

Transcription: Arnie Collins

00:32:01: Hi I'm Arnie Collins I'm from the Jewish Historical Society. Today we're at tricenntial park. The park is the first park in the Wayne country area to be a state park and part of the marker was put up last year in 2007 commemorating the Jewish community coming to Detroit and also the contributions the Jews made to the Civil War. Chapman Abraham, the first Jew that came to the area was part of a group of five men. They were very active in trying to find ways to bring furs back to Montréal. They came 75 days from Montréal to get here and the route that they took was basically around the top. They went off the Ottawa River,, through the French river, lake Nipising, into lake Michigan and then came down. The person who lived here in Detroit in 1862 was Chapman Abraham, Abraham lived at the fort and had one very interesting happening he was coming out as he did every spring from Montréal and he got to

02:07:03: Question from Geri about date clarification

02:09:18 : Well if I didn't it should have been. Yeah, it should have been 1762. OK, he was coming out of Montréal and that point they had started to use the great lakes to travel and came through niagra, the portaged, they came through the lake and got to down to just the other side of the Detroit bridge and tunnel in an area called sandwich??. That point in time the English were on both sides of the river. When he came to the area, he knew something was the matter. What happened was a Pontiac's rebellion was going on. He went to a house and was invited in, leaving his goods at a family home by the name of St. Louis . Is this much too much information for what you want to do?

3:11:06: (Bob) is saying the info needs to be compressed.

3:23:09: The historical marker tells about two things important to the community. The first is Chapman Abraham and the second is a hundred years later and the Jews involvement in the civil war. It happened basically in this general area. Chapman being the first Jew to come in and live at the fort in Detroit and was basically involved in the fur trade. That was his motivation, religious to the point that he went back to Montréal in the fall and took part in the holidays and at one point was captured during the Pontiac rebellion. On the other side of the marker is a story about what happened to 150 Jewish families who in Michigan at the time of the civil war who provided 181 soldiers, 38 of those were killed so they were highly disproportional to the number of people they represented in terms of the entire community. That's basically the story of the plaque that's been introduced and given to us by the state of Michigan in 2007.

04:41:29: (Bob) saying needs to be compressed even further

5:23:26: We're in tricennial park, which was dedicated last year in 2007. the marker that was dedicated has two sides: Chapman Abraham

5:33:23 stopping again and told to re-do it

5:38:23- 6:15:02: We're standing in tricentennial park. The marker that you see in front of you was dedicated in 2007. it commemorates two things. Jews coming to Detroit, the first one being

Chapman Abraham who came here because of the fur industry. The other side is a story about Jews in the civil war. The significant point there is that there were 150 Jewish families lived in Mich at the time of the civil war. They provided 181 young men to fight in that war, 38 of them perished.

6:15:10: bob and Geri telling him to do it again

06:42:18- 07:33:29: we're standing in tricentennial park, next to a marker dedicated to Chapman Abraham and the Jews of the civil war. it was dedicated in 2007. its significance are that in 1762 Chapman Abraham came from Montréal to Detroit because of the fur industry he was interested in bringing furs back and trading merchandise for those goods because he had the mentality of a settler. The other side of the plaque dealing our Jews of the civil war commemorates what happened 100 years later. At that time there were 150 Jewish families living in Detroit or basically the Michigan area of which 181 went to war and 38 perished.

07:33:30- told to do it again.

07:43:00: We're standing in tricentennial park. The plaque you see before you commemorates Chapman Abraham who was a Jew by choice and was one of Detroit's... Start all over, OK

08:01:01- 08:29:26: We're standing in tricentennial park, the plaque that you see before you was dedicated last year and it talks about 2 things: Chapman Abraham and the Jews of the Civil war. Chapman Abraham in 1762 became Detroit's first Jewish resident . he came here to trade furs out of Montréal and would go back to Montréal every spring...

