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**Inventory of the Florence Hebrew
Benevolent Association Records, 1887-1991**

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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.

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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

- Box 1 Folder 1 Minute book, 1887-1958, 1966
- 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.
- Financial records, 1887-1960
- Box 1 Folder 2 Cashbook, 1887-1916
- Cashbooks containing lists of shareholder names, donations, expenses, and plot purchases. Includes photocopied reproduction.
- Box 1 Folder 3 Cashbook, 1887-1960
- Cashbook contains list of shareholder names, cemetery plots purchased, lots sold, quarterly dues paid, and expenses of the association.
- Box 1 Folder 4 Cashbook, 1928-1943
- Cashbook lists yearly cash paid out, cash collected, and expenses.
- Box 1 Folder 5 South Carolina National Bank deposit book, 1939-1948
- Record of deposits of the Hebrew Benevolent Association made by Mrs. A. A. Cohen.
- Box 1 Folder 6 Deed, 1938
- 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.
- Box 1 Folder 7 "Death list and graves numbered," burial register, 1887-1917
- 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.
- Box 1 Folder 8 Cemetery plot listing, 1892-1991, undated
- 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.
- Box 1 Folder 9 Publications, 1960-1987
- Contains *Synagogue Research, Survey #5: Cemetery Operations and Procedures*, Temple Beth Israel dedication program, and "Beth Israel Congregation Then—and Now," a history of the Beth Israel congregation by Beatrice K. Rogol.
- Box 1 Folder 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.