

CANADIAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Vol. 1, No. 6

May, 1962



National Bicentenary of Canadian Jewry

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P L A T E S

Facsimiles of pages of the Prothonotary's Register, 1829-1889, containing signatures of British subjects above the age of 21, professing the Jewish Religion

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Although the Shearith Israel Congregation, the first Jewish Congregation in Canada, was founded in Montreal as early as 1768, there was no legal provision for the incorporation of a Jewish congregation in Canada until the "Act to extend certain privileges to persons professing the Jewish religion"⁽¹⁾ was passed by the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada on March 14, 1829, received the Royal Assent on 1st November, 1830, and was proclaimed on the 18th January, 1831.

The small Jewish community in Montreal had met occasionally for worship in temporary quarters in a room on St. James Street until 1777, when the first synagogue building was erected on land belonging to David David, one of its earliest members, at the corner of St. James Street and Notre Dame Street.

In 1775, before the erection of the first synagogue building, a plot of land was purchased on St. Janvier Street, near the present site of Dominion Square (and which at that time was outside the boundaries of the town of Montreal). The plot of land was held in the name of Lazarus David, (father of David David), "to serve in perpetuity as a cemetery for individuals of the Jewish faith who may die in Montreal district." An additional adjoining plot was purchased by David David on August 31st, 1797, and the Deed of Purchase⁽²⁾ again declared that the land had been acquired to serve in perpetuity as a cemetery for the Jewish inhabitants of Montreal.

The Rev. Jacob Raphael Cohen served as Minister of the Congregation from 1778 to 1782, and he was succeeded by Hazan de Lara from 1782 to 1810. After the departure of Hazan de Lara in 1810, the congregation had no ordained minister until the appointment of the Rev. David Piza in 1840.

Following the death of David David in 1824 the land upon which the first synagogue building stood became the property of his heirs. The synagogue building was demolished, and until a new synagogue building was erected in 1838 at the corner of Chenneville and Lagauchetiere Street the Congregation met occasionally for worship in a building adjoining the home of Benjamin Hart, situated at the corner of St. Helen and Recollet Streets, near Notre Dame Street.

The "Act to Extend Certain Privileges to Persons Professing the Jewish Religion" which was passed on March 14th, 1829, followed the submission of a petition submitted to the Legislature of Lower Canada on December 4th, 1828 by a number of Jewish residents of Montreal. The text of this petition which was published originally in the Journal of the Legislature of Lower Canada on December 4th, 1828, is transcribed on pages 5 & 6 of the present issue of "Canadian Jewish Archives."

1) Transcript of this Act will be found on pp.4-7 of "Canadian Jewish Archives" Vol. 1, No. 3.

2) Transcript of the Deed of Purchase will be found on pp.2 & 3 of "Canadian Jewish Archives" Vol. 1, No. 2. (Original document in the National Archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress.)

It is interesting to note that this petition lists as its first request the right to maintain a public register of Jewish births, marriages and deaths in the city of Montreal, since, in the words of the petition, "As persons of the Jewish Belief are increasing in the District of Montreal, and they are possessed of valuable real property in the province to which they are frequently adding by new acquisitions, they fear that the evils resulting from the want of authentic written evidence of births, marriages and deaths among them will be greatly aggravated to the detriment as well of themselves as of their fellow subjects ... and the engendering of controversies which may in numerous instances prove fatal to the titles of the other subjects of His Majesty derived from the petitioners or their descendants."

The petitioners also requested incorporation as a religious body capable of holding land as a cemetery, the right to possess sufficient land for the erection of a place of worship and a habitation for a minister of their religion.

It will be seen from the text of the Act of 1829 which will be found on pages 4 to 7 of "Canadian Jewish Archives" Vol. 1, No. 3, that these requests were granted. It will be noted however, that the Act provided for the establishment of only one Jewish congregation in each of the districts of Montreal, Quebec, and Three Rivers. The Prothonotaries of the Court of King's Bench in each of these districts were instructed to maintain a register in which Jews may inscribe their names, ages, vocations and place of residence after declaring on oath that they were British subjects of the full age of 21 years and of the Jewish faith. As soon as at least fifteen such persons in each of these districts were thus registered, any Justice of the Court could upon receipt of a petition of seven persons so registered, call a public meeting of all Jews registered in that district, and name a Justice of the Peace to preside at such meeting at which five trustees of the congregation should be elected, who in turn should then elect from among themselves a chairman, secretary and treasurer. The Justice of the Peace was instructed to report the results of the election to the Prothonotary, who would record the names of the persons elected in his register.

It is evident from these provisions in the Act that participation in the election of officers of the Congregation was limited to Jews who were British subjects, and such election meetings were to be called and held under the supervision of a Justice of the Peace. We have been unable to find any evidence as to whether this restriction of voting rights in the congregation was included at the request of the original petitioners, or was included upon the insistence of the Legislature. The text of the original petitioners makes no request for such restriction.

The search for the original Prothonotary's Register of Jews mentioned in this Act was a difficult one, as it had not been in use since 1889, and we are indebted to Mr. Jean Jacques Lefebvre, Chief Archivist of the Superior Court of Montreal, whose co-operation and assistance made it possible to find it. This Prothonotary's Register is of great interest, since it not only includes the reports of all election meetings of the congregation from 1832 to 1850, and several disputed election meetings in 1889, but also contains the signatures, occupations, ages and place of residence of all Jews who signed the register in the years from 1832 to 1889.

