

Douglas County Kansas Genealogical Society, Complete Tombstone Census of Douglas County, Kansas, v. 2.  
 All Cemeteries and Burial Sites in Douglas County, excluding Oak Hill and Maple Grove in the City of Lawrence  
 (Lawrence: The Society, 1989), p. 191.

BENI ISRAEL - JEWISH CEMETERY  
 EUDORA TOWNSHIP

Owner: Trustees for Beni Israel Cemetery.

Legal Description: Beginning SE corner Section 7, Township 13 South, Range 21 East, then North 18 rods to stake, then West 18 rods to stake, then South 18 rods to stake, then East 18 rods to place of beginning, contain 2 Acres all in Douglas County, Kansas.

History: Located one mile West and one mile South of Eudora, Kansas and originally consisted of two acres, of which one half acre is now used for burial ground. The city of Eudora granted the acreage for cemetery purposes to the German Jewish community there — they were voted to have one of the ten lots destined to be used for a cemetery (from Eudora City council minutes Sept. 26, 1859).

This plot of ground was first purchased from Isidore Bernstein and wife, January 19th 1869, for the sum of ten dollars. The deed was made to Charles Levy, David Urbansky and Samuel Frischman as trustees.

According to the tombstones, the first to be buried here was a child of Mr. and Mrs. Asher L. Cohn named Isaac, in 1858. Asher L. Cohn was born in Prussia and was one of the first settlers, arriving in Eudora by covered wagon in 1854 — his wife Sarah and baby came by steamboat from St. Louis to Eudora. All three were laid to rest here. Another son, William died in 1915 at the age of 53 years and rests here with them. Asher Cohn was buried in 1890, his tombstone bears the insignia of the Masons. According to local records Mr. Cohn joined Lawrence Lodge No. 6 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas in 1885.

The cemetery is neatly fenced. The sign near the gate reads "Beni Israel" (Cemetery of the Children of Israel) "Founded 1858 restored by B'nai B'rith in 1952"

The Lawrence Jewish Community Center has been the legal owner since 1978, at that time the center's burial committee was considering policies to guide burials and govern the cemetery, and arranging for the sale of plots to Douglas County Jews who consider Kansas their home.

According to records, a child, A. Rafflelock was buried here in 1928, after which there were no more burials until 1980. The last was Emmy F. Herzfeld in 1983.

No stones found in 1987 for: A. Rafflelock

NOTE: Spelling of names will differ in translation.

Readable stones in 1987:

HERZFELD  
 Walter, June 27, 1895-June 20, 1980  
 Emmy F., Feb. 17, 1899-Nov. 29 1983

FISCHBEIN  
 Ludwig, Dec. 4, 1896-Feb. 22, 1981

EDWARDS  
 Aaron S., Nov. 4, 1904-Aug. 16 1906

URBANSKY  
 Aaron, Jan. 2, 1839-Oct. 30, 1904 - age 65 years (Mason)

URBANSKY  
 Ben, June 15, 1866-July 14, 1926

URBANSKY  
 Jennie wife of A., June 27, 1853-June 21, 1908

FRISHMAN  
 Mitchel Jan. 19, 1865-Jan. 26, 1915

LEIB  
 Abraham Zvi son of Yehudah, D: Jan. 19, 1866 (in Hebrew)

STIEFEL  
 Fritz W. 1874-1875

STEINBERG  
 Henriette, D: Oct. 27, 1874

COHN  
 The child Yitzhak (Isaac) son of Asher, D: Sept. 5, 1858 (Stone in Hebrew)

MATZENSTEIN  
 Elmer Ahren 1866-1867 (Name is in Hebrew)

LEVY  
 Emma 1870-1870

COHN  
 William, July 1, 1862-Nov. 7, 1915

KATZENSTEIN  
 Cohen, May 10, 1838-July 30, 1867 (In Hebrew)

FRISCHMAN  
 Samuel 1838-1872

URBANSKY  
 David 1814-1874

STIEFEL  
 August M. (N.F.D.) Old records have August, B: Nov. 23, 1844-D: May 31, 1887

COHN  
 Asher, B: in Loebau Prussia June 20, 1828-Feb. 28, 1890 (Mason)  
 Sarah-his wife, Mar. 20, 1832-Nov. 7, 1912 part in Hebrew

URBANSKY  
 In memory of Emma beloved wife of A., Nov. 23, 1844-May 31, 1887

NOTE: At least five stones are in Hebrew-thanks to Mr. Jacob Enoch for translating them for us.

URBANSKY  
 Sarah, D: Nov. 3, 1888 aged 87 years

HEBREW inscription.  
 Translation:  
 Elmer Ahren Matzenstein  
 1866-1867  
 (Photo: Don Vaughn)

