

CANADIAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

VOL. 1, NO. 2

JUNE, 1956

CONTENTS

A. TRANSCRIPTS OF DOCUMENTS & LETTERS

1. Deed of Sale of lot for first Jewish cemetery in Montreal, 1797.
2. Manuscript record of purchase and fencing of first Jewish cemetery in Montreal by David David. 1798.
3. Deed of Sale of lot for synagogue on Chenneville St., 1835.
4. Application by Rev. Jacques Judah Lyon for position of Hazan of Portuguese Congregation in Montreal. 1838.
5. Letter by Abraham Hart of London, England, replying to request of Benjamin Hart for candidates for position of Hazan of Montreal Portuguese Congregation. 1838.
6. Letter from Rev. David Piza stating his terms for continuing as Hazan and Mohel of Montreal congregation. 1845.
7. Grant of services of Rev. D. Piza as Mohel to the German and Polish Jewish Congregation, Montreal in 1845.
8. Proposals for strengthening financial position of Portuguese Congregation in Montreal addressed by Benjamin Hart to Myer Solomons. 1845.
9. Letter by Benjamin Hart complaining about handling of Kosher meat charges by the Shochet in Montreal. 1850.

B. ACCESSIONS TO CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS ARCHIVES

NATIONAL ARCHIVES and LIBRARY

&

BUREAU OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH • CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS

493 SHERBROOKE ST. W. • MONTREAL • CANADA

EDITORIAL NOTES

In this second issue of CANADIAN JEWISH ARCHIVES we continue the publication of transcripts of historical material relating to the early history of the Jewish community in Canada.

All of the nine items which appear in this issue are manuscript letters and documents in the National Archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress and are more than one hundred years old, some dating as far back as 1797; and all form part of the Martin Wolff Collection.

Of particular interest are the documents dealing with the purchase of the site for the first Jewish cemetery in Canada by David David in 1797 in Montreal, situated on part of the land now occupied by Dominion Square.

As in our first issue, no attempt has been made to modernize or correct the spelling or punctuation as given in the original letters and documents, and no comment is made except for an occasional explanatory note where necessary.

In addition to the transcripts we have included facsimile reproductions of the memorandum of 1798 regarding the purchase and fencing of the first Jewish cemetery in Montreal, and the letter of December 13, 1838 from Abraham Hart of London to Benjamin Hart of Montreal, outlining the difficulty of securing a Hazan from London for the Montreal congregation.

In this issue we also commence the publication of a list of accessions to the National Archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

June 30, 1956.

L. R.

1. DEED OF SALE OF LOT FOR JEWISH CEMETERY BY CHARLES JOSEPH ECUIER,
PRIEST, ON HIS OWN BEHALF & ON BEHALF OF THE HEIRS OF THE ECUIER
ESTATE, IN FAVOUR OF DAVID DAVID, DATED AUGUST 31, 1797

VENTE PAR MESSIRE CHARLES JOSEPH ECUIER, PRÊTRE, ES NOMS
& QUALITE QU'IL A AGIT A SR DAVID DAVID, LE Aoust 31, 1797.

Par devant les Notaires de la Ville de Montreal dans la Province du bas
Canada y residens Soussignés.

Fut présent Messire Charles Joseph Ecuier Prêtre & Curé de la Paroisse
de Repentigny tant en son nom que comme Cessionnaire des droits de Sr. I. aqs.
Dulong héritier des enfants issus de son mariage & Veuf de défunte Thérèse Ecuier
suivant l'acte passé devant Me. Faribault Nor. le six Fevrier 1797 et comme fondé
du pouvoir sous seing privé de Sr. Jean Bte. Ecuier son frère en date du vingt
quatre Janvier dernier remis à l'instant au d Sr. Ecuier encore le d Messire Ecuier
faisant & aquissant comme Curateur élu en justice à Angelique Hélène Ecuier sa sœur
absente de cette province & autorisé à la Vente cy après avec les autres biens
appartenant aux Successions de feu Jean Ecuier & de Dame Marie Josette Symer par
acte reçu devant le Honble. I. H. Panet Ecuier un des Juges de la Cour du banc du
Roi de ce District le neuf Février de la présente année & aussi remis à nom dit
Sr Ecuier les dits sus nommées heritiers chacun pour un quart des dits feu S. Ecuier
& de Dame Marie Josette Symer leurs père & mère, lequel dit Sr. Ecuier es dits noms
& qualités a reconnu et confessé par ces présentes avoir vendu, cédé, quitté trans-
porté et delaissé des maintenant et a toujours et a promis et promet es dits noms &
qualités & sous l'hypothèque des tous ses biens présens & avenir garantir de tous
troubles dons Douanes, Dettes hypothèques, évictions, substitutions, aliénations et
autres empêchements généralement quelconque à Sr David David Negt. de cette Ville à
le présent & acceptant acquéreur pour lui-ses heirs & ayont conset à l'avenir un
lopin de terre sise et situe au faubourg St. Antoine de la Contenance de trente deux
pieds de front, sur quatre arpents & Demiy de profondeur ou environ tenant par devant
aux héritiers Belestre par derrière aux représentans Mad. Sr. Sue d'un Cote a Pierre
Guy Ecuyer et d'autre Côté aux représentans Descary.

Ainsi que le tout se poursuit, comporte et étend de toute parts, circon-
stances et dependances que le dit Acquéreur a dit bien savoir et connaître pour
l'avoir vu et visité et dont il est content & satisfait sans aucun réserve par le
dit Vendeur, le tout appartenant aux susnommés comme héritiers de leur père et mère
auquel le tout appartenait par acquisition qu'ils en avant fait à Mad. Ve. Descarry
par Contrat passé devant Mtre Simmonet, Nor. le 18 Juillet 1767 remis d'instant au
Sr. Acquéreur Mourant le dit lopin de Terre en la censive de la Seigneurie de Mont-
réal & envers le domaine d'iselle, chargé de tel Cens & Rentes qu'il peut devoir ce
que les dites parties n'ont gérant à présent sur dire indécider de ce interpellies
par le Notaire soussigné; pour tout & sans autres charges, dettes, rendances ni
hypothèques quelconques, ainci que le dit Sr. Vendeur l'a dit et affirmé franc et
quitte néanmoins des arrérages de dits Cens et Rentes du passé jusqu'à ce jour pour
du de lopin de terre et dépendances en jouir, user, faire et disposer par le dit
Acquéreur ses heirs, et ayant cause comme de chose à lui appartenant en pleine prop-
riété en vertu des présentes, à commender la jouissance de ce jour.