The verbatim transcript of this register, together with facsimile reproductions of the pages containing these signatures are included in the present issue of "Canadian Jewish Archives."

There is nothing in the first "Act to Extend Certain Privileges to Persons Professing the Jewish Religion" which specifically mentions the Shearith Israel or Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, but since that congregation was the only one already in existence in Montreal in 1831 at the time the Act came into force, and since the Act provided for only one Jewish congregation in Montreal, it became the only one in Montreal which could benefit from its provisions, and which was governed by its conditions.

Although it had always followed the Sephardic or Spanish and Portuguese form of ritual, it would appear that all its members at the time it was first founded in 1768, were of Ashkenazic origin, and at the time the Act became operative in 1831 almost all of its members were Canadian born, the sons of the early Jewish settlers in Canada.

Some of the newer members who settled in Montreal in the period between 1831 and 1846 did not feel at home in the Sephardic pronunciation of Hebrew and form of prayer. Most of these newer residents were comparatively recent immigrants to Canada from England, Germany and Poland, and attempts were made to establish another congregation which would follow the Ashkenazic or English, German and Polish Minhag. By 1846 these were sufficiently numerous to form a separate congregation which followed the Ashkenazic minhag, and met occasionally in a rented room.

This resulted in the passing on the 9th June, 1846 of an "Act to Amend the Act of Lower Canada Extending Certain Privileges to Persons of the Jewish Persuasion." A transcript of this amending Act will be found on pages 30 and 31 of the present issue of "Canadian Jewish Archives."

This Act stated that the previous Act had proved insufficient for its intended purposes, and specifically mentioned the existence in Montreal of two congregations, the Congregation of Portuguese Jews of Montreal and the Congregation of German and Polish Jews of Montreal.

It incorporated both of these congregations as separate corporate bodies, with powers to hold necessary property, to call their own election meetings, appoint their own Rabbis, and maintain their own registers of births, marriages and deaths, and it repealed any provisions of the previous Act which were inconsistent with the newly amended Act.

The Act of 1846 and all subsequent Acts incorporating Jewish congregations in the Province of Quebec, unlike the first Act of 1829, contain no restrictive provision limiting the right to elect the Trustees of the congregation to "British Subjects professing the Jewish religion, and above the age of 21 years" who had made an oath to that effect before the Prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench, and had signed the Prothonotary's Register.

The Jewish population of Montreal had increased from 181 in 1851 to 814 in 1881, largely as a result of increased immigration from Eastern Europe in the decade from 1871 to 1881, and grew still more rapidly to 2,473 in 1891 because of the influx of Jewish refugee immigrants from Russia in the 1880's. By 1881 there were sufficient Jews, largely from Germany and the United States, in Montreal to enable the establishment of a Reform congregation, and the Temple Emanu-El Congregation was incorporated by a separate Act on March 30th, 1883. The increase in the number of Jewish immigrants from Russia, Poland, Austria and Rouania after 1880 stimulated the growth of a greater number of smaller congregations in the years which followed.

In August 1889, as recorded in the Prothonotary's Register, transcribed on pages 7 to 42 of this issue of the "Canadian Jewish Archives," seven of the more recent Jewish immigrants attempted to secure incorporation as a congregation under the provisions of the first "Act to Extend Certain Privileges to Persons professing the Jewish Religion" of 1829. This attempt was opposed by members of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews and the Congregation of German and Polish Jews, and was at first rejected by the Judge of the Superior Court of Montreal. In 1890 the same group succeeded in securing the incorporation of a separate congregation named the B'nai Jacob Congregation with all the powers incidental to religious congregations, and exempting its members from registering themselves in the Prothonotary's Register. The transcript of this Act will be found on pages 46 and 47 of the present issue.

May 9, 1962

L. ROSENBERG.

The meanings of the capital letters which appear after some of the names in the documents transcribed in this issue are as follows:-

P.K.B. - Prothonotary, Court of King's Bench
J.K.B. - Judge, Court of King's Bench
J.P. - Justice of the Peace

(1)

- 2) Petition of Jews of Montreal for the right to maintain registers of births, deaths and marriages, and to hold sufficient land to erect thereon a place of worship, and a habitation for a minister of their religion.

9 Geo. IV, 4th December, 1828:

A Petition of certain Israelites of the District of Montreal whose names are thereunto subscribed was presented to the House by Mr. Solicitor General and the same was received and read; setting forth: That the Petitioners possessing the Jewish Faith are, by the present laws of the Province of Lower Canada deprived of the benefits of Public Registers to record the Births, Marriages and Deaths which occur among them, by reason whereof not only are they themselves from the uncertainty and difficulty attending verbal evidence of such facts, exposed to great and serious inconvenience and loss, but the interests of their fellow subjects of other religious denominations are much endangered: That as the persons of the Jewish Belief are increasing in the District of Montreal, and that they are possessed of valuable real property in the Province to which they are frequently adding by new acquisitions, they fear that the evils resulting from the want of authentic written evidence of Births, Marriages and Deaths among them will be greatly aggravated to the detriment as well of themselves as of their fellow subjects. That the persons who profess the Jewish Faith being by the law of the Empire entitled to hold real estate by title from the Crown or the Subject, in the Colonies and by that circumstance placed in a relation towards the rest of the Society differing in some particulars from that in which their Brethren residing in Great Britain and Ireland are situated; they humbly represent to the House that the establishment of some public record for the more certain and durable proof of the Births, Marriages and Deaths occurring among those of the Jewish Faith in the District of Montreal is necessarily demanded for the welfare of the community at large as a measure calculated to obviate the many difficulties which may in future arise on the subject of the descent and inheritance of lots and other property among the Israelites resident in this Province, and the engendering of controversies which may in numerous instances prove fatal to the titles of the other subjects of His Majesty derived from the Petitioners or their descendants; That the Petitioners having no religious corporate body

