



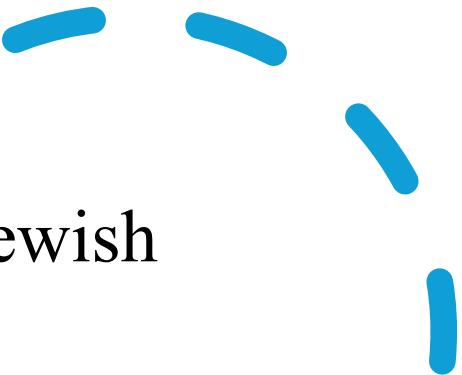
# Lessons from Religious Records

---

Kayley Rapp



# The Bremman

- 
- Largest repository of Jewish history in the South
  - Mission: To connect people to Jewish history, culture, and arts.
  - Primary focuses: Holocaust education and Southern Jewish history (specifically in Georgia and Alabama)
  - Cuba Family Archives: houses over 400 manuscript collections, 18,000 photographs, 2,000 artifacts, and 100s of oral histories

# Common Jewish Religious Records

---

- Rabbi Sermons/Notes
- High Holiday Services Info
- Weekly/Monthly Bulletins
- Synagogue/Temple Membership
- Hebrew/Sunday School Enrollment
- Bat/Bar Mitzvah
- Confirmation (Reform Judaism Only)
- Conversion Records
- Marriage Certificates
- Death and Burial Records





The image shows a multi-tiered shelving unit filled with numerous brown paper bags, each containing a large volume of papers and documents. The bags are arranged in rows across several shelves. In the lower portion of the image, two white electronic devices, possibly recorders or scanners, are placed on the shelves among the bags. A central orange banner with white text is overlaid on the middle of the image.

How are records accessioned?

# Acquisition

01

Initial contact:  
family members,  
synagogues,  
religious/civic  
organizations,  
etc....

02

Discuss the  
materials, their  
provenance,  
historical  
significance, scope  
of contents...

03

Deed of Gift or  
Temporary Receipt  
of Deposit

# Assessment

01

Assess the  
materials donated.

02

Parse out materials  
we automatically  
can't keep.

03

Create an inventory.



# Processing

Research intensive stage

Original Order OR New Categories

What to keep VS what to return/toss

Preparing materials for arrangement

# Arrangement

Arranged in accordance with best practices

Finding Aids/catalog entries created

Ready for researchers



# Family Bibles

---

- Original form of family record keeping
- Practice popularized in 18<sup>th</sup> century
  - Likely because of printing press and increasing literacy rates
- Families often recorded births, marriages, and deaths





Sunday Evening 9<sup>th</sup>  
 21. November 1784 -  
 My Daughter Esther was  
 Born - Kislev 5545

On Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> Sivan 5549  
 corresponding with the 30<sup>th</sup> Aug  
 5549 Departed this life Mr  
 Philip Minis

On the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1789 or the  
 24<sup>th</sup> Sivan 5549 was born the Daugh-  
 -ter of Philip & Sarah Minis  
 who was named Phillippa

ומתפללין ערבית כמו במוצאי שבת ואם חל יום  
 הכיפורים בשבת במוצאי שבת לא יאמר ויהי נועם  
 ומתחיל מאורך ימים ואם חל בחול אינו אומר מן  
 קדושה ונוהגים לומר ברכת הלבנה ומברכים  
 בביתם על הכוס ועל האור ששבת ולא על הבשמים

## תם ונשלם :

אלו המחזורים וגם שאר מיני ספרים מצויים  
 למכור אצל הגביר אלכסנדר בר יהודה ז"ל  
 מלונדן :

על ידי הפועל העוסק במלאכת הקודש באמונה  
 מאזוס בן הירץ האג ז"ל מק"ק אמשטרדם :



departed this life in the Twenty third  
 year of his age My ever lamented  
 Son. A Minis his remains are deposited  
 in the burial ground in London  
 14<sup>th</sup> August the 29<sup>th</sup> 1781



# FAMILY RECORD.

Births.



