

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of SOUTH CAROLINA

WINTER 2004 VOLUME IX - NUMBER 1



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Robert Rosen

From the Presidents

There is no greater honor than to be a *past* president of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. Having said that, I can say in all sincerity, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve you and the Society.

The last two years have been exciting. I promised to be a “party president” and during my term we did indeed put on great parties, notably the black tie gala at the Gibbes Museum’s opening of *A Portion of the People*. I had the opportunity to see through to completion several projects begun by past presidents Lourie, Robinson, Gergel, and Rosenblum, notably our excellent documentary, *Land of Promise: The Jews of South Carolina*.

The major challenge facing the Society today is continued funding. The past presidents have agreed to serve as a fund-raising committee, but any of you may join this select group! It will take all of us to match the record of our founding president, Isadore Lourie, but I think we can do it.

The Society is now in the capable hands of its new president, Bernard Warshaw of Walterboro, its executive director, Marty Perlmutter, and a large and capable board of directors. I look forward to working with all of you in making the JHSSC the most vital statewide Jewish organization in South Carolina.

Robert Rosen
Past President

Bernard Warshaw

It is with pleasure and pride that I assume the presidency of the JHSSC. I hope I can fill the footsteps of my illustrious predecessors, Isadore Lourie (OBM), Klyde Robinson, Richard Gergel, Jeffrey Rosenblum, and Robert Rosen. They have done a wonderful job of creating something out of nothing. Under their able guidance, the Society has accomplished amazing things in ten short years.

The JHSSC is an excellent way to bring people together. Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Secular, Reconstructionist, and Chasidic labels become unimportant in the context of our common history and heritage. Not even the size of your hometown matters, as evidenced by the fact that I am from Walterboro, and have been chosen to serve as your next president.

I’d like to say a few words about my vision for the Society. I am eager to begin more grassroots initiatives to get people working on history. With the College of Charleston’s help we have compiled over 300 oral histories, hundreds of manuscripts, photographs, and genealogical records. Looking to the future, we need to collect photos of congregations, Jewish artifacts, cemetery records, and information on marriages and bar and bat mitzvahs. We need Jewish communities across the state to mobilize to conserve these materials.

JHSSC has a terrific central structure, unusual for such a young organization. We have a well-equipped office in the new Jewish Studies Center, headed ably by Enid Idelsohn; we publish two newsletters a year; with Paul Keyserling’s help we produced an hour-long video for public TV; the College of Charleston Library has built a terrific archives on South Carolina Jewish history, and is following up its landmark exhibition, *A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life*, with a “virtual” version for the Internet.

But we cannot rest on our laurels. We now need to recruit new members, especially among young people. We must increase the participation of our Board and our general membership and add to our list of pillars.

I am committed to being an active president and hope to continue the tradition of strong leadership that the Society has enjoyed since its inception. Feel free to call, write, or e-mail me. I am at your service.

Bernard Warshaw
President

Cover photo:
Glenn Springs, SC
August 22, 1925

from the collection of
Max and Jennie
Garfinkel

See pages 4-5 for
article and key to
photo.

JHSSC Spring Meeting in Georgetown, SC

March 20-21, 2004



*Front Street,
Georgetown, SC,
1917 with
J.M. Ringel
Department Store
on the left*



*Georgetown
City Hall, 1950*

by Elizabeth Moses

In the last JHSSC newsletter, I wrote about the revival taking place at Georgetown's Temple Beth Elohim. Things are still hopping here - our new membership list stands at 40 (individuals/families) - quite a change from the five members just a year and a half ago.

As many of you know, Temple Beth Elohim is a sister congregation to Charleston's K.K. Beth Elohim. Jews migrated up to Georgetown from Charleston, arriving here by 1761 and establishing businesses. Georgetown's Hebrew cemetery was founded in 1772, making it the second oldest Jewish cemetery in the state.

The Jews of Georgetown worshipped in each other's homes and also at the Winyah Indigo Society. In 1904, Congregation Beth Elohim was formally organized. They had over 100 members at that time and were served by KKBE's rabbis - first Barnett Elzas and later Jacob Raisin.