Cette vente, cession transport et délaissement ainsi fait à la charge des
droits, Seigneuriaux a l'avenir seulement, et en outre pour et moyennant le prix et
somme de Trois Cent quatre vingt seize livres de vingt coppres ou chelins anciens
cours laquelle somme le d S. Ecuier a reconnu et confessé avoir eu et reçu du d Acqué-
reur avant la passation des présentes dont quittance générale & finale.

Et d'autant que le d S Ecuier est obligé par le d Acte d 'autorisation de
faire l'emploi des deniers offerants à la d Angelique Hélène Ecuier en Acquisition
de biens fonds il déclare par ces présentes qu'il a placé les d deniers sur une

terre qu'il a acquise sise à Repentigny, laquelle est spécialement hypothèque parce qu'elle revient à la De. Angelique Helene Ecuier dans la présente Vente.

Et au moyen de tout ce que dessus le dit Sr Vendeur es d noms a transporté au dit Sr. Acquéreur ses heirs & ayant causes tous droits de propriété fonds, très-fonds, noms, raisons, actions saisine possessions et autre choses généralement quelconque qu'il pourroit avoir, demander ou prétendre avoir sur le d lopin de terre présentement vendus dont, il s'est dits noms, demis & dessaisis à son profit et de ses heirs et ayant cause voulant qu'il en soit saisis et mis en possession par et ainsi qu'il appartiendra, constituant a cette fin son procureur le porteur des présentes lui donnant pouvoir de ce faire, car ainsi etc.

Et pour l'exécution, des présentes et de leur dépendances, les dites parties ont élu leur domicile aux lieux sus-mentionnés, auxquels liens etc. Nonobstant etc. Promettant etc. Obligeant, etc. Renonçant etc.

Faite & passé au d Montreal en l'étude L'An mil sept cent, quatre vingt sept le trente un du mois d 'Aout après midy & ont signés lecture faite.

(Signé) D. David
" P. Lukin, N.P.
(Signé) L. Chaboillé, N.P.

A venant le premier du mois de Septembre mil huit cent dix avant midy est comparu devant les Nores. Soussignés C. I. David David Negt. De cette Ville lequel a déclaré qu'il a fait l'acquisition du Terrain mentionné au Contrat des autres parts pour servira toujours de cimetière aux Individus de la religion Juive qui décédant dans le District de Montréal leur faisant & a toute la Congrégation, les Notaires soussignés ce acceptant toute cession & abandon du Terrain pour l'usage susdit et non a d'autres usages aux conditions que les individu dite la famille du d S. David David auront, la direction ~~tout-pour-les-reparations~~ et surintendance a perpétuité du Cimetière tant com les réparations que pour places a assigner à chacun et à signé lecture fait

(Signe) David David
" Id. Desautels N.P.
(Signe) L. Chaboillé N.P.

Expediées pour vraies copies et collationnées sur la minute du dit Contrat de Vente ainsi que sur la minute de l'avenant au bas d'icelui trouvés dans le Notariat de feu Me. Ls. Chaboillé en son vivant Notaire Public du Bas Canada, le dit Notariat déposé parmi les Archives de la Cour Superieure pour le Bas Canada, dans le District de Montréal et desquelles Archives le Protonotaire de la dite Cour est la Dépositaire

Montréal, ce Neuvieme jour de Mais, mil huit cent soixante six (cinq mots biffés nuls)

(Signed) Hubert Papineau & Honey

Court Endorsation

No. 127. Superior Court, Montreal

In the matter of The Mayor, Alderman and others
& St. Francis de Sales Street & the Corporation of the
Portuguese Jews of Montreal, Proprietors in Expropriation
& The Corporation of the German Jews, Opposant.

Exhibit Number four, fyled by the Portuguese Jews, contesting
Filed 9th March 1866. W.W.

^{Feb. 1798.}
Mr. D Davis of the Town of Montreal, having very cordially come forward in offering to have fenced under his direction a lot purchased by him purchased for the S.C. river's property of a Virginian ground (Bethayim) for the present Jewish congregation, and has well as their Bazaar The following plan is offered as a plan. ~~Bureau~~ making the said lot properly secured.
1st. - The present congregation for themselves and their sister Congregation except of them Lot of Ireland, which he has to do for by Mr. David joining the old Bazar ground, from the said M. D. David. He said lot being 36 feet by

lot being 50 feet. It
of that. He said lot he agreed to his former
burying ground for ever as a burying place
and for that is only.

3^d That Mr. D Davis do make over by deed
before a Notary the said Lot of Ground
unto the Jewish Congregation of London
4th That Mr. D Davis be reimbursed the
Purchase money of the said Lot by a
General Subscription.

6. That Mr. D. David's offer of having the whole of said Lot ~~conveyed to the city~~ properly secured by a good stone wall or by 10 feet iron pickets as will be most proper be accepted, and that the fee be returned same. Also by a General Subscription.

4 That Abby Grant has Money of said Lot
is F.N. The enclosing is more in a seem-
ing manner with consent to F.N. where
the following ~~is~~ ^{has been} submitted by the
Commission.

Underwritten under. Above stipulations.

No.		
J D Gird	—	\$ 3. 10. 0
L David	—	3. 10. 0
M. Michaels	—	3. 10. 0
J Joseph	—	3. 10. 0
A. Thomas	—	3. 10. 0
A. Hart	—	3. 10. 0
M. Hart	—	3. 10. 0
B. Hart	—	3. 10. 0
C. Hart	—	3. 10. 0
H. Joseph	—	1. 10. 0
B. Hart	—	1. 10. 0
M. David	—	1. 10. 0
M. Michaels	—	1. 10. 0
T. Hart	—	3. 10. 0
Hays	—	3. 10. 0
H. Thomas	—	3. 10. 0
L. Thomas	—	3. 10. 0
L. Thomas	—	3. 10. 0
W. J. Hart	—	3. 10. 0

It was decided that the expenditure account to be taken
separately, of which the proper account for each day
expenditure be entered to the present Congregation
as soon as it is finished, and that should the
expenditure require not amount to the money
distributed an equal distribution of same be returned
to the subscribers according to their contributions.

