Charles Rothenberg  
Born: Austria, May 21 1862  
Died: Aurora, Colorado. January 7, 1949  
US Immigration: 1884

Catherine “Katie” Rothenberg  
Born: Germany, July 10, 1869  
Died: Aurora, Colorado. January 29, 1923  
US Immigration: 1885

Benjamin “Bennie” Rothenberg  
Born: Leadville, Colorado April 4, 1892  
Died: Los Angeles August 26, 1960

Eva Rothenberg  
Born: Leadville, August, 1898  
Died: ?

Known residences in Leadville:  
1893-1894, 407 W 4th Street  
1894-1896, 116 W 9th Street  
1896-1899, 202 W 5th Street  
1899-1901, 141 W Elm Street  
1901-1902, 202 W 5th Street

Charles Rothenberg was born in Austria in 1862.  
From there he immigrated to the United States in 1884 where he would meet and marry Katie, 
who was born in Germany in 1869.1  
Few records have been found that tell the story of 
Charles and Katie prior to their arrival in 
Leadville in 18932, but what can be determined is that the couple met sometime after Katie’s 
immigration to the United States in 1885 and, 
prior to 1898, had given birth to four children.  
Only two, Bennie and Eva,3 survived to become 
Leadville residents along with their parents who 
arrived there in 1892.4

Charles was a tailor by trade and upon arriving in Leadville he went to work at Ed Jackson’s 
clothing store at 219 Harrison Avenue where he 
remained for the entire ten years that the family 
made their home in Leadville.5

The family’s time in Leadville was for the most part typical; Bennie was noted to be a good student and made the honor rolls while attending Leadville’s Central School.6  
There are few mentions of the family in the newspapers which would support the idea that the family tended to keep quietly to themselves. 
The exception was Katie who would find herself at the center of a controversial incident and the unflattering moniker as The Witch Of Leadville which was applied by newspapers statewide in 1899.7

According to reports, Katie was recounted as a “beautiful Jewess” who tinkered with what was described as “oriental mysticism” and miners would on occasion avail themselves of her services in an effort to get the upper hand in their speculative endeavors. One of these speculators, Martin Roberts, requested that Katie provide him with output information on one of his claims, which she did with some accuracy. Roberts later returned with the intent on wagering $100 with Katie that she could not make a second favorable prediction. Martin then went home and described the events to his wife, who was skeptical of Katie’s ‘abilities’ and the following day went to the Rothenberg home to accuse Katie of fraud.8

Mrs. Roberts then described that Katie became quite angry at her accusation and as a result threatened to demonstrate her abilities by casting spells on the Roberts’ family that would render Martin insane and leave their child a “cripple”.9
Coincidently, Martin Roberts began to suffer from debilitating headaches that were causing him to behave irrationally. Apparently, the Roberts sought medical opinions on his condition with no resolution. At some point, Martin had learned that, according to legend, a witch’s spell could be removed by drawing blood from her mouth while reciting a specific undisclosed incantation.

In a moment of what Martin referred to as his “lucidity”, he broke into the Rothenberg home, found Katie in a rocking chair with baby Eva in her lap, and began beating the woman in the face. This resulted in a bloody lip along with Martin’s declaration that the spell Katie cast on him was now broken. According to Martin, his health was restored rapidly after the incident despite his prompt arrest and trial for assault.10

Martin’s defense was consistent with his story; Katie was a witch who had placed him under a vindictive spell and then claimed that Katie had victimized “dozens” of people in similar fashion. Some of these witnesses had claimed to see Katie in Evergreen Cemetery during the midnight hour, rope in hand and flames shooting from her eyes as she attempted to raise the dead. Fortunately both the judge and prosecutor Samuel W. Jones, former Colorado Attorney General11 now practicing in Leadville,12 saw past the witchcraft defense and were able to convict Roberts of assault for which he was fined $30. 13

There aren’t many records that follow the family after the incident, which occurred in the latter part of 1899. The event may have had an impact on the family’s departure from Leadville sometime in 190114 when they moved on to the Denver area.15


BIBLIOGRAPHY


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STABLE URL: http://www.jewishledville.org/rothenberg.html
Catherine Nunnery was born in May 1884, at birth place Kentucky, to Lawrence Jackson Nunnery and Elizabeth Nunnery (born Wischer). Lawrence was born on May 28 1856, in Pendleton, Kentucky, USA. Elizabeth was born in May 1862, in Kentucky, USA. Catherine had 5 siblings: Mary Elizabeth Webster (born Nunnery), Joseph Nunnery and 3 other siblings. Documents of Catherine Nunnery, Katie Nunnery 1884 Kentucky Katie Nunnery in 1900 United States Federal Census. Katie Nunnery was born in May 1884, at birth place, Kentucky, to Lawrence J Nunnery and Elizabeth Nunnery. Katie had 7 siblings: Charlie Contact Us. info@thinglink.com. thinglink. @thinglink. @thinglink.edu. Catherine the Great became the Russian empress in 1762 and under her reign, Russia expanded its territories and modernized, following the lead of Western Europe. The empress Catherine the Great established religious tolerance for Muslims in the late 18th century and created a state agency to oversee Muslim affairs. Catherine died in 1796 from a stroke from which she never recovered. She was buried in a gold coffin at the Peter and Paul Cathedral in St Petersburg.