

TIMELINE - THE JEWISH HOME OF EASTERN PA

(Aug 2015)

- 1915 - The Jewish Home of the Friendless.** Mrs. Selma Stark is founder and president. Members meet on August 22nd to plan fundraising efforts to purchase a home. The purpose of the organization is to provide residence for orphaned children under six years of age, the elderly and infirm. During the next six years, branches are founded in Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah and Pottsville.
- 1916 - The Jewish Home of the Friendless** is incorporated in July. Scranton artist, Patrick W. (P.W.) Costello (1866-1935), letters the organization's PA State Charter, which is certified and filed with the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas. The organization's thirty-four charter members, all women, are listed on the charter.
- 1921 -** In April, **The Jewish Home of the Friendless** purchases the Leigh M. Morse property, originally, the C. S. Weston estate, at **2115 N. Main Ave.**, near Spring St, in North Scranton. The house is a sixteen-room, 3-story stucco structure with two acres of land. Several men are invited to join the organization. On May 21st, the first permanent board is elected, with Dr. Aaron S. Castor as chairman, a position he would hold for the next 25 years. Four adults and seven children are living at the home.
- 1924 - The Jewish Home of the Friendless**, 2115 N. Main Ave. Due to limited space, plans are made to build a playground and add an auditorium and social rooms. The facility houses 32 children and 11 elderly persons. It is estimated that a new addition would accommodate twenty-five more residents.
- 1930 - The Jewish Home of the Friendless**, 2115 N. Main Ave., houses thirty persons - 25 children and 5 adults, Fourteen of the children are 6 yrs or younger; eight are under 3 yrs of age. The facility is thought to be the only one in the state housing children under three years. Sixteen children attend public schools. Study and play rooms are added. Organization membership reaches 200.
- 1932 - The Jewish Home of the Friendless**, 2115 N. Main Ave., shelters 40 elderly persons and orphans. Twenty-six residents are children. Twenty-four attend grammar, high school, trade school or nursing school.
- 1944 - The Jewish Home of the Friendless** moves to **712 Harrison Ave.**, a 3-story brick building in Scranton's Hill Section, where 27 residents are housed. The building is acquired from the Florence Crittendon Mission. In 1944, the Jewish Home orphanage program is discontinued, reflecting growing recognition that there are better alternatives to institutional care for children. Between 1921 and 1944, the Jewish Home cared for 124 children.
- 1946 - The Jewish Home of the Friendless**, 712 Harrison Ave. Roslyn Burnat, Executive Director.
- 1956 - The Jewish Home for the Aged**, 712 Harrison Ave. Roslyn Burnat Kerber, Executive Director

- 1958 - The Jewish Home for the Aged**, 712 Harrison Ave. Frances M. Cecci, Executive Director
- 1959 - The Jewish Home for the Aged**, 712 Harrison Ave. Roslyn Burnat Kerber, Executive Director
- 1961- The Jewish Home for the Aged**, 712 Harrison Ave. Irving Harris, Chairman of the Board; Roslyn B. Kerber, Executive Director.
- 1964 - The Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania** opens at **1101 Vine St.** (corner of N. Webster Ave). The new 4-story building is located on the two-acre site of the estate of Robert Moffat, former president of Moffat Coal Co. The home was originally owned by William Connell, former coal, banking and textile business owner, newspaper publisher and U.S. Congressman. The framed PA Charter of the Jewish Home is hung prominently in the first floor lobby.
- 1965 - The Jewish Home of Eastern PA**, 1101 Vine St, nursing home. Isidore "Irv" Maislin, Executive Director.
- 1967 - The Jewish Home of Eastern PA**, 1101 Vine St, nursing home. Herman C. Margulies, Executive Director.
- 1971 - The Jewish Home of Eastern PA**, 1101 Vine St, nursing home. Herman C. Margulies, Executive Director. The year 1971 marks the Jewish Home's 50th Anniversary.
- 1976 - The Jewish Home of Eastern PA**, 1101 Vine St., is expanded to 6 stories. It provides short and long-term and rehabilitative care in and outside of Scranton. Herman C. Margulies, Executive Director.
- 1979 - The Jewish Home of Eastern PA.** Samuel K. Sandhaus, NHA, MBA, becomes Executive Director following the retirement of Herman C. Margulies.
- 1992- The Jewish Home of Eastern PA.** The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Alzheimer's Unit cares for patients suffering from dementing diseases. Samuel K. Sandhaus, NHA, MBA, is Executive Director.
- 2015 - 100th Anniversary of the founding of The Jewish Home of the Friendless.**
- 2016 - 100th Anniversary of the incorporation and certification of the Pennsylvania Charter of The Jewish Home of the Friendless.** Samuel K. Sandhaus, NHA, MBA, is in his 36th year as Executive Director (1979 to the present).