This paper belongs to me
Alfred

Sketch paper to David (2)
at Bunyins place
Feb 1790

Fig. 1. Manuscript memorandum containing offer of land by David David for use as burial ground for Spanish & Portuguese Congregation in Montreal, dated February, 1798.

Summary in English of preceding document.

Deed of Sale dated August 31st, 1797 by Charles Joseph Ecuier, priest of the Parish of Repentigny, on his own behalf and on behalf of the other heirs of the Ecuier estate, to David David, merchant of the City of Montreal, to a lot situated in the suburb of St. Antoine, with a frontage of thirty-two feet, and four and a half arpents in depth for the sum of three hundred and ninety six pounds, the said lot to serve in perpetuity as a cemetery for individuals of the Jewish faith who may die in the Montreal district, for the entire Congregation, and for no other purpose, on condition that the said David David and his family shall have the perpetual direction and superintendence.

2. MANUSCRIPT RECORD DATED FEBRUARY 1798. REGARDING THE PURCHASE AND FENCING OF A LOT BY DAVID DAVID, TO BE USED AS A BURYING GROUND FOR THE JEWISH CONGREGATION OF LOWER CANADA.

SKETCH PAPER TO D. DAVID RE BURYING PLACE, FEBRUARY, 1798.

This paper belongs to me.

A.H. David.

Mr. D. David of the Town of Montreal, having very candidly come forward in offering to have fenced under his direction a Lot ground he has purchased for the Sole use and property of a Burying ground (Bethayim) for the present Jewish Congregation and as well as their Progeny.

The following is offered as a plan towards having the said Lot properly secured.

- 1st. The present Congregation for themselves and their future Progeny accept of the said Lot of Ground ~~which has been kindly-purchased-by-Mr.-David-David~~ adjoining the old Burying Ground from the ~~said~~ Mr. D. David, the said lot being 36 feet long.
- 2nd. That the said lot be annexed to the former Burying ground forever as a Burying place and for that use only.
- 3rd. That Mr. D. David do make over by deed before a Notary the said Lot of Ground unto the Jewish Congregation of Lower Canada.
- 4th. That Mr. D. David be reimbursed the purchase money of the said Lot by a general Subscription.

- 6th. That Mr. D. David's offer of having the whole of said Lot as-well-as-the-old-B properly secured by a good Stone wall or by 10 feet Cedar pickets as will be most proper be accepted, and that he be reimbursed ~~same~~ Also by a General Subscription.
- 7th. That this purchase Money of said Lot is £16 the enclosing ^{the} same in a secure manner will amount to £20 wherefore the following Sums have been Subscribed by the Underwritten under the above stipulations.

Mr. D. David	£ 3/10/0
L. David	3/10/0
M. Michaels	3/10/0
J. Joseph	3/10/0
I. Phinias	3/10/0
A. Hart	3/10/0
M. Hart	3/10/0
E. Hart	3/10/0
A. Hart & Sons	6/10/0
H. Joseph	1/10/0
B. Hart	1/10/0
M. David	1/10/0
Michaels	1/10/0
Jonas)	
Hays)	
H. Phinias)	
Lazarus)	3/10/0
Lyon)	37/0/0
A.H. Hart)	
U. Judah)	

That a proper account per receipts of expenditure be rendered to the present Congregation as soon as is finished, and that should the expences requisite not amount to the money subscribed an equal redistribution of same be returned to the Subscribers according to their subscriptions.

3. DEED OF SALE OF LOT FOR SYNAGOGUE ON CHENNEVILLE STREET FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF M. GABRIEL COTTE TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ISRAELITISH CONGREGATION IN MONTREAL, DATED JUNE 30TH, 1835.

Before the Subscribing Public

Notaries in and for the Province of Lower Canada, residing at the City of Montreal,

Personally Appeared Mrs. Angelique Blondeau widow of the late Gabriel Cotte; -- Mrs. Angelique Cotte wife of Alexis Laframboise, Esquire; -- Mrs. Marie Josepte Cotte wife of Jules Maurice Quesnel Esquire; -- and Mrs. Emilie Cotte wife of Francois Antoine LaRocque Esquire; All residing at the said City; -- the Said Alexis Laframboise, Jules Maurice Quesnel, & Francois Antoine LaRocque hereto also present, and authorizing their respective wives to the effect of these presents, Who did and do by these presents Sell and promise to warrant and defend against all evictions mortgages or hypothiques and other hinderances or troubles whatever,

unto Isaac Valentine, Moses Judah Hays, Benjamin Hart, Henry Solomons and Isaac Aaron, Esquires, -- residing at the said City of Montreal, Trustees of the Israelitish Congregation established in the Said City, hereto present and accepting purchasers for themselves their Successors in office and assigns in their Capacity of Trustees, that is to say: -- A Lot of ground or Emplacement Situated at Pres-de-Ville, in the Saint Lawrence Suburb, in the Said City; Bounded in front by LaGauchetiere Street; in the rear by the protestant Burying Ground; -- one side by the Continuation of Chenneville Street; and on the other side by the said vendors. - The Said Lot of ground or Emplacement containing by admeasurement Thirty feet in width, on the level of LaGauchetiere Street, by One Hundred feet in depth, at the end of which depth the Said ground or Emplacement becomes wider and measures Sixty feet in width by fifty feet in depth;- without any building thereon erected;-

As the whole now is with all and every the members and appurtenances thereto belonging, with which the purchasers are content and satisfied for having seen and viewed the same, and without any reservation of any part or portion of the aforesaid bargained and sold premises on the part of the Sellers who are lawfully seized thereof by virtue of a good and sufficient title as having acquired the same by inheritance. --

The aforesaid hereby bargained and sold Lot of ground and premises are depending and holding of the Seigniority of Montreal, and Subject to the payment of Such Cens et Rentes towards the Domain thereof, as may be legally due, but which the said parties cannot at present ascertain, the arrears of which Cens et Rentes shall be paid and discharged by the said sellers up to the day of these presents; And the said lot of ground is free and clear of every other charge, burthen and incumbrance as the said sellers now hereby declare; To Hold, Have, Use and Enjoy the aforesaid bargained and sold lot of ground and premises unto the said purchasers their Successors and assigns in their said capacity of Trustees forever by virtue of these presents; and to enter upon and take possession thereof immediately.

