



Benjamin Terte Papers (K0758)

Collection Number: K0758

Collection Title: Benjamin Terte Papers

Dates: 1921-1977

Creator: Terte family

Abstract: The Benjamin Terte Papers contains correspondence, publications, scrapbooks, and a published biography by Benjamin Terte's daughter, Carol Terte Gill.

Collection Size: 1.91 cubic feet
(20 folders, 14 oversize)

Language: Collection is predominately in English. Materials in Hebrew are indicated at the folder level.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Benjamin Terte Papers* (K0758); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the University of Missouri by Carol Terte Gill on October 26, 2006 (Accession No. KA1491). An addition was made on April 23, 2008 by Carol Terte Gill (Accession No. KA1625).

Notes: Collection is associated with the Jewish Community Archives of Greater Kansas City. Folder 21-34 are located in an oversize flat box.

Processed by: Processed by Whitney Heinzmann and intern, Caitlin Lewis, June 2018

Historical Note:

Benjamin Terte (originally Tartakovsky) was born on February 1, 1891, to Russian-Jewish immigrants in the industrial West Bottoms section of Kansas City. Terte attended Central High School and went on to graduate from the Kansas City School of Law. Terte began working at a law office for Frank Walsh and James Aylward after passing the Bar in 1914. Walsh and Aylward had connections with Tom Pendergast, which proved valuable to Terte in 1926, when at the age of 35 he was the youngest judge, and first Jew, to be elected to the state court office. Terte was consistently re-elected to office every six years, serving a total of 37 years, before retiring in 1963 and becoming the longest tenured judge in Missouri. In 1934, Terte married Irene Friedman, a local Kansas City actress. They had one daughter together in 1936, Carol Dorothy Terte. Carol Terte Gill wrote a biography of her father covering his career, humanitarian aid, and family life, which was published in 2006.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 4 series:

Correspondence
Publications
Scrapbook
Oversize

Scope and Content Note:**Correspondence**

This series contains materials regarding several of Judge Terte's cases spanning from 1933 to 1942. Folder one is arranged by date. The second folder contains personal letters written by a colleague of Judge Terte and a letter written by Terte's wife containing a genealogy for a family member. Folder two is arranged by date as well. If no date is given on a correspondence, it is located at the end of each folder.

Publications

This series consists of materials pertaining to the *Bar Association Bulletin* and the *Front Page Detective*. Folder three has *Bar Association Bulletins* for the summer of 1950 and September 1968. Similar materials can be found within Scrapbook #3. Folder four contains volume 3, no. 11 of *Front Page Detective*. Items in folders are arranged chronologically.

Scrapbook

This series contains three scrapbooks which are all filled with newspaper articles concerning the Terte family and Judge Terte's career. Folders 5-20 are photocopied from the originals. Scrapbook #1 is in chronological order. Scrapbook #2 has numbered pages which have been put in order. Scrapbook #3 is in chronological order. Scrapbooks #1 and #2 have been photocopied due to the fragility of the pages. The photocopied scrapbooks can be located in Box 001 while the originals are located in oversized folders in Box 002.

Oversize

This series consists of the original articles and pages of Scrapbook #1 and Scrapbook #2. A biography of Terte's life, humanitarian aid, and family written by Benjamin Terte's daughter, Carol Terte Gill, is also included.

Container List:

f. 1-2		Correspondence
Box 001	f. 1	Business, 1933-1958
	f. 2	Personal, 1944
f. 3-4		Publications
	f. 3	<i>Bar Association Bulletin</i> , 1950, 1968
	f. 4	<i>Front Page Detective</i> , 1940
f. 5-20		Scrapbook
	f. 5-14	Access Copy Scrapbook #1, 1921-1977, no date
	f. 15-17	Access Copy Scrapbook #2, 1928-1934
	f. 18-20	Original Scrapbook #3, 1952-1978
f. 21-34		Oversize
Box 002	f. 21-31	Original Scrapbook #1, 1926-1977
	f. 32-34	Original Scrapbook #2, 1928-1934
	v. 1	Biography of Benjamin Terte

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Gill, Carol	5, 20; v. 1	Yes
Jewish Community Archives of Greater Kansas City	1-34; v. 1	Yes
Jews--Missouri--Kansas City	1-34; v. 1	Yes
Terte, Benjamin	1-34; v. 1	Yes
Terte, Irene	5, 20; v. 1	Yes