(1) Transcript from the Journals of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada, Vol. 38, p. 84, dated December 4th, 1828.

are incapable of holding land in this Province as a place of interment for their deceased relations and friends and that the piece of ground in the City of Montreal appropriated for that use for three generations during which the Petitioners and their ancestors have been settled in this Province, being for want of a Corporation vested in individuals, no certainty is felt by the Petitioners that the remains of their deceased relatives and friends will continue undisturbed, a state of insecurity which the Petitioners, from the peculiar tenets of their religion, and usages of their race, cannot contemplate without a degree of horror destructive of their comforts and happiness: That the Petitioners are desirous of being enabled to hold through the medium of incorporation, besides a place of burial for their dead, sufficient extent of land in the said City of Montreal, or its vicinity, upon which they may erect a building for the Celebration of their Religious Worship, and a fit habitation for a Minister of their persuasion. That in order to obtain these advantages, so essential to the happiness and prosperity of the Petitioners and their descendants, they are compelled to have recourse to the House. And they therefore pray that a Law may be passed in Parliament granting to the Petitioners and others of the same persuasion, in the District of Montreal, the benefit of Public Registers for recording Births, Marriages and Deaths, and enabling them by Trustees, or otherwise, to hold land for a place of burial, and for the erection of a place of Worship, and of a habitation for a Minister of their religion, the whole under such regulations and conditions, and in such manner as to the Parliament of this Province in its wisdom may seem meet.

On Motion of Mr. Solicitor General, seconded by Mr. Leslie,

Ordered, That the said Petition be referred to a Committee of five Members, to examine the contents thereof and to report thereon with all convenient speed, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Ordered, That Mr. Solicitor General, Mr. Stuart, Mr. Quesnel, Mr. Ouvillier and Mr. Neilson do compose the said Committee.

COPY OF THE REGISTER OF BRITISH SUBJECTS PROFESSING THE JEWISH RELIGION, ABOVE THE AGE OF 21 YEARS, KEPT BY THE PROTHONOTARY OF THE SUPERIOR COURT IN MONTREAL BY VIRTUE OF PROVINCIAL STATUTES 9 & 10, GEORGE IV, CHAPTER 75. (Original in the Archives of the Superior Court of Montreal.)

Register to remain of Record in the Prothonotaries' Office for the District of Montreal wherein persons residing in the said District being British Subjects and professing the Jewish Religion, being above the age of twenty one years, may under and by virtue of the Provincial Statute 9 & 10 George IV Chapter 75 inscribe their names, ages, additions (vocations) and place of residence.

Frank & Morrogh
P.K.B. (Prothonotaries King's Bench)

Oath to be taken in conformity with the said Statute.

I A. B. do swear that I believe myself of the full age of twenty one years and that I am a British subject professing the Jewish faith.

(Sept. 11, 1832)

1.	Henry Joseph Senior	55 years	Merchant	Berthier
2.	Alexr. Hart	48 years	Gentleman	Montreal
3.	Benjamin Hart	51 years	Merchant	Ditto
4.	Isaac Valentine	43 years	Gentleman	Montreal
5.	M. J. Hays	32 years	Gentleman	Do.
6.	H. Solomon	42 "	Furrier	Do.
7.	M. Davis	28 "	Do	Do.
8.	Samuel Davis	40 "	Do	Do
9.	M. Hart	62 "	Merchant	Do
10.	Esdaile P. Cohen	32 "	Merchant	Do
11.	Jacob Jacobs	33 "	Merchant	Do
12.	Isaac Aaron	39 "	Merchant	Montreal
13.	Samuel Joseph	29 "	Merchant	Berthier
14.	E. D. David	21 "	Student at law	Montreal
15.	A. P. Hart	21 & over	Advocate	-
16.	A. H. David	25	Physician	
17.	Jacob H. Joseph	22	Merchant	
18.	Samuel Hart	21	do.	
19.	Theodore Hart	21	do.	
20.	Henry Bernstein	47 years	Teacher	Montreal
21.	Moses Samuel David	81 years	Gentleman	"
22.	David Piza	22 years	Minister	"
(1839) 23.	Jesse Joseph	22 years	Merchant	Montreal
24.	Myer Solomons	23 years	Student	Montreal
25.	Lewis Lyons	42 years	Merchant	Montreal
26.	Lambert A. Phillips	37 years	Merchant	Montreal
27.	ג'יט פאָל (Itzic David)	31 years	Trader	Montreal

Province of Lower Canada
District of Montreal.

To the Honourable the Chief Justice and the
Justices of His Majesty's Court of King's
Bench of and for the District of Montreal.