The present Sale is thus made subject to such seigniorial Rights as may in future arise and become due thereon and for the express condition that the said purchasers their successors in Office and Assigns, in order to preserve uniformity in the line of buildings, shall be bound to build in the same line and range of the present house of the said Francois Antoine LaRocque in the same street; and further for and in Consideration of the price and sum of Three Hundred and Fifty Pounds Current money of this province, which sum the said sellers do hereby acknowledge to have presently received from the said purchasers in their aforesaid capacity, and of which quit from this day forever.

And in Consideration of the premises, the said Sellers do hereby divest themselves in favor of the said purchasers their Successors and assigns of all rights, claims, title, -- interest, possession and other rights whatsoever which they can have, present or exercise in or upon the aforesaid hereby bargained and sold Lot of ground, for which purpose they do substitute them in their place and stead.

And for the Execution of these presents, the said parties have elected their domiciles at their place of abode above mentioned, where & c.^a notwithstanding & c^a

Done and Passed at Montreal aforesaid, in the Office, on this Thirtieth day of June, in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty five, and signed

by the Said parties with the said Notaries, these presents being first duly read.

(Signed) M. I. Hays
Isaac Valentine
Isaac Aaron
B. Hart
Veuve Cotte
Jules Quesnel
Jos. Ant. LaRocque
Alexis Laframbois
Angelique Cotte Laframboise
Emelie Cotte LaRocque
Josette Cotte Quesnel

S. S. Martin Np
P. Lacombe Np.

A True Copy of the Original remaining of Record in the Office of the Under-
signed Notary.

P. Lacombe, NP

4. LETTER OF APPLICATION FROM JACQUES JUDAH LYONS FOR POSITION OF HAZAN
OF SPANISH & PORTUGUESE CONGREGATION WITH NOTE FROM RABBI GERSHON SEIXAS.

Philadelphia Feby 29th 1838

Mr. Benajmin Hart
Montreal

Sir:

In conversation with the Revd Isaac Leeser I learnd that the Congre-
gation of your City has erected a New Synagogue, which would be consecrated next
Summer and that you required a Hazan

The object now of my addresssing you, for which liberty I ask pardon,
is to offer myself as a Candidate of that Situation. For six years I officiated
in that Holy calling in Surinam and I have from that Congregation the strongest
testimonials, as to capacity for the whole Routine of the Tebah Services, also
that of Moel or Circumciser. I have also officiated in person on the holiday of
7:23 and on two occasions, the entire Sabbath Prayers. I Can therefore add
to the testimonials of the ParnasSim & members of the Portuguese and German
Israelites and Contresigned and Sealed by the Major General Governour of Surinam,
those of Mr. Leeser, the Parnas and Members of this Congregation.

My reason for leaving Surinam was the rect. of Letters from Philadelphia
with Strong asSurances that the members of this congregation were anxious to
make a Change, and that my Application if on the Spot, would be crowned with Suc-
cesS. In this I was disappointed, and I now wait on you to ascertain if their
is a prospect and what yearly compensation may be relied on

My views are moderate. I am accompanied with aged parents, being myself as yet young and unmarried

I have been always educated in the portuguese minhagh, and my pronunciation is free from any others.

The Revd Isaac Seixas of New York will add a few lines on the other Side respecting me, and in Conclusion I beg to remark that I can without delay prepare myself to visit your City, & be governed by the advice you may transmit to me.

With Sentiments of regard, towards you, and family, I beg to remain,

My dear Sir
Yr very obd't Servant
Jacques Juda Lyons

My Direction is
Jacques Juda Lyons
No. 154 South Street
Philadelphia
Pa.

Being referred to in the annexed all that I have or can say that never having heard or seen Mr Lyons officiate in the office of ḥazan to a Congregation I cannot say any thing of his capability of undertaking the duties that may be required in that Station

He is a young man has a fine voice of respectable parents and Connexions and reads the Hebrew well

Very respectfully

Your obd't Serv't

G B Seixas

5. LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT FROM ABRAHAM HART, JR. OF LONDON, ENGLAND
IN REPLY TO REQUEST FROM BENJAMIN HART FOR CANDIDATES FOR HAZAN
OF MONTREAL CONGREGATION

London, 13th Dec. 1838

To the Trustees of the Montreal Synagogue

Gent^{ls}

Your favor of 29th October is duly to hand. I avail myself of this early opportunity to reply thereto. The Letter addressed to the chief Rabbi of the Portuguese Congregation here I still retain in my possession nor do I know of any one among them to whom it would be of the slightest use to deliver your communication consequently I shall not dispose of it in any way until directed by you So to do. The Great German Synagogue of Dukes Place

is the only one in this Country over which there is a presiding Rabbi who although he is looked upon as the head of all the Jews here could in no-way be instrumental in procuring for you the Official required from a Portuguese Community. As a Reader such a person as you describe would be most desirable but I fear 'twould be a difficult matter to find him indeed. I am quite satisfied that were he to be met with twould not be necessary for him to go to America for a situation his services would be too eagerly sought on this side of the Atlantic. Unfortunately however there are but few among our people who take an interest in the promotion of their faith & those even (from the very fact of our Readers being looked upon rather as Servants to the Congregation than as Gentlemen holding the most honorable Situations therein) are not to be found among that Class of Society in which it is so much to be wished they should be. In the next place you could never expect that Five Hundred Dollars would be any inducement for a Man possessing the qualifications you require to leave his Home & Country to take upon himself the responsibility of that office & perform the various duties enumerated in your advice to me before alluded to. Since you in stating your inability to give a larger Sum at present express at same time a hope that in two or three years you will be enabled to increase his salary but this is a mere uncertainty, however under any circumstances I do not think from the enquiries I have made that you will succeed in procuring from the London Portuguese Community a competent person to administer in your Synagogue. I have not ventured to express an individual opinion but from the time I was first applied to by Mr. Benjamin Hart have consulted some of the leading members of that Congregation & endeavoured to gain all possible information on the subject & must Say from all I have learned have but poor hopes of being able to assist you in this respect. With regard to the Killer*I have not yet been able to make any enquiries but when I have anything to communicate I will do it through my Brother & so save you the unnecessary expense of postage. I have since my return home applied to some of my Friends for contributions towards your funds but have not in a single instance done any good the complaint is that you have no Killer & so are not living as Jews consequently you have no claim upon them as such. I shall at all times be extremely happy to render you any assistance that lies in my power for the promotion of your views & remain with regard

Your Obedt St.