Georgetown's Beth Elohim was incorporated in 1921, and in 1949 the current building was completed. The congregation is celebrating its centennial this year, beginning with the JHSSC meeting in March.

HOTEL INFORMATION:

You need to make your own hotel arrangements.

**Hampton Inn, 420 Marina Drive
Georgetown, SC 29440
843.545.5000**

Rate is \$85.00 per night. YOU MUST book by Wednesday, March 3rd or the rate goes to \$109.00. (Includes DELUXE Continental Breakfast.)
Mention "Jewish Historical Society" when you call.

JHSSC SPRING MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____
(Please list full names as you would like them to appear on nametags)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Receipt of registration will be acknowledged by postcard or e-mail.

Registration(s) @ \$20.00/person for _____ people

Membership @ \$36.00/family for _____ membership(s)

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ made payable to JHSSC

Please mail this form along with your check to:

JHSSC, Jewish Studies Program
College of Charleston
Charleston, SC 29424

Schedule of Events:

Friday March 19th -

7:30pm - Services at Temple Beth Elohim (Reform)

Saturday, March 20th -

Tours of the Kaminski House run on the hour.

Arrive 15 minutes prior to the hour and tell them you are from the JHSSC for a special rate.

Afternoon programs at Temple Beth Elohim

12:30pm - 2:00pm Film: *Trembling Before G-d*

2:15pm - 3:00pm Film: *For Every Person
There Is A Name*

3:00pm - 5:00pm - Panel Discussion:

"Old Timers and Newcomers"

5:00pm - 7:00pm - Dinner on your own

7:30pm - 10:00pm - Cocktails at the Heritage Plantation
Clubhouse on Pawleys Island

Sunday, March 21st -

9:30 - 11:00am - JHSSC Board Meeting at
Temple Beth Elohim

Glenn Springs: A Mystery Partially Solved

by Sandra Lee Kahn Rosenblum



*Irvin (Dunny) and
Joseph Zalkin*



Edward Melgood



*Rivkah Leah
Kirshstein Goldberg*



*Jack and Luba Kapler Brickman
and Ida Goldberg Breibart*

Shortly after my mother's death in 1973, I found a letter among her belongings. It was written by my father and sent to Baltimore where she had taken her new baby (me) to meet her family. The letter was written from Glenn Springs, South Carolina. I was so intrigued by my dad's romantic tone that I didn't wonder too much about what he was doing there.

Fast forward 22 years. While working with the JHSSC and asking people for old family photographs, I kept seeing pictures of families from Charleston taken at Glenn Springs in the 1920s and 1930s. Remembering my father's letter, I found Glenn Springs on the map about 12 miles from Spartanburg.

Two years ago my husband Raymond, sister-in-law Caroline, and I drove up there. We found a charming crossroads with several handsome Victorian houses, an old abandoned post office, and a small grocery store. I went in the store and asked where the resort was located. They told me the Spartanburg Boys' Home was now on the site of the old hotel. We drove to the Home where a lovely lady, Helga Moglin, offered to show us the spring and the remains of an old bottling plant. Mrs. Moglin is Jewish but a relative newcomer to Spartanburg. She knew nothing about Jews coming to the resort and suggested we go to the Spartanburg Historical Society to get more information.

The Society is housed right up the street from Prices' Store for Men, established in 1903 by a Jewish

family and still going strong (see pages 6-7). We asked Harry Price, grandson and namesake of the founder, if he knew anything about Glenn Springs. He remembered his father going there on the streetcar and coming back with bottles of spring water, but he knew nothing of a Jewish connection.

The woman at the historical society was very helpful and gave me a thick folder with information about the resort. A brief history revealed that the spring was frequented as early as the 18th century and possibly visited by George Washington, but became a popular watering hole when the Glenn Springs Hotel was built in 1840. The mineral water, reputed to have great health benefits, was bottled and shipped across the country. In 1931 it was sent to Washington D.C. and made available in the Senate cloak rooms. The resort was well known, attracting visitors from near and far. The original beautiful wooden building burned in 1941, and the site remained vacant until the Boys' Home was built in the 1980s.