The Petition of Benjamin Hart of the City of Montreal in the District aforesaid, Esquire, Alexander Hart of the parish of Montreal in the District aforesaid, Moses Judah Hayes in the City of Montreal, aforesaid, Esquire, Isaac Valentine of the same place, Esquire, Isaac Aaron of the same place, Gentleman, Aaron Philip of the same place, Esquire, and Eleazar David David of the same place, Esquire

Respectfully sheweth

That in pursuance of an Act passed in the ninth and tenth years of the Reign of his late Majesty George the Fourth, Cap. 75 entitled 'An Act to extend certain privileges therein mentioned to persons professing the Jewish Religion and for the obviating certain inconveniences to which other of his Majesty's subjects might be exposed' the Prothonotaries of the said District of Montreal did, immediately after the passing of the said Act open and keep a Register to remain of record, wherein any person residing in the said District, being a British subject professing the Jewish Religion and above the age of twenty one years might inscribe his name, age, addition and place of residence after oath by him made before the said prothonotary, that he believed himself to be of the full age of twenty one years, that he was a British subject and professing the Jewish Religion.

That in and by the said Act, it was amongst other things enacted That, when and so soon as fifteen persons should have been so enregistered, it should and might be lawful for any Justice of the Court of King's Bench upon Petition to that Effect made by seven persons so enregistered in his District to convene a public meeting of all persons so enregistered within his district, to be held in the chief City or Town thereof and at such place therein, and at such time as the said Justices shall deem it advisable to appoint and to name some Justice of the Peace for the said District to preside at such meeting and to make his return of the proceedings thereat to the prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench for the said District.

Provided that the day on which such meeting be held shall not be more than sixty nor less than thirty days after the said petition shall have been presented and that due notice of such meeting shall be given by inserting of such notice during two weeks in such public newspaper as the said Justices may appoint.

That in pursuance of the Act aforesaid, fifteen persons, residing in the said District of Montreal being British subjects professing the Jewish faith and above the age of Twenty one Years have inscribed their names, ages and additions and places of residence in the Register so kept as above mentioned by the prothonotary of the said District of Montreal, after oath by each of them individually made before the said prothonotary that he believed himself to be of the full age of twenty one years and that he was a British subject professing the

Jewish Faith as appears by the certificate of the said prothonotary bearing date the eleventh day of September instant. That your Petitioners are certain of the number so enregistered as aforesaid.

Wherefore, they pray that Your Honors or one of Your Honors will be pleased to convene a public meeting of all persons so enregistered in this district of Montreal to be held in the City of Montreal at such place therein and at such time as your Honor or one of your Honors may deem it advisable to appoint; and that your Honors or one of your Honors will be pleased to name some Justice of the Peace for the said district to proceed at such meeting and to make his return of the proceedings thereat to the prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench of this district, and you will do justice.

Montreal 11 September 1832

Signed Alexander Hart
" M. J. Hays
" Isaac Valentine
" Isaac Aarons
" B. Hart
" A. P. Hart
" E. D. David

.....

District of Montreal

By virtue of the Provincial Statute made and passed in the ninth and tenth year of the Reign of his late Majesty George IV entitled "An Act to extend certain privileges therein mentioned to persons professing the Jewish Religion and for the obviating certain inconveniences to which others of His Majesty's subjects might be exposed" and upon petition of Benjamin Hart, Alexander Hart, Moses Judah Hays, Isaac Valentine, Isaac Aaron, Aaron Philip Hart and Eleazar David David being seven of the persons professing the Jewish Religion whose names with others to the number of fifteen are inscribed in the register kept by the Prothonotary in the Court of King's Bench for this district in conformity to the said statute, I the undersigned, one of His Majesty's Justices in the said Court of King's Bench do order that a public meeting of the said persons so professing the Jewish Religion and whose names are so inscribed be held at the court house at the City of Montreal; on the 15th day of October next, and that being assembled the said persons do then and there proceed to the election of five trustees as authorized and directed by and for the several purposes mentioned in the said statute. And I do further order Austin Cuvillier Esquire, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said District to preside at the said meeting and that he do return the proceedings thereof into the office of the Prothonotaries of the said Court of King's Bench for the District of Montreal there to remain of record and further that the present order be inserted during two weeks in the Montreal Gazette published in this city.

Given under my hand at the City of Montreal this twelfth day of September in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Two in the third year of His Majesty's Reign.

Signed George Pyke
J.K.B.

Province of Lower Canada)
District of Montreal)

To the Honourable the Chief Justice
and Justices of Her Majesty's Court
of King's Bench of and for the District
of Montreal

The petition of Isaac Valentine, Moses Judah Hays, Aaron Philip Hart, Jacob Henry Joseph, Aaron Hart David, Samuel Hart, and Eleazar David David, all of the City and District of Montreal, Esquires.

Respectfully sheweth. That under and by virtue of an order made by the Honourable George Pyke on the 12th day of September, One Thousand eight hundred and thirty two a public meeting of persons professing the Jewish faith and whose names were inscribed on the Register kept for that purpose by the Prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench in conformity to the statute in that case made and provided was held at the Court House in this City on the 12th day of October, One Thousand eight hundred and thirty two, at which meeting five persons to wit: the said Isaac Valentine, Moses Judah Hays, Benjamin Hart, Henry Solomon and Isaac Aaron all of Montreal were by a majority of voters duly elected Trustees of the Jewish Congregation for the purpose of the said statute.

