

East Orange, New Jersey Christian Israelites

One of the United States Signing Books of the Christian Israelite Church contains the undated signatures of twenty-four persons, most of whom were members of the **Helfrich, Jarvis, Norz and Stoneman families** and were designated as “covenanted.” Of these, most resided in East Orange, New Jersey, and had family ties to Christian Israelites in New York.

According to the 1900 United States Census, **Joseph Helfrich** (c. 1860 - ?), a teacher, resided at 505 Main Street in East Orange with his wife, **Johanna Helfrich** (c. 1869 - ?) and their daughter **Grace Helfrich** (c. 1893 - ?). All three were born in New York and were covenanted members of the Christian Israelite Church. Living with them was a 17-year-old servant, **Ethel Stoneman**, probably a member of the Christian Israelite family of the same name, but apparently not herself a signatory.

Residing next door to the **Helfrich** family, at 507 Main Street in East Orange were their relatives and fellow Christian Israelites, the family of **Martin Norz**. **Martin** had married **Anna Helfrich** (c. 1859 - ?) in New York in 1890. In 1900, at the time of the United States Census, their household consisted of themselves and their sons, **J. Ludwig Norz** (c. 1892 - ?) and **David P. Norz**, and **Anna's** mother, **Stephanie Helfrich** (c. 1828 - ?). **Martin, Anna** and **J. Ludwig Norz** were covenanted members of the Christian Israelite Church. Evidently **David P. Norz** and **Stephanie Helfrich** were not signatories. **Martin Norz** made his living as a landlord.

A grocer operating his own store, **Walter Stoneman** (c. 1870 - ?) and his wife, **Louisa Stoneman** (c. 1864 - ?) lived at 582 Main Street in East Orange, New Jersey at the time of the 1910 United States Census. **Walter** was born in England; **Louisa** was born in New York of German heritage. They had a son, **David Stoneman** (c. 1899 - ?). Prior to moving to East Orange, the family lived in nearby Newark, New Jersey. At the time of the 1900 Census, they were residing at 486 Warren Street, Newark. **Albert Stoneman** (c. 1886 - ?), **Walter Stoneman's** brother, boarded with them at that time. **Walter** and **Louisa Stoneman** were

covenanted members of the Christian Israelite Church. **David** and **Albert** were uncovenanted members of the Church.

Covenanted Christian Israelites in East Orange, New Jersey also included members of the **Jarvis** family. The 1920 United States Census records that **Samuel Jarvis** (c. 1872 - ?); his wife, **Mary Jarvis** (c. 1867 - ?); their daughter, **Martha Jarvis** (c. 1899 - ?); and their son, **Stephen Jarvis** (c. 1901 - ?) were residing together at 8 McKinley Avenue in East Orange. **Samuel Jarvis** , a master plumber, immigrated to the United States in 1882. **Mary** was born in New York and the two children were born in New Jersey.