I asked Max Kirshstein, Jack and Fay Brickman, Sammye Solomon, and "Unc" Cohen, who all went to Glenn Springs as children, what memories they have of the place. They all remember the long trip by train or car. No one recollects exactly what was done about kosher food. Sammye recalls a market where they bought groceries. Jack remembers a large dining room. The return address on my father's letter is Marks House; perhaps it was a kosher boarding house that catered to the Jewish clientele.

From the photographs, it appears that the Jewish Charlestonians who frequented the resort were mainly recent immigrants, “uptown” Jews who had left Eastern Europe in the decades before and after World War I. They included a core group of Kalushiners – newcomers from Kaluzsyn, Poland – who in 1911 helped found Beth Israel, also known as “The Little Shul.” Why were the “green-

horns” attracted to Glenn Springs? Perhaps they were familiar with the spas in Europe and came to “take the waters.”

We would like to know if Jewish people from other parts of the South also vacationed there, if the resort actively solicited Jews, and who took all the photos.



Gittel and Jake Lerner



Rivka Goldberg, the Lerner's, the Sokols, and ???



Ida and Morris Sokol

Photos (l to r) from the collections of Robert Zalkin, Dutch Cohen, Fanny Appel Rones, Mickey and Irving Sonenshine, Minnie and Morris Feinberg, Philip and Leah Chase, and Jeannie Sokol Rosner. Courtesy of the Jewish Heritage Collection, College of Charleston Library.

On the Cover - photo taken at Glenn Springs, SC - August 22, 1925

If you have any information about Glenn Springs or can identify anyone else in the cover photo (see key below), please contact me by phone: 843.766.9671, or by e-mail: srose707@aol.com. Reference the e-mail to Glenn Springs so I'll be sure to open it.

So far, we have been able to identify:

1. Mrs. Solomon (?) 2. Rivkah Leah Kirshstein Goldberg 3. Ben Zion Kaufman 4. Gittel Lerner 5. Jake Lerner 6. Walter (Pugie) Solomon 7. Sammye (Notie) Solomon 11. Nathan Kirshstein 13. Izzie Altman 15. Devorah Gittel Kirshstein Kaufman 17. Yocheved Kirshstein Naimark 18. Mima (Aunt) Vittel Altman 19. Martin Zucker 28. Noah Sokol.



A Good Fit for 100 Years

by Jeff Romig

Reprinted with permission from the Spartanburg *Herald-Journal*, January 5, 2003



1904



2003

As 19-year-old Harry Price stepped off his train onto the Magnolia Street Station gravel in 1900, one trek ended and another began. Price hadn't just embarked on a 700-mile-trip from New York City to the South; he had set out in search of a new life just as his ancestors did when they left Lithuania for the United States three decades earlier.

His brother-in-law, J. J. Saul of Hartwell, Georgia, said Spartanburg was known as a "good town for business." So Price decided to ride the rails for another 90-mile stint in search of the ideal place to plant his roots. He set up his first men's clothing store on Morgan Square, dubbing it The New York Bazaar. The store was renamed Price's Clothing Store, and later Prices' Store for Men. It has remained a fixture in Spartanburg's central business district.

This year, the institution Price gave birth to turns 100 with his grandson Harry at the helm. "It wasn't such a stretch for a Jewish boy born in New York City to transform himself into a good ol' boy in Spartanburg," said the younger Price, who began working in the store after graduate school in the late 1970s and took over full time when his father Bill passed away in 1999.

Price never knew his grandfather, who passed away in May 1937, but he was told the stories of the elder Price's soft-spoken, self-effacing personality that was a key to his success. Another factor in his success was the commonly held notion that his store was one of the places to be in downtown Spartanburg.

"They would sit around the pot-belly stove in Prices' under the one electric light, drink a little corn whiskey and swap stories," Price said. Price returned from his honeymoon in 1909 to find his store in shambles after it was gutted by fire. So he moved farther down East Main Street and settled in beside August W. Smith Co. Prices' then relocated twice in the 1930s before arriving at its current Main Street location in 1976.