Sources:

Rabbi Samuel K. Sandhaus, Executive Director of The Jewish Home of Eastern PA; Polk Directories, Scranton; The Jewish Home of Eastern PA web pages; The Scranton Republican; The Scranton Times; 1916 PA Charter of The Jewish Home of the Friendless; the Lackawanna Historical Society; Judi Keller, Albright Memorial Library.

- Compiled by Thomas W. Costello, Aug 2015

Jewish Home of the Friendless – PA Decree of Incorporation – July 1916

Lettered and Illustrated by P. W. Costello

Transcribed Text:

In Re: Incorporation of The Jewish Home of the Friendless of Scranton, PA

In the Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County, October Term, 1916, No. 417

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

County of Lackawanna, S.S.:

Decree of Incorporation

And Now, this thirty-first day of July, A.D., 1916, the within **Certificate of Incorporation**

Jewish Home of the Friendless of Scranton, PA,

Having been on file in the Office of the Prothonotary, of the said Court, since the fifth day of July, A.D., 1916 as appears from the entry thereof, and due proof of publication having been presented to me, herewith, I hereby certify that I have perused and examined said instrument and find the same to be in proper form, and within the purposes specified in the class of corporations designated as of the first class, in the Act of April 29, 1874, and the supplements thereto; and that the said purposes are lawful and not injurious to the community.

It is therefore ordered and decreed that the charter be approved, and it is hereby approved, and that upon the recording of the same and its endorsements, together with this order, in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of Lackawanna County, the subscribers thereto and their associates and successors shall thenceforth be a corporation for the purposes and upon the terms and under the name therein stated.

John B. Griffiths, Prothonotary

Newcomb, Judge.

Certified from the Records this 17 day of August 1917

Robert P. Silverstein, Esq., , Solicitor

- P.W. Costello, Scranton, PA

Virtue, Liberty, Independence

Names of Charter Members

Mrs. Selma Stark, President
Bertha Phillips, V. Pres.
Emma Kilberg, 2nd V. Pres.
Yetta Dorfman, Treas.
Bertha Judcovics, Asst. Tr.
Julia Legman, Rec. Secy.
Mrs. Minnie Siegel, 1 Trustee
Breine Mazur, 2 Trustee
Mollie Solomon, 3 Trustee
Celia Riskin, Chaplain
Clara Cohen, Initiating Com.
Sarah Newman, Initiating Com.
Mrs. Bessie Goldman, Door Com.
Mr. Adolph Ganz, Fin. Secretary
B.N. Riskin, Asst. Organizer
Hugh Stone
A. Sahn,
Rabbi E. Schoenbrun,
Mrs. Mary Braven,
Anna Folk,
Esther Ouslander,
Mary Klein,
Leiba Herskowitz,
Anna Mittleman,
Mrs. Bertha Mazie,
Esther Horowitz,
Sarah Schleider,
Hannah Mechlowitz,
Lena Roth,
Celia Winkler,
Mrs. Sarah Benowitz,
Fanny Judkovics,
Regi Simkovitz,
Mamie Trucker

The PA State Charter of *The Jewish Home of the Friendless* - later named, *The Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania*

The organization was incorporated in July 1916.

The charter was lettered and illustrated by P. W. Costello, Scranton artist.

Development of a PA State Charter Template

In 1908, P. W. Costello designed a Pennsylvania Charter as a *template* that could be used as a decree of incorporation for any state organization. Attorney M. J. Donahue provided the legal language. Mr. Costello individualized each charter by “filling” it with the name of the organization, date, official decree number, county name, and names of officers or members. Some of those individuals signed or were listed at the bottom of the document.

Mr. Costello’s template was utilized to create incorporation decrees for many organizations throughout the state, including, social clubs and fraternities, labor unions, educational institutions, orphanages and nursing homes, lodges and societies.

A few examples: *St. David’s Society*, 1913; *The Jewish Home of the Friendless*, 1916; *St. Thomas College* (later to become the *University of Scranton*), 1924; and the *Old Forge Progressive Club*, 1931. Using his father’s template, Joseph Costello lettered a charter for the *Dunmore Republican Progressive Club* in 1939.

Description of the PA State Charter of the Jewish Home of the Friendless

The Jewish Home of the Friendless Charter was lettered and illustrated in black ink and varying shades of Payne’s Gray watercolor, a trademark of Mr. Costello’s work. He used a pen to letter and draw illustrations and decoration, and a brush to apply watercolor.

The 100-year age of the charter is the reason the original white paper yellowed. To highlight foliage, acanthus, palm branches and leaf decoration, the artist added a light green watercolor wash to the borders of the original. The green color faded, but is still visible.

The size of the charter is 18” x 22”. The state decree number is 417. It was filed in the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas during the October Term in 1916.

The larger headings, The *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* and *Decree of Incorporation*, are lettered in *Old English*, drop-shaded and surrounded with finely detailed filigree.

