



History of the Lives of Jack and Bess Sokolov (K1449)

Collection Number: K1449

Collection Title: History of the Lives of Jack and Bess Sokolov

Dates: circa 1990s

Creator: Jack Sokolov

Abstract: This collection contains a book that describes the life and death of Jack and Bess Sokolov and other genealogical information created in the 1990s. The collection also contains a family tree and printed prayers.

Collection Size: 0.05 cubic foot
(1 folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. 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, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *History of the Lives of Jack and Bess Sokolov* (K1449); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Carole Goggin on January 23, 2023 (Accession No. KA2609).

Processed by: Processed by Kristyna Le, July 2024

Historical Note:

Born from a family of Jewish Russian immigrants, Bess (Bessie) Sokolov, whose maiden name was Medov, was born on April 20th, 1918, to Louis and Katie Medov as the eldest of three

daughters. The Medov family found much of their success in the scrap metal industry in Salina, Kansas. During her late teen years, Bess was sent to live with her aunt and uncle in Kansas City, Missouri, in order to gain a greater connection with her Jewish heritage. The rest of her family would follow soon afterwards. In 1935, Bess graduated from Central High School and attended a junior college for two years. She would go on to become a medical technician for a local specialist. This was Bess's first and only job as once she became pregnant with her first child, she decided to leave the industry to focus on being a mother and housewife.

Similarly, Jacob (Jack) Sokolov, formerly Sokolovitz, was born to Hyman and Bessie Sokolov (formerly Yankelovitz and Eliashevitz), eastern European immigrants that were escaping persecution and seeking better living conditions. Born on April 25th, 1915, Jack was the second son of a family that found its footing within the carpentry industry. He would attend Hamilton and Irvine elementary schools and eventually graduated from Manual Training High School in 1932. Then for the next six years, Jack would attend evening accounting courses at Kansas City Junior College, Rockhurst College, and University of Missouri-Kansas City while working odd jobs to fund his education. After a small venture into legal secretarial work, Jack became a head accountant at Ready Mixed Concrete Co. in order to explore a business venture with his father-in-law, Louis Medov.

Bess and Jack first met in 1937 at an AZA regional convention; Jack fell for Bess at first sight. After courting her for a few years, Bess and Jack married on April 7th, 1940. They settled down just north of the Plaza in Kansas City and had three daughters, Carole Ann, Linda Jean, and Hedda Gail in 1942, 1945, and 1949. In 1945, the family moved to Leavenworth and their daughters attended the schools there.

Both Bess and Jack remained close with their parents, which was cause for the original inspiration for Louis and Jack's business venture. Due to Louis's concern for the wellbeing of the larger family, he convinced Jack to leave his original accounting job to help expand on the already successful scrap metal business. They purchased Western Iron & Metal Co. in Leavenworth in 1944. Jack would remain with the company until his retirement at 77 years old. During this business venture, Bess would focus on raising their three daughters and found herself active in the local community, especially when it came to golfing.

In 2010, once Bess and Jack both entered retirement, they decided to move to Park Meadows retirement community.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into one folder that contains a book concerning the lives and genealogy of Jack and Bess Sokolov, including personal stories, notable events, and business history, printed spray sheets, and a small family tree.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains materials relating to genealogy of the Sokolov family.

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