During Prices' early years, the patriarch, a founding member of Spartanburg's B'nai Israel Temple, would stand in front of the store, shaking the hands of the passers-by and patting the heads of their children. Bill Price, who was born and educated in downtown Spartanburg, began working full-time for his father in 1929 and remained at the helm of Prices' for the next 70 years. Bill Price and his wife Miriam were two of the first people Mayor Bill Barnet met when he arrived in Spartanburg, and he became an instant fan of the family. "They believed in our central business district when it wasn't fashionable to do so," he said.

These days, Harry Price calls longtime customers by name before they get more than a foot inside his store. "I love a comfortable relationship with a customer," Price said. And his customers notice.

Twenty-five-year-old Robert Pickens IV, Aron Pickens, 23, and Jesse Pickens, 20, are the fourth generation of Pickens men to shop at Prices'. "He's so good to each one of them," said Paula Pickens. Their father Bobby, grandfather Robert Jr. and great-grandfather Robert Sr. all were regulars at Prices' over the past century. "Hopefully, a few years from now, we can have a fifth generation to shop at Prices'," Paula Pickens said.

Strong customer relations have been part of Prices' since the store's inception, but it has adapted to the times. Harry Price now makes office visits and offers services such as order tracking and Federal Express delivery. But those services are nothing compared to what Price will begin offering in April. The store is part of an experimental program where a computer-imaging machine will scan a customer's body inch-by-inch to retrieve accurate measurements.

Fabric will then be selected and sent to a tailor. "In 10 days, you'll have a custom-made suit FedExed back to you," Price said. Price said each suit would cost between \$500 and \$700, which he said was less than the usual custom-made suit. It is innovation like this that Price believes will carry the store into its second century in the central business district.

"You don't stay in business without changing," he said. "We're changing every day."

Prices' has been known for being on the cutting edge of fashion over the years. Harry Price said a lady that moved to Spartanburg from Boston in the 1940s demanded that the store order Levi's jeans for her sons. They did, and were the first store in Spartanburg to carry the famous jeans.

The store was also the only place in Spartanburg during the 1960s where Bass Weejuns could be found.



Mrs. Ross (at front of car), 1912

"Everybody had a Weejun story," Price recalled. "People could remember when they got their first pair and what color they were."

Price is celebrating the store's 100th anniversary by holding a drawing each month for a wardrobe package. His only regret is that his father didn't live to see 2003. That regret is based partly in the landmark anniversary, but it's also based on the growth of downtown Spartanburg.

Price said his father was a Spartanburg boy who was pulling for downtown every step of the way. He would be wide-eyed with pride by the downtown's transformation, Price said.

"I think it's so appropriate that our store celebrates this important milestone as (downtown) Spartanburg starts to boom again, in much the same way my grandfather found it 100 years ago," he said.

Intercultural Studies at Presbyterian College

By Dr. Greg Henley



Friends of Klezmer at Presbyterian College, November, 2003

Presbyterian College's Southeastern Center for Intercultural Studies, in Clinton, South Carolina, has chosen as its theme for the 2003/04 academic year "Jews in the South." Founded in 2002 to address a pervasive issue in American higher education—the tendency toward provincialism and ethnocentrism—the Center aims to help students understand their place in the world and better appreciate the cultures, views, and faith of those who differ from the typical Presbyterian College student.

Dr. Terry Barr, Professor of English, spearheaded efforts to select the Center's first annual theme. Born in Alabama, the son of a Jewish father, Barr's interest in his heritage inspired him to write "A Shtetl Grew in Bessemer: Temple Beth-El and Bessemer's Jewish Community," published in the journal *Southern Jewish History* in 2000.

Early in November Drs. Ted and Dale Rosengarten of McClellanville, South Carolina, led a two-day symposium, including a meeting with Professor Barr's Holocaust Seminar, an all-campus convocation, and a trip to the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte, North Carolina, where *A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life* was on view. Earlier in the semester, Bill Aron's photographic exhibit, *Bagels and Grits*, was displayed on campus. A Jewish film festival, a performance by Friends of Klezmer, and a concert by South Carolina composer Meira Warshauer also were featured events.

