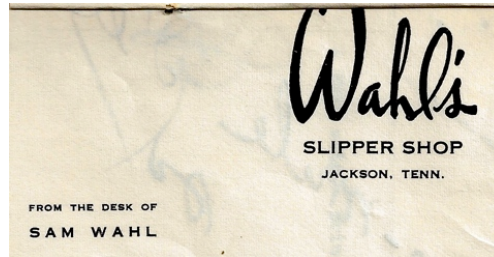


**Sam Wahl** is on our July Yahrzeit list. He was president of the congregation from 1950-1953. Mr. Wahl owned a shoe store (Wahl's Slipper Shop) in Jackson. The 1940 census indicates that he was born in Russia. Sam and Merrill Wahl had two children, Joe (deceased) and Sarah.



I found two interesting bits of information about Sam Wahl. First, he is mentioned in a book, *Mixed Blood: Inter-marriage and Ethnic Identity in 20th Century America* (1989) by Paul R. Spickard.

Some Jews in remote areas tried to stop the trend toward inter-marriage. They sent their children to urban colleges that had an abundance of Jewish students, or they imported spouses from out of state rather than submit to intermarriage. But many made their peace with intermarriage, perhaps feeling that small Jewish communities could not afford to lose members, so even intermarriers should be tolerated. Congregation B'nai Israel of Jackson, Tennessee, elected Sam Wahl president about 1950, even though he was married to a Gentile descendant of Henry Clay. In twelve small towns in southern Illinois, nearly half the local Jews were intermarried in 1969. Rather than being ostracized by other Jews, they were usually accepted and took part fully in the affairs of the tiny local Jewish communities.<sup>37</sup>

Second - an article in *The Jackson Sun* (October 25, 1949). The team mentioned in the article (see next page) became the Jackson Generals, a Class D Level team which played at Municipal Park (located at the present-day grandstand of the West Tennessee State Fairgrounds in Jackson) from 1950 until it folded in 1954. **Irwin Freedman** (also a member of Congregation B'nai Israel was one of the team owners). Kevin McCann (<http://www.kittyleague.com/history/ballparks/jackson/municipalpark.htm>) wrote the following about Municipal Park:

*Municipal Park was not an ideal place to watch a ballgame. It was too far out of town for the city buses and taxis to take fans to and from the games. The aforementioned grandstand was designed for watching car races and didn't configure to the shape of a baseball diamond. The temperature was chilly even on warm evenings and the nearby Forked Deer River often cast a blanket of fog over the outfield. There was also a dump located beyond the right field fence and the smell of burning garbage sometimes had to be endured by the players and fans.*

Clarksville, Tenn., Oct. 25—(AP) —The franchise of the Clarksville (Tenn.) Colts baseball team of the Kitty League has been sold to a Jackson, Tenn., syndicate.

H. M. (Hod) Lisenbee, president of the Colts, said yesterday he sold the franchise for an undisclosed sum.

Members of the Kitty League will meet Sunday at Owensboro, Ky., he said, to vote on whether to accept Jackson as a member.

The five members of the Jackson syndicate, he said, are Aaron Robinson, radio station operator; Harold Simpson, grocery store owner; Russell Rice, City attorney; Sam Wahl and Irwin Freedman, both shoe store executives.

Negotiations for purchase of the franchise have been going on, Lisenbee said, since last June when citizens of Jackson voted to make Sunday baseball legal.



**Samuel Louis Wahl**  
1906 - 1988

*Zichrono Livracha*  
*May his memory be for blessing.*

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