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**Jewish Historical Society Oral Histories
Arthur Teich & Julius Hafetz (28 September 1994)**

By Ellen Callahan
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Link to audio file:

<https://archive.org/details/JHS53SideA>

Summary Information

Tape Number: JHS 53
Length: 39:20
Interviewer: O. [Orvil “Ozzie”]¹ Zuckerman
Interviewee: Arthur Teich (1/30/1915 – 1/25/1997)
Julius Hafetz (6/17/1921 – 12/14/2010)
Date of Interview: 9/28/1994
Place of Interview: Unidentified

In this conversation, Arthur Teich, a retired attorney and Julius Hafetz, a retired physician, reminisce about Trenton during their youth. They talk about their family's businesses and other stores from that time period as well as families that lived in what they referred to as the “Jew Town” part of Trenton. There is also some discussion of the various shols (synagogues) in Trenton and divisions that grew up between the community that led to the founding of various shols, especially those on Union Street.

¹ <https://njewishnews.timesofisrael.com/ozzie-zuckerman-chronicler-of-jewish-trenton>

Key Word, Concept, Person	Time Stamp
Teich Family background	:23
Teich, Benjamin (1886 -) came to US in 1902 through Ellis Island directly to Trenton	:40

Teich connection to the Alexander family led them to Trenton	1:00
Cohen, Lilly -Arthur Teich's aunt who was related to the Alexander Family	1:19
Teich, Benjamin - married in ca. 1910 Anna Cohen of New York	2:08
Teich family first settled on Washington Street in Trenton	2:17
Teich family ran a grocery store on the corner of Washington and Morris Ave., 370 Morris Ave.	2:30
Teich, Arthur born at their house at 432 Washington Street in 1915	2:50
Arthur Teich discussing neighborhood - lived in Chambersburg and was the only Jewish family there. Neighbors included the Sutter family and Nathan Sarapan	3:04
Arthur Teich attended the Hewitt School and believes he was the only Jew there, the rest were Italians. Remarks that he was often beaten up by the Italians.	3:31
Arthur Teich recites the schools he attended: Hewitt, Junior #4, Junior #3 and the "Old" High School	3:54
Grace Dunn was Arthur Teich's principal at Hewitt [4:05] and then at Junior #4 [4:26]	4:05; 4:26
Arthur Teich attended the "Old" High School at the corner of Hamilton and Chestnut and his class (1931) was the last to graduate from that building.	4:42
Activities of younger people - Arthur Teich does not recall any activities and repeats that he was removed from the Jewish community because of where he lived	5:00
Teich family did attend the "Big Shule" on Union Street	5:33
Teich family ran the grocery store from before Arthur Teich's birth in 1915 until about 1925-1926	5:45
Benjamin Teich and his partners, formed the Trenton Packing Company on Edgers Street, a wholesale Kosher butcher shop	6:16
Benjamin Teich's partners: Sam Melner, Shy Fifal, Sam Young/Yatskowitz, Meyer Melner, Sam Kropnick	6:24
Veterans Meat Market	8:12
Newman's Jewelry Store	8:23
Hafetz, Julius - Born in Russia came to US in 1924	8:38
Hafetz family background living in New York with his mother's family	8:42

Julius Hafetz's father opens up a butcher shop in Trenton in about 1928 or 1929 at 61 Market Street and ran it until he died	9:49
Butcher shop after Julius Hafetz's father died - taken over by his mother and then by Ely Hayden	10:13
Julius Hafetz's Schools: Cooper School which became the Hebrew School, McKinley School, Junior 3, High School	10:29
Julius Hafetz's friend William Tashlick	11:20
Tashlick's father butchered chickens on Union Street, next store to Stern's Butcher Shop on Union	11:33
Jewish settlement house on Union Street supported by Orthodox Jewish group in Trenton - took care of Jews passing through who needed a place to stay, "Jews at that time took care of their own."	12:02
Julius Hafetz's neighbors: Zoltic, Bloom	12:42
Zoltic - paper Hanger	13:12
Zoltic, Saul	13:23
Julius Hafetz's family moves out of cold water flat on Market Street to 71 Lamberton Street	13:38
Teitc, Sam and Greenberg - carpenters	13:58
Teitc family related to Benjamin Teich's family. Benjamin Teich's father came first and brought over the rest of the family. The surname for this subsequent wave of the family was changed from Teich to Teitc.	14:01
Abe Rabinowitz - plumber for the Hafetz's family	14:54
Phil Albert - classmate of Julius Hafetz	15:07
Albert Family - various cousins, distant cousins described	15:18
Albert, Jake - had "junk" business on Mill Street	15:43
Albert, Israel - ran the ice factory	15:50
Julius Hafetz mentions stores that were near his family's butcher shop	16:11
Rubin - had a store that sold herring and prepared fish	16:12
Malowitz had similar store which he sold to Pallete	16:23

