Inventory of the Florence Hebrew Benevolent Association Records, 1887-1991
# Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary.................................................................................................................. 3  
Historical Note.......................................................................................................................... 3  
Collection Overview................................................................................................................... 3  
Restrictions................................................................................................................................... 4  
Search Terms............................................................................................................................... 4  
Related Material.......................................................................................................................... 4  
Administrative Information......................................................................................................... 5  
Inventory..................................................................................................................................... 6
Descriptive Summary

Title: Florence Hebrew Benevolent Association records

Date(s): 1887-1991

Creator: Hebrew Benevolent Association (Florence, S.C.)

Abstract: Minute book, financial records, cemetery records, publications, and assorted papers of the Florence Hebrew Benevolent Association, a Jewish fraternal organization and the genesis of the Beth Israel Congregation, formed in 1887 in Florence, South Carolina.

Extent: 0.42 linear feet
(1 document box)

Repository: Jewish Heritage Collection, Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries
66 George Street
Charleston, SC 29424
Phone: (843) 953-8016
Fax: (843) 953-6319
URL: http://archives.library.cofc.edu

Call Number: Mss 1067

Language of Material: Materials in English

Historical Note

The Florence Hebrew Benevolent Association, a Jewish fraternal organization and the genesis of Beth Israel Congregation, was formed in 1887 in Florence, South Carolina. The organization was established to "unite the Hebrews of Florence and surrounding country into a fraternal and benevolent association and to assist needy Israelites," and to obtain "a suitable burying ground" for its members. In November of that same year the society purchased land for its cemetery lot from the Northeast Railroad for $50.00. On September 27, 1912, a Certificate of Incorporation was filed with the State of South Carolina establishing Beth Israel Congregation.

Collection Overview

Collection contains minute book, financial records, cemetery records, publications, and assorted papers of the Florence Hebrew Benevolent Association, formed in 1887 in Florence, South Carolina. Minute book contains the constitution, by-laws, and minutes of the first six meetings held between 1887 and 1889, and the minutes from a 1958 meeting. Financial records consist of cashbooks listing shareholder names, donations, expenses, plot purchases, quarterly dues paid, and expenses of the association, a bank deposit book listing deposits of the Hebrew Benevolent Association, and a certified copy of deed for lot of land on the Northwest intersection of Elm Street and Railroad Avenue. Also included are cemetery records consisting of a burial register listing names, ages, dates of birth, dates of death, residing towns, and grave numbers of deceased and a cemetery plot listing owners and the names of those buried within. Publications include Synagogue Research, Survey #5: Cemetery Operations and Procedures, a 1970 Temple Beth Israel dedication program, and "Beth Israel Congregation—Then and Now" by Beatrice K. Rogol. Collection also includes correspondence and miscellaneous papers containing blank cemetery plot purchase forms and maintenance agreements.
Collection Arrangement

Materials are described at the folder level.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

Copyright Notice

The nature of the College of Charleston's archival holdings means that copyright or other information about restrictions may be difficult or even impossible to determine despite reasonable efforts. Special Collections claims only physical ownership of most archival materials.

The materials from our collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study, pursuant to U.S. copyright law. The user must assume full responsibility for any use of the materials, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced materials. Any materials used for academic research or otherwise should be fully credited with the source.

Related Material

Related materials in Special Collections include the Lois and Raphael Wolpert photographs of Beth Israel Congregation, 1956-1974 (Mss 1034-089).

Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person, family, or organization, by topical subject, by place, and by types of material.

Names
- Hebrew Benevolent Association (Florence, S.C.)
- Beth Israel Congregation (Florence, S.C.)

Subjects
- Fraternal organizations--South Carolina--Florence
- Associations, institutions, etc.--South Carolina--Florence

Places
- Florence (S.C.)

Types of Material
- Minute books
- Cashbooks
- Burial registers
- Correspondence
- Deeds
- Bankbooks
- Publications
- Notes
Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Florence Hebrew Benevolent Association records, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

Custodial History

Materials were donated in 2009 by Harold Kornblut.

Processing Information

Processed by Joshua Minor, August 2012.

Encoded by Joshua Minor, September 2012.

Reviewed and uploaded by Martha McTear, October 2012.

Funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources supported the processing of this collection and encoding of the finding aid.
## Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Minute book, 1887-1958, 1966</strong>&lt;br&gt;Minute book contains the constitution, by-laws, and minutes of the first six meetings held between 1887 and 1889, and the minutes from a 1958 meeting. Also includes typed minutes of the same 1958 meeting and a typed May 1st, 1966 resolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Cashbook, 1887-1916</strong>&lt;br&gt;Cashbooks containing lists of shareholder names, donations, expenses, and plot purchases. Includes photocopied reproduction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Cashbook, 1887-1960</strong>&lt;br&gt;Cashbook contains list of shareholder names, cemetery plots purchased, lots sold, quarterly dues paid, and expenses of the association.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Cashbook, 1928-1943</strong>&lt;br&gt;Cashbook lists yearly cash paid out, cash collected, and expenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>South Carolina National Bank deposit book, 1939-1948</strong>&lt;br&gt;Record of deposits of the Hebrew Benevolent Association made by Mrs. A. A. Cohen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Deed, 1938</strong>&lt;br&gt;Certified copy of deed for lot of land at the northwest intersection of Elm Street and Railroad Avenue to A. L. Mayes from Beth Israel Congregation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>&quot;Death list and graves numbered,&quot; burial register, 1887-1917</strong>&lt;br&gt;Burial register book listing names, ages, dates of birth, dates of death, residing towns, and grave numbers of deceased members and their children. Includes photocopied reproduction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Cemetery plot listing, 1892-1991, undated</strong>&lt;br&gt;Typed and handwritten list of plot owners and the names of those buried in each plot. Also includes a carbon copy listing of plot numbers and lot names of families and individuals buried there.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1     | 10       | **Correspondence, 1937-1980** }
Contains a handwritten receipt of a bank balance, books, and papers from Mrs. A. A. Cohen, a letter from the South Carolina Industrial School For Boys regarding the construction of a cyclone fence between their property and the Hebrew Cemetery, a letter regarding a cemetery upkeep payment, and a photocopied letter from the Historic Charleston Foundation regarding community development block grant funds.

**Box 1 Folder 11**

**Miscellaneous, 1987, undated**

Contains blank cemetery plot purchase forms and maintenance agreements, and assorted handwritten notes regarding association constitution and by-laws, meeting notes, and a photocopy of a handwritten financial statement.