That by the said statute it is expressly enacted that no Trustee shall remain in office longer than five years.

That five years having now nearly elapsed it has become necessary to name five other persons to act as Trustees as aforesaid for five years to be computed from the 12th day of October now next, Wherefore your petitioners pray that Your Honors or one of Your Honors will be pleased to convene a public meeting of persons so enregistered as aforesaid in the District of Montreal at such time and place as Your Honors may appoint for the purposes aforesaid. And you will do justice.

Montreal, 6th September 1837

Signed	Isaac Valentine
"	M. J. Hays
"	A. H. David
"	A. P. Hart
"	Samuel Hart
"	J. H. Joseph
"	E. D. David

District of Montreal

By virtue of the Provincial Statute on the above made and provided I do order that a public meeting of persons professing the Jewish faith and whose names are inscribed in the Register kept by the Prothonotary of the Court of King's Bench for this District, in conformity to the said statute be held at the office of the Montreal Water Works on Tuesday the tenth day of October next at the hour of two of the clock in the forenoon, then and there to proceed to the election of five Trustees as directed by the said Act for the several purposes therein mentioned.

Montreal, 6th September, 1837
Signed George Pyke J.K.B.

District of Montreal -- Province of Lower Canada

At a meeting of persons professing the Jewish faith whose names are registered in the Register kept for that purpose by the Prothonotaries of this District, held at the office of the Montreal Water Works Company, pursuant to orders in that above granted by the Honbl. George Pyke, one of the Justices of her Majesty's Court of King's Bench of and for the District of Montreal in virtue of the statute, in that case made and provided and duly published in the Montreal Gazette, held this day,

Present	L. Valentine Esquire	Chairman
"	B. Hart	"
"	M. J. Hays	"
"	A. P. Hart	"
"	J. H. Joseph	"
"	Samuel Hart	"
"	Theodore Hart	"
"	Aaron H. David	"
"	Henry Bernstein	"
"	E. D. David	"

Isaac Valentine Esqr. Chairman of the Trustees formerly elected in the chair.

Mr. E. D. David was requested to act as Secretary.

The business of the meeting having been stated by the Chairman the persons present proceeded to vote for the election of 5 Trustees for the ensuing five years, when the following Gentlemen were declared duly elected, they having a majority of votes, that is to say Moses Judah Hays of Montreal Esqr. Isaac Valentine of Montreal Esqr. Benjamin Hart of Montreal Merchant, Jacob H. Joseph of Montreal Merchant, Aaron H. David of Montreal Physician.

I certify the above to be a correct return of the proceedings had at the meeting held pursuant of the said order this 10th day of October, 1837.

Signed Isaac Valentine (Chairman)
Montreal, 10 October 1837

Montreal King's Bench

To the Honorable the Justices of the Court of King's Bench
for the District of Montreal

The Petition of the undersigned duly registered members of the Jewish persuasion, residing in the said District of Montreal

Respectfully sheweth.

That Benjamin Hart Esquire, of the City of Montreal and Aaron Hart David Esquire late of Montreal aforesaid, Trustees of the Jewish persuasion elected at a meeting of the members of the said persuasion held under and by virtue of the statute in such case provided have resigned their said office of Trustees aforesaid, and that it becomes necessary to call a meeting according to the requirement of the law of the members professing the said Religion registered in the said District for the purpose of supplying the said vacancies.

Wherefore Your Petitioners pray that Your Honors or one of you will be pleased to convene a public meeting of all persons registered according to the requirements of the statute in such case provided, to be held in the City of Montreal at such time and place therein as Your Honors or one of you shall deem it advisable for the purpose of appointing two Trustees in the place and stead of the said Benjamin Hart and Aaron Hart David Esquires, resigned.

Montreal, 14 June 1840

Signed B. Hart
" Theodore Hart
" M. J. Hays
" Isaac Valentine
" J. H. Joseph
" Samuel Hart
" Jesse Joseph

.....

Let a public meeting of all persons professing the Jewish Religion and being duly registered as requested by the said statute to be convened for the purpose of appointing two Trustees as above provided for, and let the said meeting be held at the Jewish Synagogue in the City of Montreal on the 31st day of July next at the hour of 10 of the clock in the forenoon of that day and let due notice of such meeting be given by inserting the same during two weeks in the Montreal Gazette published in the said City of Montreal.

(Signed) Saml. Gale J.K.B.

.....

Montreal 31st July 1840

At a meeting of the registered members of the Jewish persuasion duly convened this day at the Synagogue by an order of one of the Justices of Her Majesty's Court of King's Bench for the election of two Trustees in the place of Benjamin Hart & A.H. David Esqr. resigned, the following persons were duly elected Trustees

Samuel Hart
Theodore Hart

The meeting then adjourned, there being no further business, after which at a meeting of the Trustees for election of a President and Secretary, Isaac Valentine was elected President and Saml. Hart Secretary.

