

# Jewish Kentucky Research Materials at the UK Libraries Special Collections Research Center

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## Archival Collections

### [Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass records, 1939-2015](#) (2016ms010)

**Abstract:** The Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass records (dated 1939-2015, bulk 1977-2011; 6.07 cubic feet and 13.7 gigabytes; 11 boxes, 2 items, and 14,228 digital files) contain administrative records, publications, bulletins, financial records, photographs, meeting minutes, committee records, ledger books, and digital files documenting the community events, activities, and operation of the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass.

### [Temple Adath Israel records, 1903-2016](#) (2017ms001)

**Abstract:** The Temple Adath Israel records (dated 1903-2016, undated; 20.85 cubic feet, 27 boxes, 2 items, 1 map folder) comprise administrative files and reports, Temple bulletins and yearbooks, service and sermon programs, and photographs that document the history and development of Lexington, Kentucky's oldest Jewish congregation.

### [Joseph P. D'Andrea WWII refugee resettlement papers,](#) 1912-2001 (2017ms002)

**Abstract:** The Joseph P. D'Andrea WWII refugee resettlement papers (dated 1936-2017, bulk 1936-1951; 0.25 cubic feet; 1 box) comprises records and publications related to D'Andrea's work as a United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) social worker in Austria after WWII.

### [Wade Hall Collection of American Letters: Ruth Louise \(Sachs\)](#) [Cronin letters](#) (2009ms132.0061)

Ruth Louise (Sachs) Cronin was born January 14, 1910 to Louis Sachs (1870-1970) and Irene Goldsoll (1886-1950) in Chicago, Illinois. Her father was a real estate agent and her mother was a homemaker. They were non-practicing Jews, and Ruth Louise had joined the Christian Science church. She attended Ohio State University and met Ralph Marvin Cohen (1907-1973), the son of Polish immigrants, with whom she had an on-again, off-again relationship for several years until they married in January of 1939. Ralph initially worked as a travelling advertising salesman for the Keller Crescent Advertising-Merchandising Company in Evansville, Indiana until experiencing a nervous breakdown in November of

1937 and returning home to Dayton, Ohio to live with his parents. With the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party the Cohen family believed the threat of antisemitism in the U.S. to be real enough that they changed their last name to the Irish-sounding surname Cronin sometime after 1938. After their marriage Ralph went to work for the Jam Handy Organization in Detroit, Michigan, where they lived for four years until Ralph received his draft notice December 1942. He had been a member of the Naval Reserve and received a commission in 1943; he was assigned to the Memphis, Tennessee Naval Air Station as a lieutenant with an audio-visual specialty. After the war, Ralph and Ruth ended up living in Louisville, Kentucky, and Ralph was vice-president of National Industries until his death on August 18, 1973. Ruth passed away 19 years later on May 7, 1992.

## [Victor Howard Collection: Civil Rights and Church State Material, 1944-1976 \(2009ms014\)](#)

**Biography:** Victor Howard is emeritus professor of history at Morehead State University and is the author of several articles and books. Mr. Howard's life-long interest in Civil Rights matches his interest in education, and is revealed to us through the material he solicited and collected from many major U.S. cities, a majority of the states, the federal government, social and political organizations, and various individuals.

## [Moses Kaufman papers, 1873-1924 \(87m49\)](#)

**Biography:** Businessman, Rabbi, historian. Moses Kaufman was a native of Bavaria who lived in Cincinnati, Ohio before coming to Lexington, Ky. in 1869. He founded the Kaufman Clothing Company and at various times served as Lexington city councilman, postmaster, city treasurer, city auditor and trustee of the Julius Marks Sanitorium. He was once a candidate for mayor and represented Lexington in the General Assembly in 1896. In addition, he was instrumental in the establishment of the city's water works. Kaufman was known as a philanthropist and Hebrew scholar.

