



**Jewish Historical Society Oral Histories
David R. Finkle (4 May 1997)**

**By Ellen Callahan
July 2020**

Link to audio files:

<https://archive.org/details/JHS32SideA/JHS+32-+side+A.mp3>

<https://archive.org/details/JHS32SideA/JHS+32-+side+B.mp3>

Note: The quality of these recordings is poor and must be played at the highest volume possible.

Summary Information:

Tape Number: JHS 32
Length: Side 1: 47:22
Side 2: 40:37
Guest Speaker: David R. Finkle
Date of Program: 5/4/1997
Location: Har Sinai Temple, Trenton, New Jersey

This is a recording of a presentation given by David R. Finkle at the Har Sinai Temple in Trenton in 1997. It is assumed that this was part of a series of talks sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Trenton. Finkel is introduced by Arnold C. Ropek, senior editor of the *Trenton Times*.

Finkle begins his talk reminiscing about his childhood in Trenton, stating that growing up in the 1950s was a “magic time” for the Jews of Trenton. He knew he was having a great childhood, but did not come to appreciate it until he moved to New York City and heard the stories of his friends’ childhoods elsewhere in the country. He then shares some thoughts of friends and family about what their memories of growing up in Trenton were.

Finally, he begins his presentation, which is reading from a book he has begun writing, tentatively called “Love Letters that my Father Sent my Mother.” Through these letters, he reminisces about his parents, Dr. Lester Finkle (1909-1969) and Bessie Hyman Finkle (1916-

1985) and talks about the memories of growing up in Trenton that these letters evoke. A question and answer period follows the talk.

Biographical Notes

David R. Finkle is a New York-based writer who focuses on the arts and politics. He is a contributor to many publications including the *New York Times*, *New Yorker*, *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar* and the *Clyde Fitch Report*. He is the author of several books including *People Tell Me Things*, *The Man with the Overcoat*, *Humpty Trumpty Hit a Brick Wall: Donald J. Trump's First Year in Verse* and *Great Dates with Some Late Greats*.

References

<https://www.huffpost.com/author/david-finkle>

<http://www.davidfinkle.com/>