Abraham Hart Junr

3 Bay Rd.
Bucklesbury

To the Trustees of the Montreal Synagogue
Montreal
Lower Canada

pr. Royal William
Steamship Decr. 15th

* Shochet.

6. LETTER FROM REV. DAVID PIZA, DATED 12TH MAY, 5605 (1845).
EXPRESSING TERMS ON WHICH HE WILL CONTINUE AS HAZAN AND MOHEL
OF SHEARITH ISRAEL, MONTREAL.

To the Trustees of the Montreal Congregation of Israelites

Gentlemen,

I am willing to engage with the Congregation as Hazan and Moel until 1st May 1846 on the following conditions viz.

- 1st That my Salary be £100 per annum free from any deduction and payable monthly in advance.
- 2nd That I will Keep a school for the education of Jewish children without any charge, and attend them Four days in a week at least three hours each day.
- 3rd All offerings, fees, or emoluments, I may receive during the year, to be handed over to the Treasurer or any other Gentleman you may think fit, to be applied expressly to liquidate my outstanding debts.

Should the above meet with your approbation I trust nothing will be wanting on my part to give general satisfaction

I remain
Gentlemen
Your Obt. Servant
David Piza.

Montreal
12th May 5605

DRAFT OF REPLY TO LETTER FROM REV. DAVID PIZA

Sir

The Trustees Met yesterday & could not Come to any decision on the Subject of your letter -- It will however be laid before A Meeting of the Congregation to be held on the 25th inst: & the result will be made Known to you.

A. P. Hart.

7. GRANT TO GERMAN & POLISH CONGREGATION OF MONTREAL
OF THE USE OF REV. PIZA AS MOHEL

13 June 1845

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge

~~I--reply--to~~ your letter dated 4th instant directed to the President & Trustees of the Congregation Shearith Israel & ~~I am directed~~ & to inform you that at a Meeting of the Trustees held on the 9th instant it was taken into Consideration -

In reply thereto I am directed to say that in Consequence of the Trustees having engaged Mr. Mendalls as Chochoet it will be impossible for them to dispense with his Services & Consequently they cannot participate in the engagement of any other -- but that with regard to the Services of Mr. Piza as Moel, they are Extremely happy to have it in their power to say that they grant them to the German & Polish Congregation upon the Same terms as Mentioned in a letter directed to Mr. Moss by Mr. Saml David on the 3rd Nov^r last --

8. PROPOSALS FOR FINANCIAL STRENGTHENING OF THE PORTUGUESE
CONGREGATION IN MONTREAL, ADDRESSED BY B. HART TO MYER SOLOMONS
(CIRCA 1845)

To Myer Solomons Esq.
Notary Public, Montreal

To be considered

- 1st That the Portuguese Shool was built by the generous conduct of the late Mrs. Michael the late Mrs. C. David & the Late Mr. & Mrs. Valentine, Mr. I. Hays, B. Hart, the Messrs. Davids, Mrs. Joseph, Mrs. C. Solomon and families at a heavy expense and by them a Reader procured --
- 2nd. That at this period, Strangers, who did not contribute towards the Said Shool wish to govern the same and at the same time will not pay Seat Money to support the Shool reader & c
- 3rd. The Choquette Kills meat for all the Jews in this City and not one half of them contribute towards his support, he has lodgings Firewood and £30 yearly -
- 4th. That the Reader is a Man with a wife and Two infant children has had his allowance reduced to £100 per annum from that small sum he must pay £25 to 30£ for the Rent of a Shell of a house Firewood must cost him from £20 the balance will not provide him with Bread & Meat -- His Fees of office are so small - Not to be mentioned

- 5th. The present upsett price of Seats, are at so low a rate, and having so few Male Seats taken at High rates - This causes the present trouble They will take the low price Seats and the high price Seats remain vacant
- 6th. In Paris 4 small Chairs in the Shool cost for 6 months £10 Stg In London 4 Back Seats cost in Burton Street Shool for 3 months £14 Stg In New York the Seats in the Portuguese Shool from 12 to 50 dollars

It is therefore proposed -

- 1st. That the Portuguese Hebrew and form of Prayers be used in the said Shool -
- 2nd. That the Ten Commandments be Read at the Door of the Ark every Sabath and Festival morning prior to taken out the Laws - Except on Such days that the Commandments make part of the Service -
- 3rd. That Calling up to the Laws and offerings, be abolished, Because the Custom is an inovation to our Holy Religion, and offering money or making Contract to pay Money on the Sabbath is a violation to the Laws of god -
- 4th. That on Such days that the reader Lectures in the English Language the portion from the prophets be read in the afternoon
- 5th. That all honors belonging to the Service be performed by the president Trustees or Directors of the Congregation for the Time being
- 6th. That according to the Laws of Moses Gatherings be made On the First day of Passover, Penticost and Tabernicle - and for any particular occurrence on the Sabath All Such Gatherings to be published in the English Language from the Reader Desk after the Laws are returned to the Ark in the following words - a Gathering from Mr. A. B (or Mrs or Miss) of Dollars ~~for~~ the charitable fund and Support of this Congregation (if for a particular purpose) add in consequence of ---- no Gatherings under One dollar and no gathering can be phublished without the cash be paid the day before to the Treasurer
- 7 The Trustees to send round a subscription to all Members on the present upsett price - if refused - The choquette to go round with a subscription from all the jews for one year $\frac{1}{2}$ in advance & so payable to himself and then

Let the following persons agree to take the Shool & Reader for one year

Mrs. C. Solomon	---	1
Mrs David	---	1
Mrs. Joseph	---	1
Mrs. A.M. Hart	---	1
Mrs. B. Hart	---	1
Miss Hart	---	1
Miss Joseph	---	1
The Miss Davids	---	2
		<u>9</u>

