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# *The Future of the Past*

SOUTH CAROLINA JEWISH HISTORY & HERITAGE CAMPAIGN







*Purim party for Temple Sinai Sunday school children at the home of Perry and Rosalie Virginia Levy Moses, Sumter, SC, ca. 1913.*



*Young Judean Convention, June 12–17, 1951, Camp Blue Star, Hendersonville, NC.*



*Rivkin's Cash & Carry Delicatessen, Columbia, SC, 1936. Courtesy of McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina.*



For almost three decades, the **Jewish Heritage Collection** and the **Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina** have been working together as partners to preserve and commemorate Jewish life in the Palmetto State. The addition of the **Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture** in 2014 has expanded the shared mission of the organizations.

Our mandates take us across South Carolina, from the sanctuaries of rural synagogues and small-business storefronts to university classrooms and private homes. Our scope is Southern while our impact ranges far beyond. Community members, students and scholars, family historians,

and genealogists from around the world connect with our collections and programming.

The **South Carolina Jewish History & Heritage Campaign** will create a sustainable framework for the Jewish Heritage Collection and the Jewish Historical Society to flourish, supporting the critical mission of processing and digitizing special collections, recording oral histories, convening discussions, curating exhibitions, and creating a community around the long history of Jews in South Carolina.

The work never stops; in fact, we feel we are just at the beginning. There's always a new story to unearth, connection to discover, or relationship to foster.



*Walking tour led by Harlan Greene for NEH-Summer Institute scholars, 2019. Photo: Dale Rosengarten.*



*Sheppard and Sara Pearlstine  
with sons Sam and Leo and their  
cook at the family home in  
St. Matthews, SC, ca. 1897.*





With the Pearlstine/Lipov Center now fully funded, our attention is called to securing a sustainable future for the Jewish Heritage Collection and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina.

The Campaign is designed to grow and protect these two institutions, remembering past lives and providing resources for emerging scholarship for generations to come. Non-denominational at its core, the Campaign spotlights Jewish life in all its manifestations: cultural and religious, social and economic.

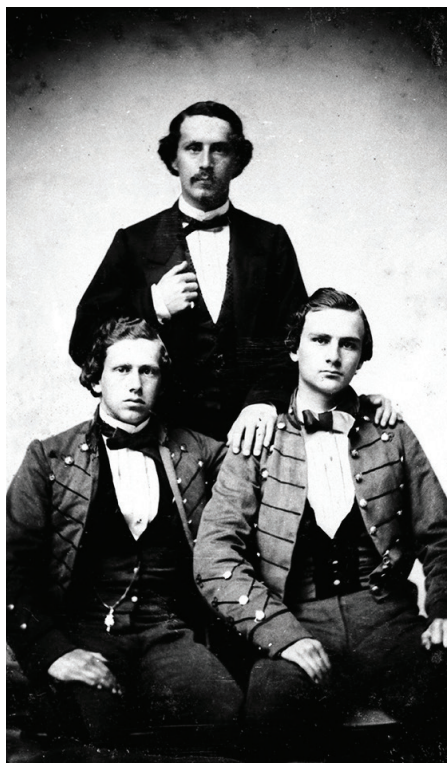
Jewish South Carolinians have contributed to the history of the region for nearly 350 years. Join us in our Campaign to guarantee these stories are safeguarded and shared, and provide a platform for folks to gather, discuss, and remember.

As we strive to preserve Jewish history, the Jewish Heritage Collection, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, and the Center for Southern Jewish Culture are excellent partners. Together, we have built an engine of research, preservation, and public education unmatched in the region.

The Campaign marks the beginning of our latest chapter, arriving at a critical juncture for both the Heritage Collection and the Historical Society. With time

comes change as founders retire, new priorities emerge, and the next generation of professional leadership steps forward.

The necessity of stable funding has never been greater. For most of our entwined history, we have relied on memberships, grants, and donations to provide opportunities to make a difference not only across the state, but around the world. The Campaign will support our efforts to grow both institutions, deepening their impact near and far.



*Joshua Lazarus Moses (standing), Isaac Harby Moses (l), and Perry Moses of Sumter, SC, ca. 1861.*





*Jewish Historical Society bus tour of historic sites, Charleston, SC, October 1998.*

The study of Jewish life in all its facets is a work in progress. Nowhere is this truer than in America, and nowhere in America more than in the South. And it could easily be argued that nowhere in the South more than in South Carolina, where for over three centuries the drama of Jewish destiny in the world has played out.

From the beginning, we have endeavored to collect, preserve, and commemorate these stories.

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina was founded in 1994 to study, preserve, and promote awareness of the history and culture of the Jews of South Carolina. Originally inspired by the desire to document and keep alive memories of small-

town Jewish life, the Historical Society has expanded to provide conferences, a biannual magazine, and documentation of Jewish burial grounds and Jewish merchants across the state. The Historical Society's mission has been made tangible by the Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston.

Launched in 1995, the Jewish Heritage Collection has blossomed into an internationally recognized repository for researching the history and culture of the Jewish South. The archives currently encompass some 600 oral histories and thousands of manuscripts, family, congregational, and business records, photographs, films, genealogies, artifacts, and ephemera. Holdings include



*It is no exaggeration to say our efforts  
have put the state, and more broadly,  
the South, on the map of Jewish America.*

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a major collection of Judaica and an archive of Holocaust materials gathered from survivors, liberators, and witnesses who settled in South Carolina.

