A Finding Aid to the
Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (Charleston, S.C.)
Records

Manuscript Collection No. 525
Collection Summary

Title
Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (Charleston, S.C.) records

Dates
1764-1977 (bulk 1800-1928)

Collection Number
MS-525

Repository
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

Creator
Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (Charleston, S.C.)

Extent
3.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes, 2 oversize boxes)

Language of the Material
English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch
Founded in 1749, K.K. Beth Elohim is considered the fourth oldest Jewish congregation in the United States. In 1841, it became the first Reform congregation in the U.S. and was one of the founding synagogues of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (1873).

Scope and Content
Records consist of constitution and by-laws (1820-1847), minutebooks (1838-1928), fragment of minutes (1775), charter petition (1791), court cases and indentures (1764-1775), bicentennial materials (1950), miscellaneous correspondence and records (1855-1977), cash ledgers (1799-1865), receipt books (1866-1870), and offering books (1799-1823).

Copies
The Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (Charleston, S.C.) Records include microfilm. The microfilm may be a duplicate of the collection or include different materials. See MF-84 and MF-832. Microfilm is available through interlibrary loan.

Terms of Access
The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation
Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (Charleston, S.C.) Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-525. Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (Charleston, S.C.) Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance
Received from Congregation Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, Charleston, S.C, and various donors.

Index Terms

Subjects
Jews -- South Carolina -- Charleston / Synagogues -- South Carolina -- Charleston

Corporate Names
Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (Charleston, S.C.)

Media
By-laws / Constitutions / Microfilms / Minutes

Series A. General, 1764-1977

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Constitutions and bylaws, 1820-1947
Box 1. Folder 2. Minute book, pages 1-199, 1866-1875
Box 1. Folder 3. Minute book, pages 200-370, 1866-1875
Box 1. Folder 4. Minute book, 1875-1884
Box 1. Folder 5. Fragment of minutes, re: Congregational dispute, land purchase, 1775 January 27
Box 1. Folder 6. Charter petition and report of state senate committee approving petition, 1791 January
Box 1. Folder 7. Report of a lawsuit re: mode of services, 1843 May 25
Box 1. Folder 8. Court case concerning membership rights in congregation, 1846 January

Box 1. Folder 9. Resolution and circular requesting aid to rebuild synagogue, 1838 May

Box 1. Folder 10. Resolution declining to join the proposed "general union" of congregations, 1841

Box 1. Folder 11. History of K.K.B.E., 1950 and undated

Box 2. Folder 1. Congregational records, including membership lists, financial statements, and correspondence, 1855-1872

Box 2. Folder 2. K.K.B.E. Archives dedication program; list of additions to archives; news report of confirmation service, 1969, 1977, 1855

Box 2. Folder 3. Miscellaneous brochures related to various celebrations, 1938-1977

Box 2. Folder 4. Bicentennial of Charleston Jewish community-congregational history, services and playbill, 1950

Box 2. Folder 5. Correspondence relating to Confirmation Service, 1951


Box 2. Folder 7. Cash ledger, 1799-1810

Box 2. Folder 8. Cash ledger, 1861-1865

Box 2. Folder 9. Receipt book, 1866-1870


Box 3. Folder 1. Offerings book, 1803-1812

Box 3. Folder 2. Offerings book, 1804-1805


Box 3. Folder 4. Offerings book, 1808-1813

Box 3. Folder 5. Offerings book, 1810-1811


Box 3. Folder 7. Offerings book, 1822-1823

Box X-351. Folder Records

Box X-352. Folder Records