Next year's theme will be the civil rights movement in South Carolina. For more information, contact Center Director Greg Henley at <ghenley@mail.presby.edu>

Pillars: From Strength to Strength



Since its inception ten years ago, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina has succeeded in putting the Palmetto State on the map of American Jewish life – just in the nick of time. The year 2004 marks the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in America, and commemorative activities are planned across the country.

Thanks to the two-year run of *A Portion of the People: 300 Years of Southern Jewish Life*, distribution of the JHSSC video *Land of Promise*, and a surge in scholarly interest in Southern Jewish history, South Carolina is getting a fair share of the limelight. We plan to turn up the wattage next October with our most ambitious meeting ever – a joint venture with the Southern Jewish Historical Society. Plan on joining us.

For ten years JHSSC has counted on the Jewish Heritage Collection to create an information network across the state and bring South Carolina's story to a national audience. Through a touring exhibition and a beautiful book, and an archival collection that won the first annual Governor's Archive Award, JHC has accomplished these tasks while garnering high praise from top scholars in the field of American Jewish history.

Yet our heritage work is just beginning. To deepen and sustain the impact of *A Portion of the People*, JHC has embarked on a project to develop a "virtual" online version of the exhibition. The Collection is accepting archival materials at an increasing clip and is committed to completing its South Carolina Holocaust Archives this year. In addition, College of Charleston library's Special Collections staff members have initiated several new Jewish Heritage publications and are consulting on two new exhibit projects.

All these activities cost time and money. JHSSC is looking for six new "pillars" who will contribute \$1,000 a year for five years, to fulfill the Society's annual pledge of \$7,500 in support of the Jewish Heritage Collection. We invite you to join our distinguished list of contributors. Your gift is an investment in cultural conservation and education that will reap high dividends for years to come.

We have added the following to our list of Pillars:

Lee and Karen Ortner - Charleston, SC (2004)

Both Harvey and Mimi Gleberman of Spring Island, SC, two of our original pillars, passed away in 2003. May their memory be a blessing.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email: _____

Yes, I/we want to be a pillar of the JHSSC.

In doing so, I/we commit to a gift of \$5,000 over a period of five years.

Check enclosed \$ _____

~ Membership Included ~



**October 28-31, 2004
Charleston, SC**



SAVE THE DATE!

*Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik
Jewish Studies Center
at the College of Charleston,
home of the JHSSC.*

There will be a joint meeting of the JHSSC and the Southern Jewish Historical Society in Charleston, SC, highlighting the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in America and the 150th anniversary of Brith Sholom Beth Israel, the Orthodox synagogue in Charleston. It is also the tenth anniversary of the JHSSC. There will be talks, tours of historic Charleston, book signings, and a gala reception and concert. Hotels are already reserved, speakers are lined-up, so please join us for the festivities.

Pearlstine Distributors: A Brief History

The Early Years

The origins of Pearlstine Distributors stretch back to the turbulent years of this country's Civil War era. After arriving in America in 1854, Russian immigrant Tanchum "Thomas" Pearlstine and his son Isaac Moses Pearlstine traveled the rural South selling household goods and saving money to bring other family members to the United States. After the outbreak of the war, they continued their itinerant business style, selling home-made brass buckles and buttons for the uniforms of Confederate soldiers.

1862

During the war, the Pearlstines continued their itinerant business style, selling buckles, caps and corn-cob buttons for Confederate uniforms. Isaac also worked at Sullivan's Island on a project to extract salt from seawater. Salt was in short supply due to the Union blockade of Confederate ports.



1865

Only a few weeks after General Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Isaac M. Pearlstine opened a small general store in the tiny community of Beech Hill, South Carolina.

1877

With his sons Shep and Hyman, Isaac Pearlstine operated a carriage and buggy business in nearby Charleston.

1883-85

The Pearlstines opened a small grain business in Ridgeville, a company they closed two years later to open a wholesale grocery, hay and grain business in Charleston at 493 King Street.