**Scope and Content:** The Kaufman papers consist of scrapbooks and printed material relating to the career of Moses Kaufman. Clippings, which comprise most of the collection, deal primarily with the Lexington city council and its activities in the last quarter of the 19th century, articles on Jewish history and customs, Hebrew lore and biographical information on Kaufman. Obituaries and articles on Kaufman are included as well as many articles that he wrote for the newspaper notably his "Reminiscences" and "The Soul" which were reprinted as booklets.

Kaufman's frequent and eloquent correspondence with friends and colleagues, reflecting his social and philosophical beliefs, is present, with such correspondents as Irvin S. Cobb, J. C. W. Beckham, Samuel M. Wilson, Cotton Noe, Charles Kerr, James C. Cantrill, Johnson Camden, May Collins, Helen R. Gutman and Ollie M. James. Correspondence with Cotton Noe and poems by Noe comprise a separate folder of material as well as one with miscellaneous materials and correspondence relating to Kaufman's years as Postmaster of Lexington. A typewritten history of the post office and postal service is included in the postmaster folder.

## Lexington Havurah records, 1979-2021, undated (2021ms065)

**Abstract:** The Lexington Havurah records (dated 1979-2021, undated; 1 cubic foot; 1 box; 254 megabytes and 26 digital files) comprise board minutes, newsletters, directories, newspaper clippings, working files, and a photo book that document the operation of the Lexington Havurah and the Jewish community in Lexington, Kentucky.

## [Ohavay Zion Synagogue records, 1889-2019 \(2018ms004\)](#)

**Abstract:** The Ohavay Zion Synagogue records (dated 1889-2019, undated; 8.1 cubic feet, 1.66 GB; 27 boxes, 1765 digital files) comprise administrative files, bulletins, yearbooks, newspaper and magazine articles, service and event programs, and photographs that document the history and development of Lexington, Kentucky's conservative Jewish congregation.

## [Orphan Society of Lexington records, 1895-1978, bulk 1895-1971 \(1F83m-787\)](#)

**History:** The Orphan Society of Lexington was formed in 1833 to operate the Lexington Orphan Asylum, founded to provide for children orphaned during the cholera epidemic of that year. It was run by a Board of Managers consisting of twenty-four women, whose numbers included "members of each Protestant Church in Lexington" and who were drawn from some of the most prominent families of the city. Benjamin Gratz was a moving force behind the forming of the asylum and the Society. The first meeting of the Society was held October 16, 1833, and the officers elected were Abby V. Sayre, first directress (president); Syna Richardson, second directress (vice president); Maria C. Gratz (Benjamin's wife), secretary; and Sarah Ward, treasurer. In 1834, the Society was incorporated by an act of the Kentucky General Assembly. The orphans' home was located first on Third Street, then, in 1907, it was moved to West Short Street.

**Scope and Content:** This is a collection on microfilm of the records of the Orphan Society of Lexington. Miscellaneous papers include a "Historical sketch of the Lexington Orphan Asylum," written by Annie G. Clay for the Society's annual report in 1912. Also included is a copy of the act by which the Society was incorporated. Minutes from the Board of Managers' monthly meetings cover the period from May 7, 1895 to November 6, 1945 inclusively, then skip to June 8, 1971 through December 4, 1973. Included among the minutes are lists, of the Managers, of committees and their members, and of orphans. Tributes to esteemed deceased members, including Virginia Alexander and S.B. Cronley, are frequently found among the minutes as well. The book of inventories covers the period 1922-1925 only. The visiting books date from February 6, 1896 to July 25, 1915, then skip to January 15, 1970-January 20, 1971.

## Hadassah, Lexington Chapter records, 1960s-2010s

*Collection is unprocessed and may not be available for research.*

**Brief summary:** Bulletins, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, event invitations, minutes, financials, and other materials related to the Lexington Chapter of Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America.

## Jeremy D. Popkin University of Kentucky Jewish history course papers, 1979-1980 (2018ua063)

**Abstract:** 0.1 cubic feet of materials related to the first Jewish history course at the University of Kentucky, which Dr. Jeremy D. Popkin taught from 1980-1986. The course was offered by the University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences History Department. Materials include correspondence and syllabus information.

