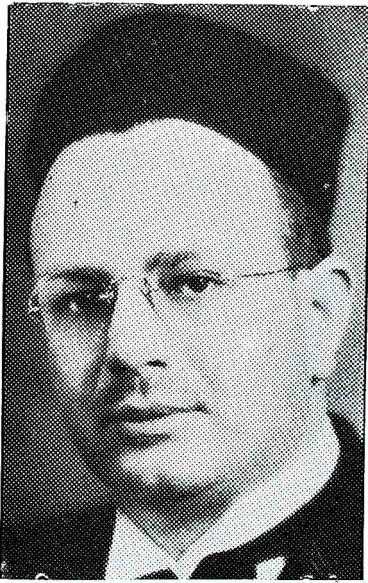


## *Rabbi Morris N. Taxon*



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Rabbi Morris N. Taxon, spiritual leader of the Baron Hirsch Congregation the largest orthodox synagogue in Memphis, was born on December 14, 1892 at the City of Edwabna, in the State of Lomza. He came to America at the age of seven and received his secular education in the public schools of this country. He enrolled in the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, which is better known as the Yeshiva College, and remained as a student for ten years. He also acted as a lecturer on the Talmud.

He received his collegiate education at the City College of New York, Ohio State University and at Northwestern. He served as Rabbi in Columbus, Ohio; Omaha, Nebraska; Dallas, Texas, and the Agudath Achim Congregation in Chicago before coming to Memphis. The last named is one of the most prominent synagogues in Chicago and one of the largest Orthodox Congregations in America.

Rabbi Taxon has contributed to many periodicals. During the World War, he was appointed by the Governor of Nebraska as a member of the Thrift Committee. He has had a very active career in the B'nai B'rith, has served as a member of the Anti-Defamation League and is a former president of the Omaha Lodge. He is an ardent Zionist and has served as president of the Texas Zionist Organization. During the visit of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, to Texas, Rabbi Taxon was instrumental in raising \$50,000 for the Zionist cause. He also opened the campaign for the Texas Pavilion at the J.C.R.S. in Denver, and gave the Dedicatory Address. He has also been very active in co-operating with the Federation of Welfare Agencies in the various communities which he has served. He is a thirty second degree Mason and a Shriner.

Rabbi Taxon was ordained at the age of nineteen by the late Chief Rabbi Solomon E. Jaffe, then president of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada; Rabbi Samuel Z. Wine and Rabbi Abraham A. Yudelowitz. He received an honorary ordination by the Dean of Deans, Chief Rabbi Moses Mordecai Epstein, now head of the Talmudic Accademy of Jerusalem, Palestine.

He was officially installed as leader of the Baron Hirsch Synagogue in Memphis, on Sunday, November 29, 1931. Since coming to Memphis he was instrumental in raising \$10,500 in less than thirty minutes, through the sale of name plates on the beautiful bronze tablet, which adorns the synagogue. He has added some innovations to the Talmud Torah, Sunday School and Junior Congregation.

Rabbi Taxon has a five year contract with the congregation.