

Collection #
SC 1745

**BERNARD BAUM
RECOLLECTIONS, 1903**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: January 18 1903

PROVENANCE: Daniel E. Stone, San Francisco, California, September 18, 1980 (via Judy Endelman)

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Indiana Jewish Historical Society (M 0743)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1980.0943

NOTES: This forms part of the collection of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bernard Baum was born on November 7, 1822 in Simmern under Dhaun, Germany. He was married on May 15, 1850. In 1852, Bernard Baum was involved in a fight and faced the possibility of being charged with manslaughter or murder. As a result, he was forced to emigrate, leaving on May 15, 1852. Baum travelled to Havre, France where his wife and son, Philip, joined him. There they gained passage on a steerage ship bound for New York City.

After arriving in New York, Bernard and his family travelled by ship and railroad across the United States, ending up in Louisville, Kentucky. Along the way, they stayed in many Jewish boarding houses. Here, they met up with Baum's sister- and brother-in-law, Sarah and Samuel Rothchild. There, Baum worked as a travelling merchant. In 1854, Baum's wife bought out a small confectionary (with financing of Samuel Rothchild), which became Baum's first store.

In 1856, Baum and his family moved to Henderson, where he set up a dry goods store. After a few months of getting acquainted with the family, the people of Henderson became comfortable shopping at the store. Soon, Baum began selling items on credit, as almost all of the townspeople only got paid once a year (when they harvested their tobacco crops).

Around 1860–61, as tensions grew between the north and the south, Baum openly supported and voted for Abraham Lincoln. It became more difficult for southern merchants to get supplies for their stores from the suppliers in the East. Baum received a recommendation to the Provost Marshal at Evansville, Indiana, who was able to help him get the supplies he needed.

In 1863, Baum moved his family to Evansville in order to escape the danger that Civil War fighting presented. He kept the store in Henderson, opening another in Evansville. By 1868, Baum's daughter Carrie was engaged, and Philip had gone off to Harvard. Baum had three other children, a son, Morris, and two daughters, Dilie and Ella.

In 1873, business was bad and Baum sold his store in Henderson. On May 10 1888, Bernard and his wife moved to San Francisco, California. On October 6 1890, Baum's wife died. Afterwards, Baum spent much of his time travelling to visit his children and grandchildren. Baum's date of death is unknown.

Sources:

Information from the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is contained in 1 legal-sized manuscript folder, which contains a typed transcript titled "Recollection of Bernard Baum." This manuscript is written as a letter by Bernard Baum addressed to his children. Written from October 15 1902–January 18 1903, this letter covers all of the main events of Bernard Baum's life up to 1903.

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“Recollections of Bernard Baum,” 1903

CONTAINER

Folder 1

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 1745).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.