


1884 and Abraham Tulcher



From Generation to Generation



To put into perspective what was happening around the time when our congregation was founded consider:

- Pogroms in Eastern Europe were driving many thousands of Jews to immigrate to the United States or to Ottoman controlled Palestine

- Baron Edmond de Rothschild financed Zikhorn Yaakov, one of the first successful Zionist settlements in Palestine
- Queen Victoria was the reigning English Monarch
- Dr. Kellogg patented “flaked cereal”
- Dow Jones published its first stock index
- The First long distance telephone call was made between Boston and New York City
- Alaska became a U.S. territory
- The Cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty was laid
- Grover Cleveland was elected president
- The St. Louis World’s Fair was 20 years away
- The Civil War had ended only 19 years earlier

Among the founders of B’nai Amoona were Abraham Tuchler and his wife Ernestine. Abraham was born in 1845 in Krakow (then part of the Austrian Empire). He immigrated to the United States as a young person. He joined the Union Army and fought in the Civil War as a Private in Company C of the 51st Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry and was wounded in action. After the war he came to St. Louis and, in 1868, he was one of the founding members of Sheerith Israel Congregation. In 1884, he and his wife and some others left that congregation and founded B’nai Amoona Congregation. He was elected our first Recording Secretary. He died in 1903. Ernestine died in 1937. In her obituary, published in the St. Louis Star and Times, it was proudly proclaimed that she was a “charter member of the B’nai Amoona Congregation...”.

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