



**Albert Brownstein Memoir
(K0861)**

Collection Number: K0861

Collection Title: Albert Brownstein Memoir

Dates: 1965

Creator: Brownstein, Albert, 1891-1967

Abstract: The collection consists of a manuscript entitled, “A Letter to My Grandchildren,” written by Brownstein. The memoir includes genealogical and historical information on the family, along with anecdotes from Brownstein on his youth and life growing up as an Orthodox Jew in New Jersey and Philadelphia.

Collection Size: 0.01 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. 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] *Albert Brownstein Memoir* (K0861); 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 Howard Brownstein on January 29, 2011 (Accession No. KA1523).

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

Processed by: Processed by Mimi Loran, May 2018

Historical Note:

Albert Brownstein was born in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1891. His parents, Elias and Fannie, sometimes called Alec and Fagga, emigrated from Russia in the 1880's and were devout Orthodox Jews, bringing with them eight children. The Brownstein family originally settled in Dodge City, Kansas, as homesteaders before moving to Kansas City, Missouri. Elias opened a fruit and produce business. Around 1892, Elias decided to sell off the remainder of his claim in Dodge City, Kansas, and move the family to Bridgeton, New Jersey, to work in the soda bottling business.

In 1907, the Brownstein family moved to Philadelphia, where the majority of the family owned and worked in a scrapyards, including Albert. From 1917 to the late 1920's, Albert and his older brother Harry went into the tire business. After prohibition and the onset of the depression, the two brothers dissolved the business, with Albert resorting to odd jobs to make a living.

Albert and his brother eventually began to sell accessories out of their cars. Each brother took a different geographical region along the East Coast and peddled wares throughout the week. It was during this time that Albert met and married a woman named Rose Kouser. The Brownstein brothers continued in this line of business throughout World War II.

Albert Brownstein died in September 1967.

Arrangement:

This collection has been arranged into a single folder.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of a manuscript written by Albert Brownstein documenting his life and the lives of his parents and siblings in the United States in the first half of the twentieth century. Brownstein includes genealogical information and anecdotes of Brownstein's life growing up in New Jersey and Philadelphia.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 "A Letter to My Grandchildren," 1965

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Brownstein family	1
Depressions, 1929	1
Frontier and pioneer life	1
Jewish Community Archives of Greater Kansas City	1
Personal narratives--Jewish	1