(Signed) Isaac Valentine President
Samuel Hart Secretary

Province of Lower Canada
District of Montreal

To wit

We the undersigned joint prothonotary of Her Majesty's Court of King's Bench of and for the District of Montreal, do hereby certify that under the provisions of the Statute 9th and 10th, George 4th, C. 75, fifteen persons professing the Jewish faith being of the Age of Majority and being duly enregistered according to the provisions of the said Statute did at a Meeting held at the said City of Montreal convened by the Honourable George Pyke Esquire, senior puisne Justice of the said Court of King's Bench on the 10th day of October, One Thousand eight hundred and thirty seven; after the publication and notice required by law at which Austin Cuvillier Esquire, one of the Justices assigned to keep the peace in and for the said District appointed by the said Honourable George Pyke Esquire to preside at the said meeting did then and there proceed to the election of five persons as Trustees, that is to say;

Moses Judah Hays of Montreal Esquire
Isaac Valentine of Montreal Esquire
Benjamin Hart of Montreal Merchant
Aaron H. David of Montreal Physician
Jacob H. Joseph of Montreal Merchant

As appears by the return of proceedings of the said meeting to us made by the said Austin Cuvillier Esquire.

And further we certify that afterwards, to wit: on the 31st day of July One Thousand eight hundred and forty at the said City of Montreal at another meeting of the persons so enregistered the following persons were elected Trustees in lieu of Benjamin Hart and A. H. David M.D. Esquire, absentees, who with the three on the other side named are still in office, as appeared by the return of Isaac Valentine Esquire the latest Trustee who presided at the said meeting to us made, to wit: Samuel Hart of Montreal Merchant, Theodore Hart of Montreal Merchant.

And we further certify that David Piza, has duly enregistered his name, age and profession as Minister in our Register as by law required.

Given under our hand and seal this 22nd day of September One Thousand eight hundred and forty.

Province of
Lower Canada

His Excellency the Right Honourable Charles Baron Sydenham of Sydenham in the County of Kent and of Toronto in Canada, Governor General of British North America and Captain General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the Province of Lower Canada and Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice Admiral of the same

(Signed) Sydenham

To the Judges, Justices, Officers and Ministers of Justice and all others whom it may concern in the said Province, greetings.

Whereas David Piza of the City of Montreal in the District of Montreal in the said Province, Minister of the Jewish Religion acting as such in the said District of Montreal hath by his petition submitted by the Chairman and Trustees chosen and appointed under and by virtue of the Act of the Legislature of the said Province passed in the 10th and 11th year of the Reign of His Majesty King George IV intituled "An Act to extend certain privileges therein mentioned to persons professing the Jewish Religion and for the obviating certain inconveniences to which others of His Majesty's subjects might otherwise be exposed" prayed that I would grant him a Licence under my hand and seal authorizing and empowering him the said David Piza to have and keep Registers of all births, marriages and burials of the said District of Montreal to be recorded or performed by him as such Minister according to the law of the said Province and the said Act of the Legislature above mentioned.

And whereas it seems fit that the prayer of the said petition should be granted, Know Ye, that I the said Charles Baron Sydenham of Sydenham &c &c &c do by these presents in virtue of the powers in me vested by the above mentioned Act of the Legislature of the said Province licence and authorize the said David Piza being such Minister as aforesaid to have and keep Registers of births, marriages and burials within the district of Montreal conformably to the provisions and requirements of the said Act above mentioned and according to other the statutes and laws of the said Province.

Given under my hand and seal at arms at the Government House in the City of Montreal in the said Province of Lower Canada, the 25th day of January in the year of our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and forty one and in the fourth year of Her Majesty's Reign

By His Majesty's command

Signed D. Daily
Secy.

Ednorsed instrument under the seal of arms granting a licence to David Piza Minister of the Jewish Religion to keep Registers &c &c &c.

Fiat

Recorded in the Register office of the records at Quebec the 27th day of January 1841 in the 16th Register of laws patent and commissions &c.

Signed D. Daily
Sec. & Regr.

(1829) Register to remain of Records in the
Prothonotaries Office for the District of Montreal wherein
persons residing in the said District being British subjects
and professing the Jewish Religion, being above the age of
twenty-one Years, may, under and by Virtue of the Provincial
Statute 9 & 10 George III. chapter 75. inscribe their names, ages,
additions and places of residence.

Shonk & Shonk
Per.

Oath to be taken in conformity with the said Statute.

I A.B. do swear that I believe myself to be of the full age of
twenty-one years and that I am a British subject professing the
Jewish faith, -

1	Henry Joseph Senior	55 years	Merchant	West Hill
2	Abraham Hart	48 years	Gentleman	Montreal
3	Benjamin Hunt	51 years	Merchant	do
4	Isaac Valentine	40 years	Gentleman	Montreal
5	M. Hays	32 years	Gentleman	do
6	El Solomon	40	Farrier	do
7	M. Davis	28	do	do
8	Samuel Davis	40	do	do
9	Isaac Hart	62	Merchant	do
10	Esdaile P. Cohen	32	Merchant	do
11	Isaac Jacob	33	Merchant	Montreal
12	Isaac Aaron	39	Merchant	Montreal
13	Isaac Joseph	28	Merchant	Montreal
14	Isaac David	21	Student at Law	Montreal
15	Isaac Hart	21 and over	Advocate	do
16	Isaac Davis	25	Physician	do
17	Isaac Joseph	22	Merchant	do
18	Isaac Hart	21	do	do
19	Isaac Hart	21	do	do

20	Henry Bernstein	47 years	Teacher Montreal
21	Moses Samuel David	21 years	Gentleman - "
22	David Bira	22 years	Minister "
23	Levi Joseph	22 years	Merchant Montreal
24	Moses Scheraga	23 years	Student Montreal
25	Levi Lorne	42 years	Merchant Montreal
26	Samuel H. Phillips	37 years	Merchant Montreal
27	David 23.5	31 years	Teacher Montreal

