The Hebrew Orphan Asylum of New York (HOA) was founded in 1860 by the Hebrew Benevolent Society. The Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum changed its name to the Jewish Youth Services of Brooklyn in 1954 then merged with Jewish Care Association. There were two asylums built. One in Brooklyn, NY and another by Henry Fernbach on 77th street and 3rd Ave. Between 1860 and 1919, some 13,500 children were admitted to the home. Few children were adopted, since most were actually half-orphans, members of a family which one parent had deserted and which the surviving parent could not support. The asylum was used, in effect, as a boarding school. In 1915 the Child Welfare Act was passed, which granted allowances to widowed parents. This opportunity gave women the chance to care for their own children, which resulted in a decreased of the amount of orphans in the asylum by 3,000. The Hebrew Orphan Asylum eventually closed down in 1941 and was used by the U.S. armed forces. In 1955, the building was demolished and is now a playground.

**Political History**
- The orphanage only brought in Jewish Children.
- They, however, did not have much money. In 1874, they agreed to accept $110 a year in public funds to care for each orphan.
- In 1879, they agreed to accept only children who lived in Manhattan from that point on.
- In 1915, the United States Government helped deal with this problem by passing the Child Welfare Act. This Act helped by granting allowances to widowed parents. This opportunity gave women the chance to care for their own children, which resulted in a decreased of the amount of orphans in the asylum by 3,000.
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**Social Aspect**
- In the 1870s, more than a million Jews migrated from Eastern Europe and settled in New York City. Most of the Jewish immigrants that came were German.
- They were Yiddish-speaking and impoverished, the products of intensive, insular Jewish life and wretched economic conditions.
- By 1890, the flood of Russian Jews came in causing the German Jews to split due to population displacement. This separation resulted in separation and relocation of businesses and synagogues.
- The downtown Jews lived a more lavish lifestyle, while the uptown Jews lived in poverty. This poverty caused children to live a terrible life.
- Founders Samuel Isaacs, a Jewish messenger, and Dr. Samuel Adler, from the Hebrew and German societies formed the Hebrew Orphan Asylum for children.
- The Hebrew Orphan Asylum’s building consisted of two sleeping rooms, a Superintendent’s room, a servant room, a sick room, a schoolroom, a reception room, and one kitchen and dining room.
- The children at the asylum were educated to some extent; they were taken care of when sick, and fed. It beat the life of living on the streets in poverty.
- They helped girls receive training in sewing and other domestic arts, while older children were given vocational training and/or college/professional education.
- As the children were being released from the asylum 78 percent of these young children had initial difficulties and problems adjusting to society after leaving the institute.

**Economic History**
- In 1874 the United Hebrew Charities was established and the Hebrew Orphan Asylum would receive a donation of $647,100 from them over the course of 34 years to aid widows and poor families in the city.
- The Baron de Hirsch Fund, funded many immigrant assistance programs and provided grants and training in agriculture and the trades. The collection of programs is made up of six different parts: an administration of the Fund, information about Jewish farming colonies, the Jewish Agricultural Society, Woodbine Colony, the Woodbine Agricultural School, and the Baron de Hirsch Trade School. Their records include loan applications, student records and ledgers, aid applications, lists of farmers, records of property holders and companies at the Colony.

**Cultural Aspect**
- Between 1880 and 1924 many Jewish Immigrants began migrating to the U.S in search for a better life and greater opportunities, and as an escape from their repressive governments.
- Due to Nativism, many Americans at this time were anti-Semitic, thus leaving the immigrants with many hard challenges to face. Americans began judging them on their economic/social class, where they lived, their job, and their religion. They were broken down into two different groups of people, “Uptown” and “Downtown” Jews.
- “Uptown” Jews were Jewish immigrants who were of middle to upper economic class. They worked very hard to try to Americanize their culture to avoid discrimination, would dress nicely and live in Americana-style homes, detested unions, and would usually have jobs as merchants, bankers, or business men. “Uptown” Jews were more liberal in their religious beliefs, and usually belonged to “Reform” temples.
- “Downtown” Jews on the other hand, were lower economic class immigrants. Most of them spoke their native language, Yiddish. Most of them were Orthodox Jews and they would strictly follow their religion. “Downtown” Jews worked in factories and were labor workers. Since they received low pay, most of them lived in shabby tenements and were poorly dressed.

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