## Judith and Stanley Saxe papers, 1950s-2019 (2019ms030)

*Collection is unprocessed and may not be available for research.*

**Brief summary:** Posters, photos, articles, programs, images, audiovisual, and more documenting the Saxe's personal and profession activities in Lexington and at the University of Kentucky. Topics include the establishment of UK College of Dentistry, Lexington Havurah, Lexington Chapter of Hadassah, Ohavay Zion Synagogue, and Modern Dance Kentucky.

## [Schenley Distillers Corporation records, 1937](#) (2011ms100)

**History:** The Schenley Distillers Corporation, founded in Western Pennsylvania, acquired the Bernheim Distillers Company from Isaac Wolfe Bernheim in 1937. The Bernheim Distillers Company, based in Louisville, Kentucky, was one of ten distillers allowed to make bourbon during Prohibition for medicinal purposes.

**Scope and Content:** The Schenley Distillers Corporation records consist of a bound volume of corporate papers concerning the litigation and takeover of the Bernheim Distilling Co., based in Louisville, Kentucky, by the Schenley Distillers Corporation.

## [Frankel and Curtis architectural drawings](#) (2009ms105)

**Abstract:** The Frankel and Curtis architectural drawings collection (dated 1897-1974, undated; 10 cubic feet; 161 tubes, 5 boxes) comprises drawings, office records, photographs, and scrapbooks documenting the firm's designs at various stages of completion, from architectural plans and specifications to finished buildings.

## [University of Kentucky Yearbooks](#)

*Includes information on Hillel and Zeta Beta Tau*

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## Subjects

### Judah P. Benjamin

- [Richard Hawes papers, 1826-1877, bulk 1826-1877](#) (67M-729)
- [Thomas Henry Hines papers, 1786-1954, bulk 1860-1889](#) (46M97)
- [William Preston letterbook, 1864-1865](#) (1M64M120)
- [Wickliffe-Preston family papers, 1753-1897, bulk 1770-1887](#) (63M349)

### Holocaust and Antisemitism

- [Ku Klux Klan papers, 1881-1961, bulk 1901-1948](#) (61M250)
- [E.T. Wightman collection on 1936 Olympics, circa 1936](#) (2010av001)

### National Organizations

- [Alben W. Barkley Grooved Audio Disc Collection, 1938-1951](#) (AV63M143) *Includes materials related to the United Jewish Appeal.*
- [Robert Houlihan papers, 1930-1999](#) (2009ms167) *Includes materials related to the National Conference of Christians and Jews.*
- [Laura Massie papers, 1952-1970, bulk 1962-1964](#) (1997ms295) *Includes materials related to the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the American Jewish Association.*
- [Anna Dudley McGinn Lilly Papers, 1875-1950s](#) (1997MS234) *Includes materials related to the National Conference of Christians and Jews.*
- [Thruston B. Morton Collection, 1933-1969](#) (69M43) *Includes materials related to the American Jewish Committee.*
- [WVLK Radio Collection, 1971-1978](#) (74AV01) *Includes materials related to the National Conference of Christians and Jews.*

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## Photographs and Images

- [Lafayette Studios photographs, 1920s-2000s](#) (96PA101)

- [Louis Edward Nollau F Series Photographic Print Collection, circa 1885-1966](#) (1998ua001)
- [Postcard Collection, ca. 1890-1990](#) (2008MS016)
- [Cora Wilson Stewart Photographic Collection, ca 1900-1940](#) (PA58M25)