The organization’s name, *The Jewish Home of the Friendless, Scranton, PA*, is lettered in *Old English*, drop-shaded and highlighted with a background watercolor wash. The name is framed in thin lines with eight-pointed stars at each end.

All small lettering is done in *Engrosser’s Text* in varying sizes, including the text in the top left and right corners.

Detailed illustrations:

- *top center:* the **PA State Coat of Arms** with laurel branches; below the eagle, shield and two horses, is a winding ribbon, upon which is written the words: **VIRTUE, LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE.**
- *top left:* a **Keystone**, the PA state symbol, is drawn on an oval scroll;
- *bottom left:* Justitia, the blindfolded **Roman goddess of Justice**, holding a scroll in her left hand (instead of a sword) and the scales of justice in her right hand, symbolizing the balance between truth and fairness; a large globe and two law books; flowers and palm branches; a child holding a law book in one hand and a scrolled **CHARTER** in the other; there are four more law books in the background; one book is opened and holding down a scrolled **CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION;**
- *bottom right corner:* a quill pen & inkwell, an owl with spread wings, a large potted plant and an open "**CHARTER BOOK.**"

By drawing some of these objects along the top edge of the bottom border, Mr. Costello gave the border the look of a wooden shelf or mantle.

In the bottom left corner is the **gold seal of the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas**, attached to the center of a round scroll.

At bottom center are the words, "**VIRTUE, LIBERTY, INDEPENDENCE,**" in large block letters, the same phrase that is written along the ribbon in the Pennsylvania Coat of Arms at *top, center*. The three large words at bottom are outlined and shaded, giving them a raised look. Along the same border, there are four small, ribboned laurel wreaths.

The top and side panels include narrow inner and outer border designs. The bottom border has a spiraled wooden design.

Mr. Costello gave the charter a more interesting, three-dimensional look by extending several of his illustrations of palm branches, leaves and scrolls beyond the edge of the border.

The document is signed by **John B. Griffiths, County Prothonotary**. The names, **Judge Edwin C. Newcomb**, who certified the decree, and **Robert P. Silverstein, Esq., Solicitor**, are lettered at bottom.

Below the bottom border, **thirty-four names of Jewish Home charter members and officers** are lettered in bold *Engrosser's Text*. They are grouped in six columns.

Mr. Costello's signature (**P.W. Costello, Scranton, PA**) is written on the border *at lower left*, directly below the child holding the law book.

- *Written by Thomas W. Costello, great-grandson of Patrick W. Costello (July 2015)*

About the artist...

PATRICK W. (PW) COSTELLO (1866-1935)

Master Penman, Designer, Engrosser, Illuminator & Illustrator

P. W. Costello was a remarkable American penman born to poor Irish immigrant parents, William Costello and Bridget Langan, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in the heart of the Anthracite Coal Fields.

His mother died when he was only two years old. From ages 11 to 13, he worked as a breaker boy at the Bellevue Colliery. Relying on his innate talent, drive and creativity, without the benefit of art school, he succeeded in developing a rare level of proficiency in design, lettering and illustration. He went on to become one of the pre-eminent American engrossers and portrait artists of the early 20th Century.

Mr. Costello's engrossed resolutions were elaborately lettered and decorated documents recognizing individual achievement in business, politics, labor unions, fraternal organizations, religion and sports. U.S. presidents, visiting heads of state and Hall of Fame baseball players were among his honored subjects.

He also created hundreds of diplomas, certificates, charters and letterheads for schools, businesses and other organizations throughout the Scranton area.

Reflecting his personal interest in theatre and literature, he drew hundreds of portraits of stage stars that were often autographed by the subjects when they performed in Scranton's playhouses.

For many years, Mr. Costello, his wife, Mary Agnes Mahon, and their eight children, lived in the Bellevue section of West Scranton and, later, near Nay Aug Park in East Scranton. Like their father, three sons, William, Jerry and Joseph Costello, became accomplished artists in their own right, opting for careers in commercial sign painting, political cartooning and engrossing, respectively.

Following Mr. Costello's death on May 20, 1935, *The Scrantonian-Tribune* published this editorial:

"The community suffered a serious and deeply regrettable loss over the weekend in the passing of P.W. Costello, an exemplary representative of his chosen profession.

Mr. Costello was possessed of the soul of the poet and the artist. Even in the nineties [1890s] when he was in politics, which are calculated to harden a man against the beauties of the world, he dreamed his dream – and out of that dream grew an art that made him famous throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Costello was a great artist, a lover of beautiful things – but better still, he was a lover of his fellow man, and hundreds of them, who treasure his work and who admire his character, will mourn his departure."

Today, calligraphers, engrossers, illustrators and art historians study and emulate P. W. Costello's work. They refer to him as a MASTER PENMAN, a title of respect reserved for a select few.

- Written by Thomas W. Costello, great-grandson of Patrick W. Costello (May 2013)