum
 Morris Wilson family
 Louis Wolly family

Following are several firsts among the Jewish residents of the area during the 1920s. These are listed to the best of my knowledge and with some fear of contradiction:

First doctor (MD), Eugene Hoffman, Ophthalmologist
 First nurse, Belle (Mrs. Eugene) Hoffman
 First artist, Fred Speigel
 First architect, Arthur Beck
 First piano teacher, Ruth (Mrs. Arthur) Beck
 First lawyer, Charles Metzger
 First certified public accountant, J. B. Asher
 First woman radio commentator, Pauline (Mrs. Nat) Berman — *nationwide*
 First scoutmaster, H. N. Roth
 First meat packer, Henry Levy
 First dental assistant, Kitty Fields
 First pharmacist, Sam Kleinman

First restaurant, Joe Faulk
 First dress manufacturer, Sam Fischer
 First waiter, Irving Kaplan
 First milk processor, Morris Wittenstein
 First milk producer, Israel Shader
 First citrus packer and shipper, Dr. P. Phillips
 First kosher butcher shop, Jonas Cohen
 First mohel and *shochet*, Peter D. Wittenstein
 First pawn broker, Harry Stalberg
 First dentist, Roy Brown

The end of the boom era and the beginning of the depression period is a good place to bring this part of the chronology to a close. I will let the mantle of responsibility for continuance fall upon others for establishment of the facts concerning local Jewish citizenry. Following this period, several Jewish families moved away because of adverse economic conditions, and many other families moved into the area to get a new economic start in the hopes of getting along better here than in their former locations, which resulted in many changes. I have spent many hours in developing these facts. I contacted others who had moved away from the area. I discovered that several families still residing here lost their Jewish identity in the course of time and managed to become totally integrated into civic and social life of the non-Jewish business, cultural, and social superstructure of the Orlando community. I give them assurance that their background is kept inviolate and secure from idle gossip.

This compilation has been a lot of work but it has also been a lot of genuine pleasure. I beg forgiveness from those who were omitted from mention by inadvertence. Be assured that there was malice toward none and charity toward some in a few instances. It has brought for me new friendships and acquaintances. I hope it proves to be a source of information and some pleasure to those who read it or hear it.