

PROFILE OF RABBI WILLIAM FINESHRIBER
SPIRITUAL LEADER
CONGREGATION CHILDREN OF ISRAEL 1911-1924

William Fineshriber was born in St. Louis, Missouri, February 21, 1878, to Henrietta Braun and Herman Fineshriber.

He attended Hebrew Union College and graduated from University of Cincinnati in 1900. He married Mae Wallerstein and had two sons, Howard W. and William Fineshriber, Jr.

He came to Congregation Children of Israel at Memphis on September 15, 1911, as assistant to Rabbi Max Samfield and ascended to the position of Chief Rabbi in September, 1915, upon the death of Rabbi Samfield. Actually, Rabbi Samfield had planned to retire at the end of September of that year. Rabbi Fineshriber served in Memphis until August 31, 1924, when he left for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to serve Congregation Keneseth Israel, the largest Reform Jewish Congregation in the nation at that time. He remained in that position until his retirement in 1949. He maintained his residency in Philadelphia until his death in 1968. Included in this profile is a copy of an interview with Rabbi Fineshriber conducted by Dr. Berkley Kalin on November 8, 1968, in Philadelphia. The interview was made for the Oral History Office of Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee.