



The Pepper Boarding House  
The Pepper Hotel

By Brenda Lincke Fisseler

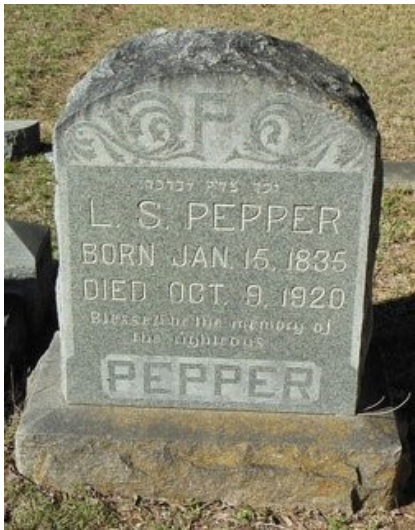


L.S. & Johanna Pepper Family

This month, instead of writing about just one hotel, I am going to focus on an individual who was associated with many hotels and boarding houses in Hallettsville. His name was Louis Samuel Pepper.

L.S. Pepper, as he was commonly referred to, was a Jewish immigrant who arrived in Hallettsville in 1856 and remained in Hallettsville until his death in 1920.

As early as 1887, Pepper and his wife, Johanna, were running a boarding house in Hallettsville. In April 1888, the Peppers began erecting a two story hotel on the south side of the railroad tracks near the depot.



*“Great minds are related to  
the brief span of time  
during which they live  
as great buildings are to a  
little square in which they  
stand...”*

*If you would like to be added to the  
email list to receive this  
newsletter, please send you name  
and email address to:  
[lavacanewsletter1@gmail.com](mailto:lavacanewsletter1@gmail.com)*

Feel free to share this newsletter with  
anyone who might be interested!

# The Pepper Boarding House

## The Pepper Hotel

In January of 1891, Pepper awarded a contract to Fritz Schulte to build a \$10,000.00 rock hotel on the site of the old Pepper House south of the square. The walls will be constructed of white Muldoon rock and the entire structure will be surrounded by a gallery, both upper and lower stories. The furniture for the establishment had been ordered by Kahn & Stanzel from St. Louis.

Note: due to some technicality, the contract was later awarded to McKnight Bros.

In February of 1894, it was announced in the local newspaper that the rock hotel was finished and would be open to the public in a few days.

Less than two years later, the Pepper Rock Hotel met with a fiery end. When the fire alarm sounded on November 13, 1895, it was reported that none of the citizens of Hallettsville imagined that the Pepper House was burning to the ground. Within 40 minutes of the alarm being sounded, the hotel fell with a crash.

It was noted in the newspaper that Pepper made sure that each guest escaped the burning structure, but the guests, as well as the Pepper family, lost everything. The total loss for the Peppers was in the range of \$85,000.00 with not a penny of insurance.

Pepper persevered and by January of 1896, he had entered into an agreement with the Hallettsville Brick Hotel Company to lease the new Hallettsville Brick Hotel. The hotel opened in March of that year until the able direction of Mrs. L.S. (Johanna) Pepper.

The Peppers operated the Hallettsville Brick Hotel until new management started in 1899.

In November of 1905, L.S. Pepper and his daughter, Mrs. B.F. Arnim, purchased the Lindenberg Hotel from Fritz Lindenberg. Mr. Pepper and Mrs. Arnim had been worried about their current hotel operation, the Park Hotel. They had been operating the Park Hotel out of the Emil Appelt residence, until they were notified that the Appelt family would be moving in and the building would have to be vacated by December 1st, 1905.

Note: The Park Hotel later became the East Hotel under the management of another of Pepper's daughters, Mrs. O.T. East.

On October 9, 1920, Mr. Louis Samuel Pepper died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. O.T. East, at the age of 85 years, 8 months and 24 days. At the time of his death, Pepper was survived by three children, Mrs. B.F. Arnim and I.W. Pepper of Houston and Mrs. O.T. East of Hallettsville.

Johanna Pepper, L.S. Pepper's wife, died on May 29, 1902 at the age of 55. Mrs. Pepper was a successful business woman in her own right owning and operating a series of lunch stands and ice cream parlors in Hallettsville.

Next:  
The Park Hotel  
The East Hotel