

**Mayer Shoyer**  
**President: 1839-1841; 1844-1845**

Although one source calls Mayer Shoyer Rodeph Shalom's last Dutch president, at least one historical record indicates that he was born in Germany in 1773. Regardless of his country of origin, Shoyer was held in esteem by his fellow congregants and served twice as president, first from 1839-41 and then, from 1844-45. His terms coincided with the rising tide of Jewish immigration to Philadelphia and like others, he focused on finding a suitable home for the congregation.

During his second tenure, Rodeph Shalom had at least 250 members and moved to larger quarters on Pear Street. The synagogue also constructed a *mikvah* and established its first Sunday School. Intent on meeting the kashrut needs of its congregants, he arranged for Rodeph Shalom to prepare matzah during Passover and to lend to congregants, for their personal use, utensils for baking matzah at home.

The owner of a dry goods store on Second Street, Shoyer, like other presidents, was involved in communal affairs. He was one of the founders of a Jewish orphans and widows fund and served as its first president at the time his tenure ended at Rodeph Shalom. Mayer Shoyer died in 1850.

*Written by Fred Strober*