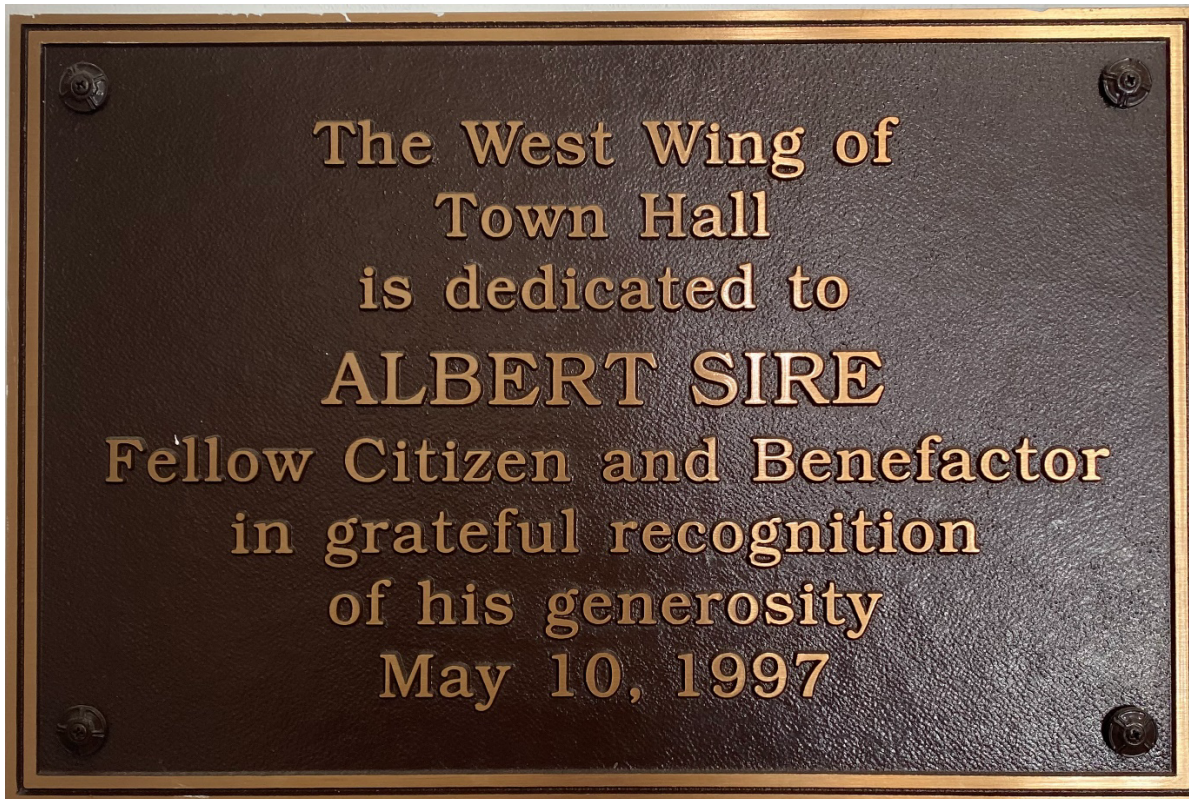


The Sire Family of Morristown

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Ever wonder who this guy was and why there is a plaque in the lobby of the Morristown Municipal building?

Henry Sire and his wife Rosina settled in Morristown before the Civil War. They had legally immigrated from Germany and came here to be with the Sire family of Morris Plains.

While not the first Jewish people to be in Morristown as there were Jewish soldiers at Jockey Hollow, but they were a prominent family.

Henry was a horse dealer and owned a stable on Speedwell Ave just north of Spring Street. That would be the area where CVS is now located. He also had a barn behind his home on Early Street.

He sold mounts to the Union Army during the Civil War.

Benjamin Sire was born to the couple on March 18th, 1860 [died Nov 17, 1926]. A second son, William, was born later as were two sisters, Minne and Jennie.

Benjamin married Celia Schloss of Newark [1867-1942]. They had one child, Albert Jerome Sire, born January 19, 1891.

When Ben grew up, his father brought him into the business, and it became “Henry Sire & Son”. After Henry’s death on December 27, 1895, Ben and William became partners and the business became “B. Sire & Brother”. The Sire Brothers purchased horses in the Midwest, and they were shipped by rail to Morristown. The young horses were unloaded at the Lackawanna freight yard and herded up to the Sire barns on Spring Street.

Albert continued the family business after his father’s passing which occurred on November 17, 1926. However, the popularity of the automobile put an end to the horse-trading business.

He was a careful investor and lived modestly. He never married.

Albert served in WW I and later served on the Morristown Planning Board from 1961-63.

Albert passed away on November 20, 1971, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. His bequeaths included:

Institution	Now	1971 Amount	2025 dollars
Morristown Memorial Hospital	Morristown Medical Center	100,000	\$771,650
All Souls Hospital	Now part of Morristown MC	100,000	\$771,650
St. Margaret of Scotland R C Church		25,000	\$193,000
First Presbyterian Church on the Green	East Part Place	25,000	\$193,000
Bethel A.M.E. Church	Spring Street	25,000	\$193,000
Morristown Jewish Center	Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael	25,000	\$193,000
Town of Morristown*		42,889.82 (All the Rest)	\$ 330,959.45

However, there was a provision that “...said building be designated as a gift from Albert Sire.”

So, that is the reason for the plaque as you walk into the building.

Sources:

James Lewis, MLIS, North Jersey History & Genealogy Center at the Morristown & Morris Township Library > mmtlibrary.org/nj-history-genealogy

“Early Jewish History in Morristown” by Carl B. Scherzer

Find A Grave.com

Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator bls.gov