Founded in 2014 with a gift from the Pearlstine/Lipov family, the Center for Southern Jewish Culture encourages scholarship and public knowledge about Jewish life in the American

South. The Center represents the higher education aspect of our shared mission—instructing undergraduate and graduate students, hosting academic colloquia, and promoting research projects. The Center's secure funding provides a foundation onto which the Campaign will build.



Sorting postcards from the William A. Rosenthal Judaica Collection, Marlene and Nathan Addlestone Library, 2011. Photo: Leslie McKellar/College of Charleston.





Sam Solomon Wholesale  
Jobbers, King Street,  
Charleston, SC, no date.

In academia and in public history circles, the study of Southern Jewish history and culture is a growth industry, and we in South Carolina are major players.

Success presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities. From processing archival collections to convening ever-larger gatherings virtually and in person, we have reached our capacity in terms of staff, faculty, and resources. Periodic grant funding and membership

dues will neither sustain our shared mission nor allow for robust growth in the future.

The Campaign addresses this by providing both institutions with the financial resources to continue collecting and commemorating Southern Jewish life. The Campaign's success will foster broader public access to the resources we create, collect, and curate for generations to come.



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*Professor Jonathan Sarna, 2019 NEH–Summer Institute, Addlestone Library.  
Photo: Heather Moran/College of Charleston.*



*Jeff Zaglin, Greenville, SC, 2000. Photo: Bill Aron.*



# *The Future of the Past*

The future of South Carolina's Jewish history and heritage is not a foregone conclusion. The stories, experiences, and material legacy threading through this unique tapestry of American life are entrusted to us as a precious charge. As stewards of the past, we are responsible for securing its future in memory of our ancestors and for the benefit of ourselves and our descendants.



*Bible, 1805, of Isaac Gomez, Jr.*

**Your gift will have an immediate and lasting impact**, supporting all the undertakings of the Jewish Heritage Collection and the Jewish Historical Society, from curating exhibitions and recording life histories to collecting family, business, and congregational records.

Our Campaign's promise to **preserve and commemorate South Carolina Jewish history and heritage** for generations to come is made possible only by the generosity of those who affirm the importance of our work.

**The future of the past is in our hands.**

Several naming opportunities are available. Inscribe your name or that of a family member or friend on a history or heritage project you want to sponsor. Help ensure our ability to document Southern Jewish life, provide access to archival collections, and engage an ever wider audience.

**For more information and to make a gift, please contact:**

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*Mindelle Seltzer (l) and Dale Rosengarten interviewing Raymond Stern in the shoe department of Stern's, Andrews, SC, 1995. Photo: Norton Seltzer.*



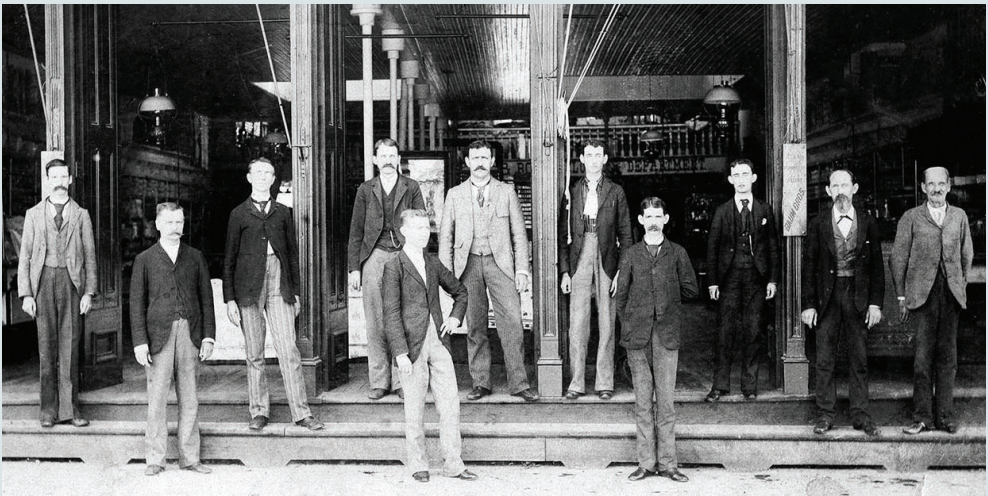
*Joe Engel, Zeilsheim DP Camp, near Frankfurt, Germany, 1946.*



*Dedication of historic marker for Columbia's religious school and first synagogue, Shearith Israel, Columbia, SC, 2008.*



*D. Poliakkoff Department Store, 2000, Abbeville, SC. Photo: Bill Aron.*



*Baum Brothers Store, ca. 1890, Camden, SC.*





The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina  
The Jewish Heritage Collection  
College of Charleston  
Charleston, SC  
[jhssc.org](http://jhssc.org) | [jhc.cofc.edu](http://jhc.cofc.edu)



*Front cover: Louise Levi, Abbeville, SC, ca. 1921;  
Rear Cover: Temple Beth El, Camden, SC, 2021. Photo: Mitch Litwer.  
All images courtesy of Jewish Heritage Collection, College of Charleston, unless otherwise identified.*