The Miss Hays	--	1
The Miss Joseph	--	2
The Miss Solomons	--	2
Mrs. Solomons	--	1
Miss Jesse Solomons	--	1
		<u>7</u>

Mr. I. Hays	--	1		
Mr. David	--	1		
I. David	--	1	G. Joseph	-- 1
M. Solomons	--	1	H. Solomons	-- 1
J. Joseph	--	1	A. Joseph	-- 1
M. E. David	--	1	Mr. Hays 4 Sons	<u>3</u>
I. Hart	--	1		<u>6</u>
B. Hart	--	1		
3 wives Hart	--	1		
A. M. Hart	--	1	Thus 9 Seats L5 -	45
C. E. Levey	--	<u>1</u>	7 " L4 -	28
		<u>12</u>	12 " L6 -	72
			6 " L5 -	<u>30</u>
				<u>L175</u>

all seats rejected by the first offer - Then all who come forward afterwards, must take Seats at upsett price - Such Seat Money so received, to go in deduction of the Seats Taken - or in proportion but not to exceed on Seats of L6-L5, L4- 20 Shillings of each and L3 seats 10 shillings of each - This will reduce the

Ladies Seats to L4 and L3 and L2.10.0
Gentlemen " - L5 " L4 --- 2.10.0

about 20 Members are not Named - dreading they will decline in the first instance.

Another proposal--

For Reader L100 - For Rent L20 - Fire Wood in bundles for the Shool
L33 - 153

The following Members to join for one year for shool & reader

M. I. Hays	-	J. W. Joseph)	
S. David	-	Jesse Joseph)	
Dr. David	-	A. M. Hart)	9 @ L17 each - L153
M. Solomons	-	B. Hart)	
Theo Hart	-)	

A Committee to be named from them

S. David	-	Theo Hart)	They to choose from this Body
M. Solomons	-	A. M. Hart)	a President, Vice President, who
J. Joseph	-	--)	are to take their seats
				a Treasurer & Secy.

This committee to regulate and settle all matters respecting the said shool The present Trustees must keep in office - All submitted for your Consideration.

9. LETTER BY BENJAMIN HART COMPLAINING ABOUT HANDLING OF KOSHER MEAT
CHARGES BY THE SHOHEIT. JUNE 3, 1850.

Montreal, 3 June 1850

To the Trustees of the Montreal Cong. of Jews

Gentlemen

On Friday last, I could not obtain a piece of kosher beef -- Mr. Sexton, the Butcher informed me, Mendles had killed one kosher ox, that he had but Half, his Partner having the other Half -- That he observed to Mendles, "you state Foullom has no kosher Beef "one fore quarter will not be sufficient, I have three more to Kill, Kill them" Answer "I have no time" Sexton further states, when he first commenced to kill he informed Mendles his Partner had Half of every Ox he Killed -- and that he considered it hard to pay Mendles one dollar per week, and have no Beef to Sell -- Gentlemen if your rules allow this charge, I consider it a hardship on the Congregation, unjust and oppressive, if this charge is made without your Knowledge it is on the part of Mendles a Swindle, fraud and a disgraceful Imposition and will be most dishonourable on your part to suffer it -- I contend it is your duty to oblige Mendles to return to your hands the four dollars for Four Weeks Killing at Sexton's, and you return the sum to the butcher, If you encourage such dishonesty, what can you expect?

Last Fall I was shamefully insulted by Foullam and for six months obliged to purchase Treifer Beef for my Family, I was happy to find this Spring you had another Butcher for Cosher Beef -- after One Month, this is distributed by that infamous Mendles --

If after paying the Seat Money that I do -- I am to be deprived of this right, a right that I could claim in a Court of Justice -- to prevent Trouble I withdraw from the Congregation all together, Sorrowfull as it may be at My advanced Age --

I am Gentlemen

Your Obt Svt

Benjamin Hart

ACQUISITIONS OF THE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS
THE MARTIN WOLFF COLLECTION

- ** August 31, 1797 Notarial deed of sale of lot for Jewish cemetery in Montreal from Charles Joseph Ecuier to David David, subsequently produced in court in proceedings between the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation and the Congregation of German and Polish Jews in Montreal. (5 pages)
- ** February (?) 1798 Minutes containing offer of land by David David for burial ground for Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, Montreal.
- June 5, 1832 Act of the Province of Lower Canada granting Jewish subjects of His Majesty William IV all rights and privileges of His Majesty's other subjects.
- * Sept. 11, 1832 Extract from Prothonotary's register in the District of Montreal listing members of Shearith Israel Congregation.
- * Nov. 5, 1832 Draft of letter to Rev. Solomon Herschel, rabbi of the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, London, England, requesting financial assistance in building of Montreal synagogue.
- * Nov. 5, 1832 Draft of letter to Mr. N. M. Rothschild of London, England, by Isaac Valentine, requesting financial assistance in building Montreal synagogue. (3 pages) The wording of this letter is almost identical with that of the letter to Rabbi Solomon Herschel.
- * October 14, 1833 Letter from Benjamin Hart to Isaac Valentine enclosing list of seats that would be taken if a "Portuguese shool" is erected in Montreal.
- * October 14, 1833 Manuscript memorandum outlining safeguards suggested by B. Hart to ensure that Shearith Israel Congregation retain Spanish and Portuguese minhag, enclosed with his letter dated October 14, 1833.
- * October 14, 1833 List of persons who may subsequently become members of the synagogue included with B. Hart's letter of October 14, 1833.
- * October 14, 1833 List of members who may "agree to take the Mohel and Reader" for the year. In handwriting of B. Hart, enclosed with B. Hart's letter of October 14, 1833.
-
- * Transcript of this document will be found in Vol. 1, No. 1 of Canadian Jewish Archives.
- ** Transcript of this document will be found in this issue of Canadian Jewish Archives.

