

Cornerstone of Adas Israel Congregation  
Memories Hattie Kenner Goldish  
Submitted by Karen Alpert Entous  
August 21, 2019

## **Cornerstone of Adas Israel-Chevra Kaddishah Congregation**

### **First Orthodox synagogue in Duluth, Minnesota**

#### ***Memories by Hattie Kenner Goldish***

“The second joyful ceremony took place on November 23, 1900 (*November 28, 1901*) when the laying of the cornerstone occurred. The street was crowded with men, women and children. Dignitaries of the city were there to welcome the new home of the first Orthodox Synagogue in Duluth.

Mr Shopsie Karon had donated \$100 for the Shul for his father Yoseph Abba Karon to have the honor of placing the permanent steel box into the present cornerstone. This steel box contains the Legal drawn up Charter and By-laws of the Synagogue, coins by adults and children were put into this box with the year only of 1900 which whenever it were to ever be opened, the dates of the year would be found. The history of the beginning of their first place of worship from the First Room in the House to the moment of the date of the cornerstone. The charter members list was paced in this strong historical box and whatever papers of history for the following generations. In this box the registered name of the new permanent home of worship ‘The Adas Israel-Chevra Kaddishah Congregation’ name was placed.

Morris Klasky, then a young boy attended this ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone, and also, he marched with all the congregants from the Webster School place of worship, when they carried the Torahs and Holy Scriptures to the new Shul on the day they moved. Many speeches and prayers of Blessings were given at the laying of the cornerstone. One of the speakers was Mr. Robert Denfeld the then Superintendent of schools, and also the Mayor, Mr. Trulson (Truelsen) gave a speech. This really was a day for joy.

The final day of moving from the last rented place of worship, the Webster School came. Most of the Jewish congregants came to bid farewell to this last rented Shul to march to their new home, Adas Israel. The men carried the Torahs with everyone, men, women, and children marching from South First Ave. East to the new Adas Israel Synagogue. The march went along Lake Ave. South along Superior Street, up to the New Congregation. The doors of the Synagogue were opened and outside, the Cantor started to sing and chant as the Cantor and Rabbi let the men carrying the Torahs in a line of march into the Shul, with the entire crowd of people marching and praying and chanting. After the Torahs were placed in the Permanent Ark, the Cantor sang and chanted. The congregants took their seats. The Rabbi gave prayers and the very first prayer and services took place then, after many years of dreams not come true.

News articles below from the Duluth News Tribune issues dated 1901-11-28 and 1901-11-21.

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## CORNERSTONE TO BE LAID TODAY

APPROPRIATE CEREMONIES WILL  
 TAKE PLACE AT NEW JEWISH  
 SYNAGOGUE.

### MRS. AMELIA COOK HONORED

RABBI SOSNOFSKY, MAYOR HUGO  
 AND P. J. NEFF TO SPEAK.

List of the Committee in Charge  
 of the Program and Program  
 in Full.

The cornerstone of the new syna-  
 gogue of the Chevra Kadisha and Adas  
 Israel congregation at Third avenue  
 East and Second street, will be laid  
 this afternoon with appropriate cere-  
 monies.

The program that will be carried out  
 will be as follows:

- M. Zalk, Chairman.
- Hebrew prayer .....  
 Rabbi Sosnofsky.
- Speech .....  
 Mayor T. W. Hugo.
- Speech .....  
 Hon. P. J. Neff.
- Laying of cornerstone by Mrs.  
 Amelia Cook, assisted by her  
 sons, Isaac Abrahamson and M.  
 Cook, and grand and great-  
 grandson, W. M. and Ned Abra-  
 hamson.
- Speech .....  
 Hon. H. Truelsen.
- Closing speech and prayer.....  
 Rev. S. P. Long.

In the cornerstone will be placed the  
 following:

- History of congregation.
- List of building committee.
- List of officers.
- List of members.
- List of Duluth city officials.
- Coin of 1961.
- Copy of the Herald.
- Copy of News Tribune.

The officers of the congregation are:  
 M. Zalk, president; S. Karan, vice  
 president; B. J. Cook, recording secre-  
 tary; A. J. Klatsky, financial secretary;  
 Isaac Abrahamson, treasurer; S. Roch-  
 lan, first trustee; M. Z. Kassimer, sec-  
 ond trustee; L. Polinsky, third trustee;  
 J. Kener, fourth trustee; D. Salk, fifth  
 trustee.

The building committee which has  
 been in charge of the erection of the  
 structure is composed of Isaac Abra-  
 hamson, chairman; M. S. Cooke, secre-  
 tary; S. Rochlan, M. Zalk, J. Polinsky,  
 E. Kener, S. Karan, M. L. Kassimer,  
 M. Z. Kassimer, E. Sher, H. Weinberg  
 and L. Polinsky.

The following comprise the commit-  
 tee on arrangements: I. Abrahamson,  
 M. Z. Kassimer, S. Rochlan and Max  
 Zalk.

## CEREMONY TO BE IMPRESSIVE

LAYING OF CORNER STONE OF NEW  
 SYNAGOGUE OF ADAS ISRAEL  
 CONGREGATION.

### FOUR GENERATIONS PRESENT

MRS. ANNA COOK WILL BE SPECIAL-  
 LY HONORED.

Her Children, Grandchildren and  
 Great Grandchildren Will  
 Take Part.

The ceremony of laying the corner  
 stone of the new synagogue now in  
 course of construction for the Adas  
 Israel and Chivra Kadisha congrega-  
 tion of the Orthodox Jews of Duluth,  
 at Third avenue east and Third street,  
 will take place Thanksgiving after-  
 noon at 2:30 o'clock. It will be an in-  
 teresting event in more respects than  
 one. The building committee has de-  
 cided upon the general plan of the ex-  
 ercises, but there is considerable detail  
 that has not yet been arranged.

To Mrs. Anna Cook, of this city, has  
 been assigned the honor of laying the  
 corner stone, and she will be assisted  
 by her children, her grand, and great  
 grandchildren. Mrs. Cook is eighty  
 years of age. Her son, I. Abrahamson,  
 of the Hub Clothing store, and the lat-  
 ter's children, are included in the list  
 of assistants. Four generations of the  
 family will officiate at the ceremony.  
 Mrs. Cook has donated \$100 to the syn-  
 agogue fund, which was made up of  
 small sums put aside by the children  
 for the purpose during past years, it  
 long having been the ambition of the  
 Orthodox Jews of Duluth to own a  
 synagogue, a permanent place of wor-  
 ship, instead of using a rented hall.  
 The past summer they had a fund suf-  
 ficient to warrant going ahead with  
 their plans. It will be a building of  
 considerable credit to the houses of  
 worship of this city.

The Adas Israel and Chivra Kadisha  
 congregation is one of the pioneer re-  
 ligious organizations of the city. It  
 has been in existence here for more  
 than eighteen years, and among its  
 members are several well known pio-  
 neer residents and business men of Du-  
 luth.

One of the features of the exercises  
 in connection with the laying of the  
 corner stone will be that the ministers  
 of the city will be invited to be pres-  
 ent, and several will be requested to  
 speak. Mayor Hugo will also be  
 among those invited to be present and  
 speak. A fine program of music is to  
 be arranged.