Province of Lower Canada (with page 13)
 District of Montreal

11 Sept 1852

To the Honorable the Chief Justice and the Justices of His Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench, of and for the District of Montreal

The petition of Benjamin Stark of the City of Montreal, in the District of Lower Canada, Esquire, Alexander Stark of the Parish of Montreal in the District of Lower Canada, Esquire, Moses Judah Stark of the City of Montreal aforesaid, Esquire, Isaac Valentine of the same place, Esquire, Isaac Aaron of the same place Gentleman, Isaac Joseph Stark of the same place Esquire, and Elizabeth David David of the same place Esquire

Respectfully sheweth

That in pursuance of an Act passed in the ninth and tenth^{cap. 75} years of the Reign of His Late Majesty George the Fourth, entitled "An Act to extend certain privileges therein mentioned to persons professing the Jewish Religion and for the obviating certain inconveniences to which other of His Majesty's Subjects might be exposed" the Provisionaries of the said District of Montreal, did, immediately after the passing of the said Act open and keep a Register to remain of record, wherein any person residing in the said District being a British Subject professing the Jewish Religion and above the age of twenty one years might enrol his name age address and place of residence after a copy by him made upon the said Provisionaries that he

28	Aaron I. Solomon	23 years	Gentleman Montreal
29	At. Clatter	Jurist 26	Montreal
30	Solomon Isaac	25 years	Gentleman Montreal
31	Samuel B. Benjamin	29	Merchant Montreal
32	P. Solomon	42	Merchant Montreal
33	Mr. Moses	32	Merchandise "
34	Abraham Prince	32	Physician Montreal
35	H. C. Smith	24	Gentleman "
36	William Benjamin	26	Merchant Montreal
37	Isaac Langinetti	31	Merchant Montreal
38	Mr. Kelly	21	Student at Law "
39	Joseph	21	Student at Law
40	David W. P.	20	Merchant Montreal
41	B. Hart	22	Gentleman Montreal
42	Barnett Harris	32	Merchant Sailor
43	Abraham Lyons	23	"
44	Edward P.	24	"
45	Lawrence Lips	28	Merchant Montreal
46	Thomas H. Reary	22	Dyer
47	J. Joseph	42	Merchant do
48	Alexander Lay	31	Merchant do
49	Adolphus, M. Hart	29	Advocate Montreal
50	John Levey	31	Tobacconist Montreal
51	Doltschick Isaac Ascher	42	Merchant 200 St. Paul St.
52	Simon Hart	28	Printer, Laig St.
53	Wolf M.	29	Spillar Montreal
54	Salomon Fink	28	Jeweller Montreal
55	Goodman Dymally	30	Merchant Montreal
56	Joseph Lyons	22	Clerk Montreal
57	J. Brest	37	Printer do
58	Abraham de Sola	24	Minister do
59	Edwin Harris	34	Printer Montreal
60	Isaac Samuel	25	Merchant "

Name	Age	Profession	Residence
Edward S. Harris	39	Merchant Tailor	Notre Dame p. Montm.
Wolf Sternberg	50	Leiner, Clothier	Montreal
Salomon Silverman	48	Jeweller	Notre Dame Montreal
Nathan Samuels	34	Cap Manufacturer	Notre Dame Montreal
J. M. Anthony	37	Confectioner	Monterey
Louis Anthony	33	Clothier	Mc Gill St
Benjamin W. Wang	33	Tobacconist	Montreal crabtree street
John Paul Hoffmann	25	Jeweller	Notre Dame St. Montreal
Alfred Wolf	25	Jeweller	Notre Dame St. Montreal
Abraham Levy	29	Cigar Manufg	Montreal
Humphrey A. Michael	26	Carolo	Montreal
Raphael Kortok	33	Merchant	Montreal
Mayer Kortok	27	Merchant	Montreal
Marcus Allendorff	48	Merchant	Montreal
Lewis Benjamin	25	Merchant	Montreal
Ignat Rubenstein	26	Silver Plater	Montreal
Isaac Levy	24	Letter	Montreal
La Hart	39	Merchant	Montreal
Meldola de Sola	21	Broker & Comm. Merchant	Montreal
Ryan Steinhilber	30	Jeweller	Montreal
Levi Abraham	34	Tobacconist	Montreal
Morris Feichtman	54	Wren	Montreal
Mittunberg	26	Merchant	Montreal
J. Amberg	23	Merchant	Montreal
W. B. Garcia	29	Merchant	Montreal
Israel Rubenstein	28	Silver & Plater	Montreal
Adolf Cohen	33	Merchant	Montreal
Gullian David	29	do	do

