



**David H. Epstein and Judith Spitcaufsky Epstein Papers
(K1018)**

Collection Number: K1018

Collection Title: David H. Epstein and Judith Spitcaufsky Epstein Papers

Dates: 1912-1967

Creator: Epstein, David H.

Abstract: The David H. Epstein and Judith Spitcaufsky Epstein Papers consists of materials related to the Epstein and Spitcaufsky families.

Collection Size: 0.33 cubic foot
(11 folders, 1 item)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

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] *David H. Epstein and Judith Spitcaufsky Epstein Papers* (K1018); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by David Epstein on November 20, 2006 (Accession No. KA1471).

Notes: Collection is associated with the Jewish Community Archives of Greater Kansas City.

Processed by: Processed by Rachel Forester, March 2018

Biographical Note:

The Epstein and Spitcaufsky families came together with the union of David Herbert Epstein and Judith E. Spitcaufsky on August 12, 1969, in Jackson County, Missouri.

Little historical evidence for the Epstein family can be found. What is known is that Morris Epstein, David's father, was born on November 7, 1894, in St. Louis, Missouri, the son of David and Mary Edith Epstein. He earned his high school diploma attending the Central Evening High School. After serving in World War I, he moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he operated a grocery store at the corner of 27th Street and Benton Boulevard from 1921 to 1946. From 1946 to 1960, he worked for the Associated Grocers. In 1960, he began work as an insurance agent. He was a member of the Congregation B'nai Jehudah. He died on March 16, 1961, and is buried at the Mount Carmel Cemetery in Raytown, Missouri.

David Herbert Epstein was born in 1931 in Kansas City, Missouri. He graduated from Central High School in 1949 and began working for the Guardian Life Insurance. In 1956, he worked for the Shale H. Goodman Company building a reputation for tailoring insurance products to fit his client's needs.

Little historical evidence for the Spitcaufsky family can be found. It appears that the family has resided in the Kansas City area since the early 1900s. Sometime in the 1920s, the family began a construction business. The business is most noted for lowering two hills as preparatory work for the construction of the Clay County Water Plant in 1954.

Arrangement:

Materials within this collection have been arranged chronologically within their folders.

Scope and Content Note:

The David H. Epstein and Judith Spitcaufsky Epstein Papers consists of materials related to the Epstein and Spitcaufsky families.

Folder one contains correspondence materials to and from John Spitcaufsky as well as several graduation invitations. Folder two consists of various newspaper clippings pertaining to family members, of particular interest is the 1942 *Kansas City Star* article regarding the Red Cross Motor Corps. Folder three contains certificates for high school credit issued to Morris Epstein. Folder four consists of programs for high school graduations, dedications, and events in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Folder five contains a license for the operation of a steamboat issued to Phera Spitcaufsky in 1931. This folder also contains a copy of the 1931 regulation of motor boats issued by the Department of Commerce. Folder six consist of a single issue for *The Eagle* newsletter from the Boy Scout Troop 61 B.S.A. Folders seven and eight contain family photographs. Of particular interest are the photographs featuring women in the Red Cross during World War II and an unidentified construction site, both of which are located in folder eight.

Folders nine through eleven contain oversize photographs of the 1938 Kansas City Toy Symphony taken at the Bruce School, Congregation Keneseth Ista-el-Beth Sholom, Synagogue School Confirmation classes of 1947 and 1948, members of the Beth Alpha Beth from 1961 and 1962, and the Directors of the Associated Grocers of 1941, 1948, and 1952. Other materials

include a citation given to Morris Epstein in 1959 from the Associated Wholesale Grocers for his years of service and two issues of the *Kansas City Jewish Chronicle* dated June 1967.

The collection also includes a poodle skirt from the 1950s. The poodle skirt is stereotypical of the era. The skirt has a wide swing base with a blue felt fabric. An appliquéd design of three dogs are featured on the front with small pink flowers.

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	Correspondence, 1929, 1936, 1952
	f. 2	Clippings, 1942, 1952, 1954, 1976
	f. 3	Certificates of credit, 1912, 1914-1915
	f. 4	Programs, 1926, 1928-1929, 1965
	f. 5	License, 1931
	f. 6	Newsletter, 1928
	f. 7-8	Photographs, 1925, 1949, no date
Box 002	f. 9-11	Oversize, 1938-1967
Box 003	Item 1	Poodle skirt, 1950s

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
American Red Cross	2, 8	Yes
Eagle Scouts	6	
Epstein, David Herbert	7, 11	Yes
Epstein, Morris, 1894-1961	3, 9, 11	
Spitcaufsky, John	1, 7	Yes
Spitcaufsky, Rheva	8	Yes
World War, 1939-1945	8, 10	Yes