08:30:01: bob tells him to re-do from a different angle

08:50:26- 09:20:25: In 1861 at the start of the civil war the Jews of Detroit were very patriotic and they wanted to part of what was going on. As a result of that they along with the other Jews who lived in Michigan, 150 families, provided 181 soldiers, 38 of those soldiers perished. They fought in 44 units and covered the entire war from beginning to end.

09:20:27: Geri telling him something

9:29:09 – 10:24:04: The Jews in this area were basically German Jews. One of the reasons they fought so well was that they had felt the prejudices coming out of Germany. They understood what was going on. The average Jew that did fight was only in the country for 10 years or less. Those Jews fought on the Michigan 24th which was a famous group that worked at the battle of Gettysburg. The Michigan 5th which was repeated to have fought the fiercest and the best saber battle and sword battle of the entire civil war. they also were involved in carrying Lincoln at his funeral.

10:24:04: Bob giving him directions on what to say

10:50:27- 11:06:04: this side of the plaque commemorates the Jews of the civil war. there were 150 Jewish families that lived in MI. they provided 181 young men for the war, 38 of those men died.

12:33:25- 12:39:03: The Jews of Detroit of the 1850s were already a compassionate people

12:47:17- 12:58:17: The Jews of Detroit of the 1850s and 1860s were already a compassionate people... The was a rabbi from temple, Emmanuel. Let's start all over...

13:02:28: The Jews of Detroit were already compassionate people in the 1850s and 1860s. Rabbi Levi ____ of temple bethel asked his congregation to take part in the Underground Railroad and the Jews did take part. (starting over!!)

13:51:00: this statue by Edward Dwight of the Underground Railroad shows the Jews as a compassionate people ...

14:06:17: this statue by Edward Dwight of the Underground Railroad shows the Jews as a compassionate people. They were involved by providing them clothing and moving the slaves across the river and they were involved in finding funds to make the whole process work

14:40:24: this statue of the Underground Railroad by Edward Dwight shows the Jews as compassionate people. The family hyneman was mentioned on the statue, he was a clothing manufacturer and made uniforms for the civil war. he also clothed people and brought them to the river where a policeman by the name of slew man brought them across to Canada. There was also a gentleman by the name of cantor who helped in the process as well.

15:20:13: This statue

15:30:19: This statue shows....

15:36:18: this statue of the Underground Railroad shows the Jews as a compassionate people. The Jews aided the Underground Railroad as they brought people to the river and clothed them

16:10:16: This statue

16:15:19: this statue of the Underground Railroad by Edward Dwight shows the Jews as a compassionate people. There are names listed on here. They helped clothe the people and helped bring them to the river and they helped them get into Canada to free slavery

17:30:17: Jews were a religious people. We're in the middle of a construction site today but this was where the first Jewish service was held in a home. Homes were typically used in communities all areas of the world. The first place before synagogues was built was always a home. The bethel society was an orthodox group. When it became reformed it then split off kitty-corner of the location where we stand now is where sheritizedic?? actually started

30:00:11: Today we're in the center of development in downtown Detroit near the blue cross building. In 1850 this was the site of the first religious service held with the Beth el society

30:58:23: Jews remembered their own

31:23:09: The Jews remembered their own people. In 1850, the Beth el society purchased this plot of land, which is 150 x 150, which is the first cemetery and oldest Jewish cemetery in Michigan

32:13:08: In 1854, rabbi Samuel Marcus was buried here. He was the temple Beth el rabbi. He was a victim of the cholera epidemic of that time. Church bells usually rang out across the city to let them know someone died. There was so much death from the cholera they stopped ringing

33:09:45: One of the interesting things about this cemetery is that the people of the Beth el society were German Jews, but they wanted to be Americans first. As a result, when they buried their own and put up head stones they used English as the basic language. We can see it here, we can see it here and if we follow it all throughout the cemetery, we'll see that's the case

33:48:18: One of the interesting things about this cemetery is that it tells the story of the German Jews who were part of Beth el. They wanted to be Americans first and then Jews. As a result you can see the headstones are done in English and not German