



MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY
300 CITY HALL

CITY OFFICIALS

NAME Cohn, Bernard (Deceased November 1, 1889)

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD

(DATE)

CITY:

City Council

1876-1878

" "

1881-1882

(pro tem) Mayor

Nov. 21, 1878-Dec. 5, 1878

COUNTY:

STATE:

FEDERAL:

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

Jewish Philanthropies

BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

**Wool Buyer
City official
Capitalist**

PORTRAIT: None

ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE:

PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)

ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

BOOKS:

L.A. City Vital Statistics - Death Record
L.A. County Probate Court Records #11791

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

L.A. Times

PERSONAL INTERVIEW: None

INTERVIEWED BY:

DATE OF INTERVIEW:

Written By: Florence H. Goddard
7-30-37

The Los Angeles Public Library
Local History Collection
Biography

NAME Cohn, Bernard (Deceased Nov. 1, 1889)

Occupation Wool Buyer and Capitalist

Address

Birth (Date and Place) November 7, 1835, Prussia

FATHER

Birth (Date and Place)

If Deceased, When

MOTHER

Birth (Date and Place)

If Deceased, When

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Hulda Myer

Birth of Same (Date and Place)

If Deceased, When Preceded Mr. Cohn in death

When Married 1858, Los Angeles

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

Julius Bernard

Carrie Cahen

Kaspar Cohn

ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST

(Please include names of local interest as "forty-niners," or any one connected with the affairs or development of the state or city, as officials, professional men, merchants, etc.)

Lined area for handwritten entries under the 'ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST' section.

EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

Lined area for handwritten entries under the 'EDUCATION' section.

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

Lined area for handwritten entries under the 'CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.' section.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Hebrew

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Democrat

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1857

SKETCH

(Please make this as full as possible, giving business affiliations, positions of honor or trust with dates if possible.)

Bernard Cohn was born in Prussia, November 7, 1835. When a lad of fourteen he worked his way to America as a seaman on a freight steamer. After many months at sea which included a trip around Cape Horn Mr. Cohn left the ship at San Francisco in 1849. After working in gold mines, he became interested in sheep raising and from 1851 to 1856 worked on a sheep ranch in what is now Montana. Returning to California in 1857 he established himself in Los Angeles, combining his home and offices at 182 Main Street.

He was actively engaged in wool buying and in addition to this business in 1869 he established a loan and mortgage office.

On December 8, 1876 Mr. Cohn was elected to the City Council from the Second Ward where he served two one-year terms. On December 5, 1881 he returned to the City Council but as representative of the 4th Ward. In 1882 he was not reelected.

After leaving the City Council Mr. Cohn devoted himself to his banking interests. Kaspar Cohn, his son, was now a partner in the business. When Bernard Cohn died in 1889 Kaspar Cohn carried on the business which was the forerunner of the present Union Bank and Trust Company, 8th and Hill Street of which Kaspar Cohn was founder and first president.

Bernard Cohn was a civic leader among the Jewish population; he was active in philanthropic work. He founded and financed the original Cohn memorial clinic on Whittier Blvd. for indigent Jews. This work was carried on by his son, Kaspar, who in 1905 furthered this work by founding and endowing the Kaspar Cohn Hospital, the first Jewish institution of its kind in Los Angeles. This work is continued today as a unit of Cedars of Lebanon Hospital.

Mr. Cohn died at his home in Los Angeles on November 1, 1889.

Thousand See New Hospital Unit Dedicated

MAR 3 1930

L.A. Times

In honor of Kaspar Cohn and his wife, Hilda, founders of Kaspar Cohn Hospital, the first Jewish institution of its kind in Los Angeles twenty-five years ago, more than 1000 persons gathered to dedicate the free branch of the new Cedars of Lebanon Hospital yesterday. The dedication ceremonies were held on the site of the old Kaspar Cohn structure on Whittier Boulevard and Mr. and Mrs. Ben R. Meyer and Mr. and Mrs. Milton F. Getz, children of the founders, were present.

The new unit to the Cedars of Lebanon Hospital is to cost more than \$100,000,000 more than two-thirds of its beds will be set aside for charity patients. The Cedars of Lebanon institution is continuing its drive for an additional \$1,000,000 for the building fund. The main unit is to be located on Fountain avenue, between Berendo and Catalina streets.