- * October 14, 1833 List of ladies and gentlemen who may become members of the Congregation, together with seating plan and suggested price of seats, presumably in handwriting of B. Hart and enclosed with B. Hart's letter of October 14, 1833.
- * December 23, 1834 Minutes of meeting of Spanish and Portuguese Congregation exhibiting plans for erection of new synagogue in Montreal.
- * January 2, 1835 Letter from B. Hart to Isaac Valentine, president of Congregation, opposing erection of synagogue on the site and resigning his position in order to oppose the wishes of the other members of the board.
- ** June 30, 1836 Deed of sale of lot for synagogue from representatives of M. Gabriel Cote to the Trustees of the Israelitish Congregation in Montreal.
- October 7, 1837 List of offerings at the service in the Portuguese synagogue, Montreal.
- Circa 1837 Early draft of "An Act to Change the Name of the Congregation of Portuguese Jews in Montreal to the Corporation of Spanish and Portuguese Jews, Shearith Israel of Montreal."
- * October 10, 1837 Report of election meeting of Corporation of Spanish and Portuguese Jews of Montreal.
- ** February 29, 1837 Letter of application from Jacques Judah Lyons for position of Hazan of Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, with note from Rabbi Gershon Seixas.
- * July 3, 1838 Manuscript bylaws of the Congregation K. K. Shearith Israel, Montreal. (7 pages)
- * August 31, 1838 Register of sale of seats in new synagogue, Montreal, with names of purchasers.
- ** December 13, 1838 Letter of acknowledgment from Abraham Hart, Jr. of London, England, in reply to request from Benjamin Hart for candidates for Hazan of Montreal Congregation.
- * September 1839 Notarial copy of protest served on Benjamin Hart, President of K. K. Shearith Israel in Montreal, on behalf of Isaac Aaron. (5 pages)
- * ? 1840 Names of subscribers and amounts of subscriptions to Spanish and Portuguese synagogue.

* Transcript of this document will be found in Vol. 1, No. 1 of Canadian Jewish Archives.

** Transcript of this document will be found in this issue of Canadian Jewish Archives.

August 15, 1841	Receipt by G. H. Kernick for registering petitions and proceedings for the "Trustees of the Jewish Church in Montreal" from the year 1832.
May 14, 1840	Letter by Notary A. G. Hart to Benjamin H. Hart, president of Congregation, protesting his replacement as notary of the Congregation Shearith Israel.
August 31, 1841	Register of seats in Spanish and Portuguese synagogue, Montréal, sold between August 31, 1838 and August 31, 1841.
August 1844	Signed list of members undertaking to contribute towards support of a Reader and Shochet and maintenance of the synagogue in Montreal.
Circa 1845	List of members of Shearith Israel Congregation, Montreal.
April 30, 1845	Letter by Alex Levy to S.M. David inquiring about payment for ceremony (milah) to be performed in the City of Quebec.
** May 12, 1845	Letter from Rev. David Piza expressing terms on which he will continue as Hazan and Mohel of Shearith Israel, Montreal.
** May 12, 1845	Copy of reply to letter of Rev. David Piza by A.P. Hart.
June 13, 1845	Grant to German and Polish Congregation of Montreal of the use of Rev. Piza as Mohel.
Circa 1845	Proposals for financial strengthening of Congregation, addressed by B. Hart to Myer Solomon. (4 pages)
Sept. 17, 1846	Letter of acceptance by Rev. Abraham de Sola of London, England, of position as Hazan of Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, Montreal.
May 1847	Letter by B. Hart to Dr. David regarding proposed amendments to bylaws of Spanish and Portuguese Congregation.
May 19, 1847	Letter by B. Hart re bylaws of Shearith Israel Congregation, marked "Copy sent to each members."
June 1, 1847	Minutes of Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, Montreal, dealing with the objections raised by Benjamin Hart to the bylaws of the Congregation. (6 pages)
Circa 1847	Printed copy of contemplated bylaws of Spanish and Portuguese Congregation circulated among members for their consideration. (4 pages)
June 1, 1847	Letter from B. Hart objecting to Article 1, Clause 3 in bylaws of Shearith Israel Congregation, Montreal.
June 4, 1847	Notification and protest by Benjamin Hart to and against Dr. A. H. David, President, and Myer Solomon, Secretary, of the Portuguese Congregation, Montreal.

August 25, 1847	Letter by Joseph Lyon applying for membership in Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, Montreal.
August 31, 1847	Letter from Isaac Aaron, Bucklesbury, England, indicating his seat preference in the synagogue.
Sept. 1, 1847	Letter by M. Solomon regarding availability of certain seats in Shearith Israel synagogue, Montreal.
Circa 1847	List of contributions for the support of Shearith Israel Synagogue, Montreal, by annual subscription in lieu of offerings.
Sept. 1, 1847	Letter from David Nathan requesting membership and seating in Shearith Israel Synagogue, Montreal.
Sept. 4, 1848	Letter by Alex. Levy to Myer Solomons, Secretary of Shearith Israel Congregation, asking for seat.
Sept. 4, 1848	Letter from Isaac Jacobs to Myer Solomons, Secretary of Shearith Israel Congregation, Montreal, asking for three seats.
Sept. 4, 1847	Letter from D. & E. Moss regarding seats they prefer.
Sept. 6, 1847	Letter from Edward Moss declining seat as it is too near the door and asking for other seat.
Sept. 19, 1848	Letter by Lawrence Moss applying for membership in Shearith Israel Congregation.
June 3, 1850	Letter by Benjamin Hart complaining about handling of kosher meat charges by the Shohet.
Sept. 5, 1851	Letter by J. H. Joseph to President of Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue regarding "fixing basement of shool."
Feb. 11, 1852	Letter by Rev. Abraham de Sola to Goodman Benjamin, President of Spanish and Portuguese Congregation informing him of an offer received from the Savannah, Georgia Synagogue requesting his services and asking the President what are the intentions of the Montreal Congregation.
April 7, 1852	Letter by A. H. David to Mendells the Sexton, informing him that he must live up to the conditions previously explained to him by the Trustees of the Congregation.
April 25, 1852	Letter from Rev. Abraham de Sola to Goodman Benjamin, President of Shearith Israel Congregation regarding salary difficulties.
Sept. 28, 1853	Resignation of G. S. Asher as Trustee and member of Board of Spanish and Portuguese Congregation.
Dec. 22, 1853	Letter from Rev. Abraham de Sola to the President and Trustees of Shearith Israel Congregation, Montreal, regarding construction of a Mikveh.

