



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Morris Newfield Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 45



Collection Summary

Title	Morris Newfield Papers
Dates	1868-1940 (bulk 1890-1940)
Collection Number	MS-45
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Newfield, Morris, 1869-1940
Extent	0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch

Morris Newfield, Reform rabbi and social worker, was born in Homanna, Hungary in 1869, the son of Simon Sabbatai and Lena (Klein). He was educated at the Royal Gymnasium, Homanna and Budapest, Hungary; at the Theological College of the University of Budapest where he received his B.D. in 1889 and his M.A. in 1895. He also received his B.A. at the University of Cincinnati and was ordained simultaneously a rabbi at Hebrew Union College in 1895. Newfield also received an honorary doctorate in letters from the University of Alabama in 1921, and a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, from Hebrew Union College in 1939.

Rabbi Newfield taught at Hebrew Union College even before his ordination. After his graduation, he took a pulpit at Temple Emanu-El in Birmingham, Alabama, where he stayed until his death in 1940. In 1914, he was also professor of Hebrew and Semitics at Howard College in Birmingham, Alabama.

The rabbi was not only a leader of the Jewish community in Birmingham but also one of Alabama's most renowned citizens. In Birmingham, he founded the first free kindergarten, was on the board of the Court of Domestic Relations and Juvenile Delinquency from 1915-1932, was president of the Alabama Tuberculosis Association (1919-1921), chairman of the Home Service of the Jefferson County Chapter of the American Red Cross (1919-1936), and was one of the most active relief workers in the devastating Mississippi Valley floods of 1937.

Newfield worked very hard to improve relations between the Jewish and Christian communities in Alabama. Together with Presbyterian ministers and Catholic priests, Newfield developed countless interfaith forums to counteract the virus of the Klu Klux Klan Movement.

The rabbi from Birmingham also served as treasurer for the Central Conference of American Rabbis, was president from 1931-1933, served as a member of the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations from 1925-1940, and was also president of the Alumni Association of Hebrew Union College (1907-1908). Newfield was the author of *The Book of Ecclesiastes* (1895) and of numerous addresses and articles on Jewish subjects, literature, and philosophy.

Morris and Leah (Ullman) Newfield married in 1901 and had six children: Simon U., Emma U., Mayer U., Lena J., Lincoln, and John. Rabbi Newfield died in 1940.

Scope and Content

Documents the career of Morris Newfield. Consists of sermons, addresses, correspondence, newsclippings, and organizational notes of Newfield's various activities.

Arrangement

Organized into two (2) series: A. Sermons and Addresses; B. Personal Correspondence, Newsclippings and Notes.

Terms of Access

The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

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Preferred Citation

Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Morris Newfield Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-45. Morris Newfield Papers. American Jewish

Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Mayer U. Newfield, Birmingham, Ala., 1978.

Processing Information Processed by Mark Cowett, July 1978.

Index Terms

Subjects Jews -- Alabama -- Birmingham / Judaism -- Relations -- Christianity / Rabbis / Reform Judaism
Personal Names Newfield, Morris, 1869-1940
Corporate Names Temple Emanu-El (Birmingham, Ala.)
Media Sermons

Series A. Sermons and Addresses, 1894-1939

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement The dated sermons are arranged chronologically while the undated addresses are arranged in alphabetical order.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Yom Kippur Eve, 1894-1896
Box 1. Folder 2. Yom Kippur Day, 1896-1899
Box 1. Folder 3. New Year's Eve, 1900-1907
Box 1. Folder 4. New Year's morning, 1907-1909
Box 1. Folder 5. Sermons and addresses, 1910-1911 March
Box 1. Folder 6. Yom Kippur morning, 1911 April-1913
Box 1. Folder 7. Yom Kippur Day, 1913-1919 October
Box 1. Folder 8. Sermons and addresses, 1920 January-1928 October
Box 1. Folder 9. Sermons and addresses, 1929-1939
Box 2. Folder 1. Sermons and addresses, A-F, undated
Box 2. Folder 2. Sermons and addresses, G-L, undated
Box 2. Folder 3. Sermons and addresses, M-R, undated
Box 2. Folder 4. Sermons and addresses, S-Z, undated

Series B. Personal Correspondence, Newsclippings, and Notes, 1891-1940

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence, newspapers clippings, and pamphlets about Rabbi Newfield's activities.

Arrangement The personal correspondence is arranged in chronological order whenever possible.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 5. Certificates, 1868, 1894, 1903

Box 2. Folder 6. Correspondence and pamphlets, 1892-1937

Box 2. Folder 7. Programs and notes, 1915-1937

Box 2. Folder 8. Newspaper articles, 1895-1940



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Subject Tracings

Note: The following list represents a selective guide to the significant subjects and correspondents within the MORRIS NEWFIELD PAPERS. References are to boxes and folders, e.g. 2/1=Box 2, Folder 1. This list should be used in conjunction with the Box and Folder List.

Bankhead, William B.	2/8
Black, Hugo L.	2/5
Deutsch, Gotthard	2/5
Hirsch, Emil G.	2/5
Newfield, Emil	2/2, 2/5
Wise, Isaac Mayer	2/4, 2/5