1903

The Pearlstine's Charleston-based company moved to a three-story brick building and warehouse at 201-203 East Bay Street. In another building near the U.S. Customs House and Isle of Palms Ferry wharf, they sold hardware, wagons, tack, roofing and fencing.



Early 1900s

I.M. Pearlstine & Sons expanded to include wholesale and retail stores in Walterboro, Eutawville, Mount Holly, Hampton, Kingstree, Sumter and Florence.

1918

The family company purchased Farline Supply Company, a hardware firm that would evolve into a distributor for Bevo, a beer-flavored soft drink developed by Anheuser-Busch in anticipation of Prohibition. Most of the satellite stores were sold within the next few years.

1933

Prohibition was repealed. Although Bevo production had ended years earlier, the Pearlstine company's affiliation with Anheuser-Busch continued. In 1933 I.M. Pearlstine & Sons was distributing Michelob beer and other products from the rapidly growing brewer.

1934

After the death of Hyman Pearlstine, control of the business went to a cousin, Sam Cohen, and to Shep Pearlstine's sons, Milton and Edwin Sr.

1950

The grocery lines were sold to allow the company to concentrate on beer distribution in seven South Carolina counties: Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton and Jasper.

1961

The company's two remaining satellite stores were sold and a branch distribution operation was established in Beaufort.

1970

Having outgrown its East Bay site, the company moved to a then-spacious new beer distribution facility on Gaynor Avenue in North Charleston.



1971

Pearlstine Distributors was incorporated and I.M. Pearlstine & Sons became a real estate and investment management firm.

1982

Palmetto Distributors was created as a Pearlstine Distributors subsidiary handling distribution of wines, soda, snack foods, liquor, mixers and bar supplies.

1995

Palmetto Distributors was sold and Pearlstine Distributors focused entirely on the distribution of beer.

1996

The fifth generation of Pearlstines assumed ownership positions when the majority of the company was purchased by Susan Pearlstine and Jan Pearlstine Lipov from their father Edwin Pearlstine Jr.



2003

In the Charleston region's East Cooper area, on Daniel Island, Pearlstine Distributors opened one of the region's largest and most advanced beer distribution facilities.



Bernard Mannes Baruch

Financier, philanthropist, and presidential advisor

South Carolina's most famous Jewish son, Bernard Mannes Baruch, was born in Camden in 1870. His father, Simon Baruch, had fled conscription in Prussia and arrived in Camden in 1855; he served as a surgeon in the Confederate Army, and later pioneered techniques of appendectomies and hydrotherapy. Bernard's mother, Isabelle Wolfe, descended from a Sephardic ancestor named Isaac Rodriquez Marques who, on September 17, 1687, was made a freeman of New Amsterdam, now New York City.

Marques, according to Bernard Baruch's own account, was a ship owner engaged in both coastal trade and the infamous triangular route bringing African captives to the New World. "It is worth noting," Baruch wrote in *My Own Story* (1957, p. 15), "that whatever wealth came to Marques from the cruel traffic in slaves was paid for over and over again through the suffering and loss of life and fortune by his descendants both in the North and South during the Civil War."

Isaac's son Samuel moved to Charleston, South Carolina, in the late 1700s. His daughter Deborah married Hartwig Cohen, *hazzan* of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim. The Cohens' daughter, Sarah, was courted by Sailing Wolfe, a young merchant and planter from the upcountry town of Winnsboro. Among the thirteen children born to Sarah Cohen Wolfe was Isabelle – the third child and first daughter – who would marry Simon Baruch and bear four sons.

In his memoirs, Bernard recollected his great-grandmother Cohen as a fastidious old lady of more than 80 years, with neat shawls and fingerless gloves. Her fondest memory was of dancing with Lafayette in 1825. She also remembered the War of 1812 and recounted her mother's tales of the British occupation of New York during the American Revolution.

The house on Broad Street where Baruch was born and raised was demolished in the 1950s and the property was acquired by the First Baptist Church.

Living in a three-story frame house on Broad Street in Camden, Baruch recalled, "was almost like living in the open country. Directly behind the house were a vegetable garden, stables, and barn. Beyond them stretched three acres of land which Father had turned into a kind of experimental 'farm'."