Jan. 12, 1854	Decision of Rev. A. de Sola stating fencing necessary to make new Jewish cemetery on Mount Royal conform to traditional requirements.
Feb. 25, 1855	Bylaws governing the Jewish cemetery on Mount Royal Blvd.
Circa 1855	Printed rules and regulations of the Trustees of the Protestant burial ground, Montreal, probably included as guide for Jewish cemetery regulations.
Circa 1855	Allotment of cemetery plots in Shearith Israel cemetery, giving names of purchasers and number and size of lots.
Jan. 28, 1855	Drawing for cemetery plots in Shearith Israel cemetery.
Nov. 1, 1857	Printed bylaws of Corporation of Spanish and Portuguese Congregation of Montreal, revised and passed November 1, 1857 with amendments in handwriting. (17 pages and cover)
October 1858	Draft of deed of sale of cemetery plot to Dr. A. H. David.
January 24, 1859	Deed of sale of 80 square feet of ground in Spanish and Portuguese Jewish cemetery, Montreal, to Moses Judah Hays and others to be used as a family burial plot exclusively for the heirs of David David. (7 pages)
June 1861	Receipt from Portuguese Congregation, Montreal, for seat rent and offerings, issued to Mr. Raphael, with notation in Yiddish.
Sept. 14, 1862	Statement of burials in Portuguese Jewish cemetery from 1854 to 1862.
Sept. 16, 1862	List of burials in Spanish and Portuguese cemetery, Montreal, from 1854 to 1862.
Nov. 27, 1863	Deed of sale of cemetery land from McCullough Estate to the Corporation of English, German and Polish Jews.
Jan. 10, 1864	Letter from J. Joseph to Spanish and Portuguese Congregation informing them how they might proceed within their charter framework to purchase cemetery land from the heirs of the McCullough Estate.
March 20, 1864	Rough draft of letter by Dr. David to Sir Moses Montefiore, This draft contains a Hebrew phrase later omitted.
20 Iyar, 5624(1864)	Draft of letter of gratitude from Dr. A. H. David as secretary of the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, Montreal, to Sir Moses Montefiore on his successful return from his mission to Morocco.
Sept. 16, 1864	Court order addressed to the Trustees of the Jewish cemetery in Montreal for hearing to determine compensation for the cemetery on Janvier Street to be expropriated by the City of Montreal for street extensions.

- Circa 1864 List of seats in Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, Montreal.
- Circa 1865 Fragment containing summation of Spanish and Portuguese Congregation's arguments in controversy with German and Polish-Jewish Congregation regarding the disinterring of the bodies and their transfer from the old cemetery to the new one.
- Circa 1865 Rough draft of comments and reaction of Spanish and Portuguese Congregation to arguments of German and Polish-Jewish Congregation in the cemetery controversy.
- Jan. 26, 1865 Notification from David Moss and the Congregation of English, German and Polish Jews to the Corporation of Spanish and Portuguese Jews forbidding them to contract for disinterring of bodies from the cemetery on Janvier St., on the ground that the bodies include those of members of the German, and Polish-Jewish Congregation.
- Circa 1871 Extract from the will of Mrs. Florence Cohen of Philadelphia bequeathing funds for the erection of a "Fanny Hays Home for Orphan Children of the Jewish Persuasion" in Montreal.
- Circa 1871 Transfer of sum of \$1,481.13 for the purpose of establishing the Fanny Hays Home for Orphan Children of the Jewish Persuasion to the Corporation of Spanish and Portuguese Jews in Montreal in trust for the same purpose.
- June 19, 1871 Release and consent to transfer of trust from W. Z., Florence and Andrew Cohen to Rev. Abraham de Sola, A.H. David and Jesse Joseph in re Florence Cohen bequest. (7 pages)
- August 25, 1871 Discharge and release from McCullough Estate to Spanish and Portuguese Congregation upon completion of payment of amount for cemetery.
- April 14, 1872 Statement of amount owing by Spanish and Portuguese Congregation to Rev. A. de Sola.
- July 3, 1872 Letter from Mr. Gutman, President of Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, to Rev. Dr. de Sola requesting assistance in writing to the Portuguese Congregation of London for a loan to pay the accumulated municipal taxes of the Congregation.
- June 3, 1873 Unsigned draft of letter addressed to the Congregation of German and Polish Jews, Montreal, reacting favourably to the proposal for amalgamation and joint ritual of the two Congregations.
- October 21, 1873 List of repairs required for new gallery of Spanish and Portuguese synagogue and list of contributors.

- 28 Tishri, 1874 Draft of letter from M. Guttman, President of the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, Montreal, requesting aid from the K.K. Shaar Hashomayim, London, England. (4 pages)
- April 15, 1874 Letter from G. M. Jacobs, President of the "Hand-in-Hand Society," Montreal, to Samuel Davis, President of Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, Montreal, requesting the right to conduct funeral services for their members on the Spanish and Portuguese cemetery.
- 1874 Manuscript memo outlining suggested powers and duties of the Hand-in-Hand (Yad be Yad) Society to arrange funeral services for Montreal Jewry.
- 1871 Two receipts of Prothonotary to the Superior Court of Montreal acknowledging receipt of registers of births, marriages and burials of Jews in the years 1870 and 1871.
- Nov. 25, 1874 Draft of letter by Rev. Abraham de Sola to Protestant Board of School Commissioners, Montreal, notifying them that the Corporation of Portuguese Jews in Montreal had decided to establish a school "for teaching primary branches of English and Hebrew" and requesting the Protestant Board of School Commissioners to supply school accommodation, teachers, etc.
- ? Fragment of resolution signed by Dr. David that the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue in Montreal shall follow only the Portuguese minhag.
- Circa 1874 Fragment of a resolution disapproving of the report of the joint committee of the Spanish and Portuguese and German and Polish Congregations in Montreal and resolving to establish a free school under the control of the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, where both minhagim will be taught.
- Circa 1877 Plan of seats in Spanish and Portuguese synagogue, Montreal.
- Circa 1877 List of ladies' subscriptions for floral decorations in the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue for the High Holidays.
- July 28, 1864 Rough draft of unsigned letter to the chairman of the Board of Protestant School Commissioners in Montreal.
- Nov. 14, 1887 Discharge from the Seminary of St. Sulpice to the Corporation of Spanish and Portuguese Jews of land previously sold to the Congregation.