Name	Age	Profession	Residence
Joseph Moos	29	Merchant	Montreal
Jack E. Mott	31	"	"
Alfred D. Benjamin	28	"	"
Samuel Roman	36	Merchant	Montreal
James B. Freeman	34	144 furrier	Montreal
Henry Roman	34	Merchant	Montreal
Isaac Friedman	49	Merchant	Montreal
Julius Scherman	45	Trader	Montreal
Isaac J. Herschel	47	Merchant	Montreal
Moses Weinberg	30	Merchant	Montreal
Isaac Kinsberg	25	Merchant	Montreal
<p>I took the oath on the first page of this book written this day, before me, and declared he did not know how to write or sign his name Montreal 21st October 1880.</p> <p>Charles L. Tarnow Deputy P. M.</p>			
Lewis Mott	65	Comptroller	Montreal
A. Goldstein	47	Merchant	Montreal
Isaac Lawrence Mott	35	Merchant	Montreal
Servais Goldstein	23	Merchant	Montreal
Hyam David Mott	35	Merchant	Montreal
Isaac Kinsberg	31	Forman	Montreal
Simon Mott	31	Shatter & Furrier	Montreal
D. Goldstein	28	Forman	Montreal
Rev Hyman Goldberg	59	High	Montreal
Fidèle	32	Merchant	Montreal
Louis Lewis	25	Merchant	City
Wm. Scherman	35	Merchant	Montreal
A. Jacob	5	Merchant	Montreal

Name	age	Profession	Residence
Jacob Kahn	✓ 31	Trader	21 Chabouy ave
Baron Jeng	✓ 42	Trader	311 St. Joseph St.
J. Indez ^{Vineyard}	✓ 35	Trader	114 St. Joseph
Isaac Cohen	26	Trader	18 Chabouy ave
M. Blumenthal	✓ 45	Merchant	182 St. Lawrence
Lelee Davis	44	Manufacture of cigars	35 German St.
Solomon Reinson	✓ 30	Clothier	93 St. Joseph
Solomon Levy	34	Merchant	293 St. Louis
Carl Trester	35	Merchant	656 Place St.
Lawrence Isaac de Sola	25	Merchant	71 McGill Coll. Bldg.
Louis Davis	36	"	63 Victoria St.
Emile Abraham Hart	38	"	118 Durocher St.
David Linberg	✓ 29	"	411 St. Catherine
Casimir Gross	✓ 38	"	253 St. Hubert St.
Grata E. Hart	36	Lawman & Lawyer	118 Durocher St.
Henry J. Joseph	29	Merchant	12 Place D'Armes
Bershom de Sola	25	Book Keeper	71 McGill Coll. Bldg.
Abraham Rubenstein	30	Relief Plaster	537 1/2 Craig St.
Henry Joseph	31	Agent	16 St. Sacrament
Honore Joseph	29	Agent	16 St. Sacrament
Jesse Joseph Jr.	27	Merchant	20 St. Bonaventure
Michael Hirsch	23	Merchant	188 Montauk
Robert Hirsch	21	Clerk	90 St. Lawrence
C. B. Friedman	✓ 25	Merchant	25 Victoria
Isaac Friedman	21	Clerk	25 Victoria
David S. Friedman	✓ 23	Merchant	25 Victoria
Israel Weinberg	33	"	120 Scott Ave
Hyman Weiler	35	Jew	1996 Mt. Royal
Leber Phillips	33	Shoe Dealer	2063 St. John St.
Emanuel Simmons Belasco	26	Merchant	33 St. E. Coll. Bldg.
Alfred Belasco		Shoe Dealer	33 St. E. Coll. Bldg.

Name	Age	Profession	Residence (31)
Lewis A. Hart	39	Notary	1679 St. Catherine
Joseph Lockenthaler		Confessor	44 Rue St.
St. Dreyfus	37	byoutier	1689 St. Louis
Joseph Lockenthaler	42		9 St. Louis
Alexander Solomon	30	Merchant Taylor	84 St. Louis
Hyman Cohen	24	Merchant	407 Craig St.
M. Bilske	47	Merchant	153 St. Constant
S. Bilske	35	Merchant	234 Main St.
Moise Benoit	32	Trader	1403 Ontario Street
J. Davis	39	Merchant	29 Barabara Street
Sam. Myers	25		16 City Councilors St.
H. Kellert	43		1899 Notre Dame
H. Rutenberg	34	Saw Broker	601 Craig
L. Aronson	37		218 Main
M. Lightstone	34	Cap. Mack	692 Craig
J. Litsure	32	Trader	551 Craig
L. Zazarski	48	Trader	527 Craig
N. Goldstein	29	Trader	2332 Notre Dame
L. Shapiro	26	Merchant	1223 St. Catherine
H. Mohr	27	Grocer	156 St. Urbain
A. H. Halperin	28	Trader	207 St. Patrick
Hyman Jorjinsky	31	Jeweller	171 St. Lawrence
Airam Levy	35	Merchant	439 St. Paul
A. Blumenthal	29	Merchant	905 St. Lawrence
Le Harris Lubelski	42	Rel. Artist	44 Victoria St.
Adolphe Nielsen	42	Commerçant	189 St. Louis
Henry Penzance	60	Merchant	230 Stanley
Baron de Salas	66	Jeweller	71 St. J. College
L. Kellert	58	Gentleman	5 Hutchison
Gershon Solomon	52	Gentleman	Montreal
J. Greenberg	34	Agent	Montreal
B. Greenberg	56	Marshall	667 St. Louis
Joseph Benish	32	Merchant	2270 St. Louis
J. D. Ostrofsky	35	Cap. Manufacturer	7. St. Urbain St.
L. Bernon	24	Taylor	9. St. Bernard
J. Adler	25	Taylor	312. Sanguinet
P. Dobropolsky	35	Taylor	2 Blomgondlane
Sam. Bookman	35	Taylor	2333 St. Catherine