The family moved to New York City six months after Bernard's tenth birthday. At 19, he worked as an office boy and runner on Wall Street. At 25, he became a junior partner in the firm of A. A. Housman & Co., and by age 30 he was a millionaire.

Baruch credits his parents with steering him toward philanthropy. When he told his father he'd made a million, Dr. Baruch said he would take his son's word for it and continued with his conversation. "Of what use to a man are a million dollars," Bernard pondered in his memoirs (p. 177-8), "unless he does something worthwhile with them?"

In 1913 Baruch gave the City of Camden and County of Kershaw the gift of Camden's first hospital, in honor of his father. On February 4, 1921, a fire destroyed the main building of the hospital, and Baruch made a donation toward its reconstruction and the creation of the Camden Hospital Training School for nurses. He asked that the nurses' home be dedicated to his mother, who he recalled, had urged him not to forget his southern roots and stay in touch with the world he had known as a boy.



Indeed, in 1905 Baruch began acquiring large tracts of land on the South Carolina coast, piecing together Hobcaw Barony – a 17,500-acre estate just north of Georgetown – as a winter residence and hunting retreat. There, during the 1930s and 40s, he and his daughter Belle entertained such dignitaries as Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Irving Berlin, Jack London, and Claire Booth Luce.



Belle W. Baruch, Bernard M. Baruch, Sir Winston Churchill, and his daughter Diana at the Hobcaw Barony dock, 1932

In 1918 Baruch had been named to head the War Industries Board. The next year he attended the Versailles Peace Conference, conferring with President Woodrow Wilson on the economic terms of the treaty that ended World War I. An advisor to Franklin D. Roosevelt, Baruch also served in the Truman administration as counselor to fellow South Carolinian and Secretary of State James F. Byrnes. In 1946 Baruch was appointed as the American delegate to the United Nation's Atomic Energy Commission where he helped design policy for international atomic energy control.

Bernard Baruch was married to Annie Griffen and they had three children. Baruch died in New York City on June 20, 1965, at age 94. Three days later the *Camden Chronicle* ran the headline, "Funeral Services Held Today for Advisor to Presidents" and referred to him as one of Camden's own.



Louis Loucheur, Sir Winston Churchill, David Lloyd George and Bernard M. Baruch, Paris Peace Conference at the Palace of Versailles, 1919

Baruch Plaques Saved from the Scrap Heap

— based on an article in the Newsletter of the Friends of the Camden Archives and Museum, April 2001

Four bronze plaques that once hung on the walls of Camden's first hospital were saved from the scrap metal heap by Harry Kline, owner of Camden Steel and Metal Company. The plaques commemorate the parents, friends, and cousin of Bernard Baruch. Likely they had been in storage five to ten years after an extensive remodeling of the current hospital. The contractor who had done the renovation could find no one at the hospital who wanted the markers, so in 1999 he sold them as scrap to Kline.



*Jack Scheuer, M.D., Michael Mischner, Barbara James and Harry Kline holding the rescued plaques
Photo courtesy of Marlene Mischner, Camden, SC*

"I buy all kinds of different metals such as aluminum and brass for recycling," Kline says. When he read the inscription on the plaques and thought about what Baruch had done around town he decided, "I'll just keep these." He held onto the plaques for about a year. "In late September [2000] at Rosh Hashanah services we were talking at temple about Bernard Baruch. I mentioned that I had some plaques," Kline recalled. "At Yom Kippur services on October 9, I brought the plaques for everyone to see."

Marlene Mischner, who served as associate archivist at the Camden Archives and Museum in the early 1980s, was well aware of the Baruch material already at the Archives. She alerted Director Agnes Corbett and in December, 2000, the plaques were presented as gifts to the Archives.

The JHSSC wishes to thank the following people for their help with the Winter 2004 Newsletter: Rachel Bauer, Rost Beyder, Kimberly Richey, Marwa Shideed, Andrew Woods, and Dale Rosengarten.



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P-A-I-D

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