

K Robert I. Bitner (1918-1995) and Esther L. Gottlieb Bitner (1918-2012) Family Papers,  
1292 ca. 1932-2000  
.25 cubic feet

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri-Research Center, Kansas City](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at [kansascity@shsmo.org](mailto:kansascity@shsmo.org).

#### INTRODUCTION

The family papers of Robert I. Bitner (1918-1995) and Esther L. Gottlieb Bitner (1918-2012) contain materials relating to the history of their childhood, education, marriage, and children, as well as their religious and community activities in Kansas City, Missouri. Materials documenting Robert Bitner's service in the U.S. Army during World War II are also included.

#### DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Sharon Levitan on October 17, 2013 (Accession No. KA2143).

#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert I. Bitner was born in 1918 in Kansas City, Missouri, to Ben and Helen (Samburg) Bitner. He attended public schools in Kansas City, including Northeast Junior High and Northeast High School, and was active in the Boy Scouts of America. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, where he was stationed as a mail clerk in the 69<sup>th</sup> Field Hospital in Okinawa, Japan.

Esther L. Gottlieb was born in 1918 in Kansas City, Missouri, to Louis and Mary (Kaplan) Gottlieb. She attended Manual Training High School where she was involved in numerous athletic and leadership activities.

Robert and Esther were married June 16, 1940; they had a daughter, Sharon. Both Robert and Esther were members of the Kehilath Israel Synagogue, and each was involved in local and national Jewish War Veterans organizations. Esther received the Woman of the Year Award from the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary 605 in 1978.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers have been arranged into the following 3 series:

##### **Robert I. Bitner series**

##### **Esther L. Gottlieb series**

##### **Robert I. + Esther L. Gottlieb Bitner series**

The **Robert I. Bitner** series contains materials relating to Bitner's childhood, education and military service during World War II.

The **Esther L. Gottlieb** series consists of material pertaining to her education and religious activities.

The **Robert I. and Esther L. Gottlieb Bitner** series contains material concerning their marriage, family history, religious activities, and participation in Jewish War Veterans organizations.

PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *Robert I. Bitner and Esther L. Gottlieb Bitner Family Papers (K1292)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1-9 Robert I. Bitner series
  - f. 1 Boy Scouts of America, 1932-1934
  - f. 2-3 Education, Northeast Junior High, Northeast High School, 1932-1936
  - f. 4 Military service, U. S. Army, World War II, photographs, documents – Camp Grant, IL, Honolulu, HI, Philippines, ca. 1943-1945
  - f. 5-6 Military service, U. S. Army, World War II, photographs, Okinawa, Japan, 1945
  - f. 7-9 Military service, U. S. Army, World War II, documents, ephemera, news clippings, 1944-1946
- f. 10-11 Esther L. Gottlieb series
  - f. 10 Manual Training High School, annual, photographs, ca. 1934
  - f. 11 Manual High School class 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 1986; synagogue history, ca. 1910-1965
- f. 12-18 Robert I. and Esther L. Gottlieb Bitner series
  - f. 12-13 Bitner scrapbook, family photographs, marriage announcement, ca. 1939-1976
  - f. 14-18 Jewish War Veterans, Israel Disabled War Veterans activities, photographs, related, ca. 1970s-2000s

LOCATION NOTE

Materials in this collection are stored offsite and will need to be retrieved before viewing.

RESEARCH NOTE

See also: Sharon Bitner Levitan and Howard Steven Levitan Papers, K0803; Norman Hadley Levitan Papers, K1108; and, Andrea Levitan Papers, K1293.

SUBJECTS

Education—Missouri—Kansas City  
Jewish history, life and culture  
Missouri—Kansas City  
Photographs  
Veterans  
World War II, 1939-1945--Japan

K1292 Robert I. Bitner (1918-1995) and Esther L. Gottlieb Bitner (1918-2012)  
Family Papers, ca. 1932-2000

Page 3

World War II, 1939-1945--U.S. Army Training