Isaiah Nathans, Son of David & Sarah Nathans Born on Tuesday Morning 6 <sup>th</sup> March 1 <sup>st</sup> 1831. March first Eighteen Hundred thirty one	Waring Russell Nathans Son of Isaiah & Georgina Born on 13 <sup>th</sup> October 1854 at 3 O'clock (in the morning)
Philip James Nathans Son of Isaiah & Georgina Born on Tuesday Evening 15 <sup>th</sup> minutes before 11 O'clock May 12 <sup>th</sup> 1852	Frederick Nathans Daughter of Isaiah & Georgina Born on Tuesday Evening 15 <sup>th</sup> minutes before 11 O'clock May 12 <sup>th</sup> 1857
Georgia Nathans daughter of Thomas J. & Anne E. Sheftall Born was born on Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> P.M. February 1 <sup>st</sup> 1886	Isaac Russell Nathans, Son of Isaiah & Georgina Nathans Born June 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1855 — 20 minutes before 2 O'clock P.M.

# FAMILY RECORD.

Births.



Virginia W. Nathans The Son of Sarah and Philip W. Nathans on June 30 <sup>th</sup> 1841 born in England Philip Nathans & Deborah was born on February 2 <sup>nd</sup> on Sunday	David Nathans eldest Son of Isaiah Nathans was born August 13 <sup>th</sup> 1794 Georgia C. Nathans daughter of Isaac & Deborah Nathans born on March 10 <sup>th</sup> 1829
Almon L. Nathans was born May 9 <sup>th</sup> 1852 Waring Russell Sheftall Son of Thomas J. & Anne E. Sheftall was born in Sar- on Friday November 18 <sup>th</sup> 1881 at eight minutes to Four in the morning	Samuel S. Nathans daughter of Isaac & Deborah Nathans was born on April 11 <sup>th</sup> 1818 in Sar- George





# The Temple (Atlanta)

- Originally founded as the “Hebrew Benevolent Congregation” in 1867
- One of our largest collections
- 1853 to 2018
- Contains records related to major life events (marriages, bar/bat mitzvahs, confirmation, etc....)
- Correspondence and various papers from Rabbi David Marx and Rabbi Jacob Rothschild
- Leo Frank’s Diary and correspondence



# Congregation Or VeShalom (Atlanta)

- Sephardic synagogue founded in 1914
- 1913-2009
- Contains records on: bar/bat mitzvahs, Hebrew school, member lists/directories, congregation history
- Rabbi Joseph Cohen's & Rabbi Robert Ichay's papers
- Includes information on Sephardic Jewish traditions and origins





# Temple Sinai (Sandy Springs)

- Congregation founded in 1968
- Building finally built in 1973
- Fastest growing Reform Temple in the metro Atlanta area
- 1968-2017
- Materials include confirmation records, membership information, and temple bulletins from their founding to now
- Extensive records on founding and creation of congregation





# Congregation B'nai B'rith Jacob (Savannah)

- Orthodox synagogue established in 1861 by eastern European Jews
- 1879-2013
- Written English, Hebrew & Yiddish
- Includes congregation's bulletins, records on their Hebrew school, and membership information



# Rodeph Sholom Congregation (Rome)

- Founded in 1875
- 1875-2005
- Includes confirmation records, cemetery records, newsletters, and congregation history



# Rabbis' Papers

---

- Often a more personal look at a congregation and its community
- Commonly includes speeches/sermons, correspondence, personal records about the Rabbi themselves and their community involvement







- Rabbi Philip N. Kranz: served Temple Sinai and Atlanta's community for over 25 years
- Rabbi Isaac E. Marcuson: spiritual leader at Temple Beth Israel in Macon for over 58 years
- Rabbi Harry H. Epstein: spiritual leader of Congregation Ahavath Achim and community leader in Atlanta for over 50 years
- Rabbi Tobias Geffen: 20<sup>th</sup> century spiritual leader; best known for certifying Coca-Cola as kosher



The  
Bremman