

## Introduction

### To the Life of Ephraim Hamburg

by R. Grayson

I am constantly filled with awe when considering the story of my great grandfather, Ephraim Hamburg, and therefore, since I have taken pains to collect the information about him, I consider it important to write down my impressions of him and to collate the known facts of his life.

First of all, he was the immigrant of his line. He was an orthodox Jew from Prussia. He was at first a soldier, a drill-master, and during the years 1850-1859, first in Germany, then in England, also gave professional performances of magic before both small and large, important audiences.

He then came to the United States equipped mainly with his intelligence. This is proven by the twenty patents that he won as a private inventor. I have obtained actual printed copies of these patents from the U.S. Patent office, and it would seem that he surely must have made a financial success from at least some of them.

But more than a magician and inventor; he was also a patent agent, a realtor, a merchant, a publisher of newspapers; in short he was a free enterpriser, an entrepreneur.

Here is a man who lived almost a hundred years, and every one of them insolid achievement. He was still making his own way as late as 1906 when he was marketing his Family Tree Book, at the age of 91.

According to his granddaughters, he was a respected, dignified, gentle man. This Prussian drillmaster commanded obedience, was satisfied only with excellence, was impatient with imperfection, but was kind and stimulated the respect and adulation of his children.

And consider the inestimable accomplishment of marrying four (or was it five?) times and of begetting 11 children and then supporting all of them successfully. However, he must be yet chastened by the knowledge that his name no longer lives on in any male descendant, but only the female lines were fruitful. He will be comforted by the fact that we cannot as yet even count all his descendants, since some of his children cannot be traced.

You will pardon a final maudlin note; I think his greatest gift to us was my sainted grandmother Stella, his 11th and last child; she was my favorite among favorites; his nicest invention, his greatest gift.

--Oct. 1976

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December 6, 1974

Richard R. Grayson, M.D.  
103 West Main Street  
St. Charles, IL

Dear Dr. Grayson:

In reply to your recent inquiry, below is the report of Judith Clinton,  
reference librarian.

Following are entries from Detroit city directories:

- 1866 - Hamberger, E. paternmaker, h 214 Congress e.
- 1867 - Hambujer, Ephraim, prop. Weekly Review and patent solicitor, cor.  
Griswold & Jefferson ave. h. 176 Congress e.
- 1868 - Hambujer, Ephraim, h 176 Congress e
- 1869 - Hambujer, Ephraim, inventor, h 192 Congress e
- 1870 - Hambujer, Abraham, patent agent, h 192 Congress e
- 1871/72 - Hamburger, Ephraim, Saloon, 53 Mich ave. h 192 Congress e.
- 1872/73 - Hambujer, Abraham, boarding house, 131 St. Antoine
- 1872/73 (another directory) - Hambujer, Ephraim, agent, h 179 Lafayette
- 1875/76 - no listing
- 1882 - Hambujer, Ephraim, gravel, sand, etc. h 17 Columbia w.
- 1887 - Hambujer, Ephraim, h 324 Randolph
- 1889 - Hambujer, Ephraim, real estate, 10 Seitz Blk, h 98 Elizabeth e
- 1893 - no listing

The Weekly Review is not listed in the descriptive articles at the beginning of the 1867 directory, however, it is in the Business Directory listing at the back. I have checked several other sources but find no other mention of the Weekly Review. We cannot locate any existing copies of the newspaper from our sources. You may wish to contact the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48202 to see if any copies are housed there.

Sincerely,

*R J Hathaway*

Richard J Hathaway, Head, Michigan Unit

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delivered  
12/12/74*