## Oral Histories

- [Ethnicity in Lexington \(Multi-culturality\) Oral History Project](#)  
*Residents of Lexington who are of Greek, African, Italian, Scandinavian, Scottish, East Indian, Korean, Jewish, Irish, and Lebanese descent discuss the development and purpose of ethnic organizations and the depth of their ethnic identity and interests.*
- [Jewish Bourbon Oral History Project](#)  
*This series of interviews explore Jewish people and culture in Kentucky's Bourbon industry.*
- [Jewish Kentucky Oral History Collection](#)  
*This collection was conceived and conducted by University of Kentucky faculty member Dr. Janice Fernheimer.*
- [Jewish Kentucky \(General\) Oral History Project](#)
- [Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame Oral History Project](#)  
*Kentucky's Human Rights Commission began the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2000. The interviewees of the KCRHF Oral History Project are men and women who have made significant contributions to Kentucky's progress in the areas of civil and human rights. Their contributions serve a wide range of issues such as race, sex, religion, disability, age and economic status, religion or other human rights arenas.*
- [Lexington Jewish Community Oral History Project](#)  
*This project focuses on the social role of Lexington's Temple Adath Israel in the life of its members. Interviewees discuss their family histories, the Jewish population in Shelbyville, the history of Temple Adath Israel, Jewish women and work, leaders in the Jewish community, Science Hill School, anti-Semitism in Lexington, entertainment in Lexington during the 1930s and 1940s, relationships between Gentile and Jewish children, the increase in the Jewish population after World War II, child rearing in the Jewish home, and Jewish merchants in downtown Lexington.*
- [Voices of the Holocaust](#)  
*This series of interviews were used to create the 1996 book: "When They Came to Take My Father: Voices of the Holocaust" edited by Leora Kahn and Rachel Hager, with photographs by Mark Seliger, and introduction by Robert Jay Lifton.*

## Selected Publications

(much more can be found via InfoKat)

- [Lexington and the tercentenary: the American Jewish tercentenary, 1654-1954](#)
- I. W. Bernheim's [History of the settlement of Jews in Paducah and the lower Ohio valley](#)
- [He answered the bell: memoirs of a Jewish Kentuckian](#)
- [Shalom: bulletin of the Central Kentucky Jewish Foundation](#)
- [Seventy fifth anniversary history of Temple Adath Israel, Lexington, Kentucky, 1904-1979](#)
- [Kentucky](#) by Schwartz, Israel Jacob

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## Additional Scholarly Resources for Learning about Jewish Kentucky and Judaism in the U.S.

(much more can be found via InfoKat)

- Appleman, Bina. *Safta's Diaries: Intimate Diaries of a Religious Zionist Woman*
- Bernheim, I.W. *Reflections of I.W. Bernheim*
- Cohler Ferris, Marcie and Mark I. Greenberg. Eds. *Jewish Roots in Southern Soil: A New History*
- Davis, Marni. *Jews and Booze*
- Diner, Hasia. *The Jews of the United States*. (2004)
- Donahue and Howell. *This is Home Now: Kentucky's Holocaust Survivors Speak* (2009)
- Evans, Eli N. *The Lonely Days Were Sundays: Reflections of a Jewish Southerner*
- Evans, . *The Provincials: A Personal History of Jews in the South*
- *Jewish Louisville: Portrait of a Community*
- Krome, . *The Jewish Hospital and Cincinnati Jews in Medicine*
- Kobrin, . Ed. *Chosen Capital*
- Landau, . *Adath Israel*
- Levy, Paul *Finger Lickin' Good* (1990)
- Matheny, . *The Magic City*
- Moosnick, Nora Rose. *Arab and Jewish Women in Kentucky: Stories of Accommodation and Audacity* (2012)
- Receveur and Cathcart. *Bernheim: Arboretum and Research Forest*.
- Rose, Harriet Abraham. *Not Necessarily Kosher: Life, Love, and My American Jewish Family* (2016)
- Rosengarten and Rosengarten. *A Portrait of the People*
- Sarna, Jonathan *American Judaism: A History* (2004)
- Shevitz. *Jewish Communities on the Ohio River: A History*
- Sternberg. *We Were Merchants*
- Weiner, Deborah. *Coalfield Jews: An Appalachian History*
- Zingman and Amster: *A Legendary History of Jewish Hospital* [Louisville]
- Weissbach, Lee Shai. *Jewish Life in Small-Town America*
- Weissbach, Lee Shai. *The Synagogues of Kentucky*