Cohen - across the street from the butcher shop was Cohen who delivered Jewish papers and the Trenton Times; his son Julius became a CPA [Certified Public Accountant]	16:40
Waldman, Louis	17:05
Starr Bakery (related to Starrs of Starr Bus Company)	17:14
Blue Room [it is not clear what this was, Mr. Teich interrupts and calls this store by a name that could not be understood, but Mr. Hafetz says that that was a store on Union run by Popkin]	17:31
Popkin had a store on Union street where you could get “eggs and bacon and coffee” but Popkin periodically spent time in jail because he was involved in “the numbers racket” with Abe Hersch and Bill Popkin	17:42
Popkin, Rufus - father ran a pool hall on Lambertson Street	18:10
Popkin, Rufus - he and others in the family moved south and became “millionaires” in a family furniture store.	18:26
Popkin, Katie - her children included Rufus	18:40
Katie Popkin was a Barker	19:19
Barker, Phil	19:27
Julius Hafetz left Trenton in 1939 and returned in 1951	20:00
Julius Hafetz remembers that his mother never allowed him to go to the pool hall	20:31
Nickname - Zuckerman theorizes that these were used to help keep kids from getting into trouble with their parents, that they used them as aliases; Julius Hafetz disagrees - his parents always knew what he was up to.	20:39
Julius Hafetz talks about parents’ butcher shop	21:22
Julius Hafetz watched the registers when his parents were not there	21:31
Gordon, Max - butcher for his family shop	21:40
Eddie who was a “blackman” whom Julius Hafetz’s father taught Jewish to; Eddie could speak Jewish well	21:45
Eddie Robertson	22:09
Gordon Family	22:42
Printing business on Union Street	22:52

Cantor/Kantor Roberts who was a Rabbi of the Poaley Emes or “little shul” or “number 3” on Union Street	23:27
Discussion of various shuls on Union Street in Trenton including 3 that were on Union Street. The Big Shul was Achenu Bnai Yisroel [founded in 1883]; the middle shul was Anshey Emes [founded in 1891]; and the Poaley Emes [founded in 1920] disputes arising that caused offshoots. This included political differences among the congregations as well as one of the shuls becoming a Conservative shul.	23:54
Cantor/Kantor Roberts mentioned again	25:46
Rabbi Issacher Levin ran the Hebrew School	26:14
Rabbi Simon became Julius Hafetz’s became his private tutor	26:55
Discussion about the early Jewish community of Trenton when everyone knew everyone or was related so one had to be careful about what was said about someone else	27:25
Discussion about Jewish community in Trenton dwindling	28:14
Jewish Community - some trying to find out about their Jewish ancestors in Trenton (reason that interviewer has been doing these oral histories)	28:27
Discussion of some younger Jews becoming very interested in their heritage and their roots	28:42
Discussion of what Julius Hafetz refers to as “Jew Town” [meaning Trenton Jewish Community] and the fact that it had “lost its attraction”	30:02
Narrator looking for older Trenton photographs	30:34
Narrator looking for Family bibles with family information	31:17
WWII - Jewish reaction	32:26
Market Street and Union Street were still “Jew Town” during WWII and very active	32:36
Julius Hafetz remembers that in his Freshman year of college in 1939/1940, half the members were signed up for ROTC [Reserved Officer Training Corps]	32:57
Julius Hafetz recalls that when he was a Junior in High School [ca. 1938] Rabbi Levin giving a sermon cursing Hitler and Julius Hafetz did not know what the Rabbi was talking about.	33:43
Rabbi Levin was very outspoken against Hitler and was the Rabbi for three different synagogues including the Hungarian Jews at the Ahaveth Israel Synagogue	34:12
Arthur Teich states that he never had anything to do with the Hungarians; that he would not “monkey” with them	34:37

Kaplan, Joe and Seymor	35:03
Discussion of the various parts of Trenton East, South	35:15
Discussion of origin of Jews of East Trenton and fact that they had come earlier than those on Lambert and Union	35:31
Deats, Joe and Mendel - Furniture Store	36:11
Hungarian Jews where they lived near the Ahaveth on Center Street	36:30
Tashlick - slaughtered chickens (Bill, Jake, Herman, Fannie)	36:54
Trenton High	37:41
Ends at 38:06 - some faint voices but cannot really hear.	38:06

References

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/trenton>

<http://trentonjewishproject.blogspot.com/2011/09/butchers-of-trenton.html>