



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0931

Devinki Family Papers

[Jewish Community Archives]

1889-1981

.3 cubic feet (26 folders)

*Booklets, court documents, medical files, certificates, postcards, newspapers, a passport, and letters in English, German, Polish, Russian, and German relating to the Devinki family.*

### BIOGRAPHY:

Despite its title, the central figure of this collection is Regina Braun, the grandmother of the donor, who was born in Hindenburg, Germany, on July 7, 1893, the daughter of Martha Schlencka and Bernard Rosenberg. Married in 1926 to Solomon (also spelled Salomon) Braun, a merchant, Regina moved to Wodzislaw (Hodzislav), Poland, had a son, Sam, and lived a comfortable life in a five room apartment. Following the German invasion and occupation, in April 1940 Regina and Solomon were evicted from their apartment and confined to a Jewish ghetto within the city where her grueling manual labor involved cleaning rooms and shoveling snow in subzero weather. Towards the end of 1942, she was separated from her husband and relocated to a concentration camp in Skargiska (Hassok) near Krakow and Warsaw. (Solomon was moved to Radonsko, Skiersysko, and finally to Treblinka, where he perished around January 1943.) In June 1944, while the Nazi guards were preoccupied with seeking shelter from Allied air raids, Regina and Sam escaped to Czenstochan, where they hid until they were liberated by the Russians in February 1945. Moving to Regensburg in December 1945, Regina registered with the occupying Allied authorities and received a monthly allowance of 120 marks. Immigrating to the United States in February 1950, Regina settled in Kansas City and lived at 4439 Tracy.

Deprived of medical care during her wartime incarceration (1940-1945), Regina suffered recurrent heart trouble and received out-patient care during her stay in Regensburg. Following her relocation to Kansas City, Regina was treated at the Alfred Benjamin Dispensary. Unable to hold employment due to her medical condition, she was fully supported by the United Jewish Social Services and filed a successful claim against the German government in 1956.

Subsequently purchasing a property on 3521 Baltimore Avenue in Kansas City, Regina died in December 1967.

Sam Devinki, Kansas City, MO, is the president of Devinki Developers. The son of Holocaust survivors, he was born in postwar Germany, before his family immigrated to the United States. He is on the board of directors of the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education. He has also served on the boards of the Menorah Medical Center, the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy, the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City, and Kehileth Israel Synagogue for thirty years, where he also served as president.

PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from Sam Devinki as accession KA1616 on March 27, 2008.

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PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *Devinki Family Papers (K0931)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

This collection contains booklets, court documents, medical files, certificates, postcards, newspapers, a passport, and letters in English, German, Polish, Russian, and German.

INVENTORY: (text in English except where noted)

Folder 1	Affidavits, 1956-1958
Folder 2	<i>The Citizen: A Guide to Citizenship and the Constitution</i> (text in English and Yiddish), ca. 1930s

- Folder 3      Citizenship questions and papers, 1956
- Folder 4      Claim against German government (text in German), 1956-1966
- Folder 5      Concentration camp file (text in German), 1949
- Folder 6      *D.A.R. Manual for Citizenship*, 1950s
- Folder 7      English exercises/notebook, 1950s
- Folder 8      Hebrew Publishing Company Booklet (text in Hebrew), ca. 1920s
- Folder 9      Jewish Agency for Palestine Registration Certificate, 1930s
- Folder 10     Last will and testament, ca. 1967
- Folder 11     Letters (text in Russian, Polish, and Turkish), 1903-1952
- Folder 12     Lumilite Window Company, August 1959
- Folder 13     Medical File, 1955-1966
- Folder 14     Medical File (text in German), 1950-1967
- Folder 15     Memorial, December 1967
- Folder 16     Memorial plaque order, September 8, 1967
- Folder 17     Naturalization papers, 1950-1956
- Folder 18     Newspaper- Jewish Daily Forward (text in Yiddish), March 28, 1950
- Folder 19     Newspaper- Yedioth Aharonth and supplement, February 2, 1961
- Folder 20     Postcards, letters to and from Israel (text in Hebrew), 1952-1981
- Folder 21     Real estate purchase agreement, January 1961
- Folder 22     Regensburg letters and postcards (text in German), 1949-1966
- Folder 23     Russian government letters (text in Russian), 1889-1916
- Folder 24     United Jewish Social Services/Jewish Family Service, 1955-1961
- Folder 25     United Restitution Organization, 1956-1964
- Folder 26     United Restitution Organization (text in German), 1955-1965