BIOGRAPHY:

Jacob P. Kraft’s father, Harry Kraft and his grandfather, Jacob Kravchenko, were tailors. They came from Kiev to Leavenworth, Kansas through Galveston to tailor the officers’ uniforms at Fort Leavenworth.

Later, the Kravchenko family moved to Kansas City. The grandfather, Jacob Kravchenko (1868-1916) and grandmother, Genesee Kravchenko (?-1930) became the caretakers of the Sheffield Cemetery. They lived on the property above the chapel in an apartment built about 1912.

The name was shortened from Kravchenko to Kraft by the whole family about 1916-17. Harry Kraft continued as a tailor in his own shop and for Rothchild’s Department Store.

Jacob “Jake” Kraft was a Film Projection/Engineer for KCTV channel 5 in Kansas City for 25 years before his retirement in 1994. He was a member of Kehilath Israel Synagogue, its Breakfast Club, Minyanaires Club, and was a Shomer. Jacob, his father and all grandfathers before him served in the Chevra Kadisha society. He was a member of the Rockhill Lodge No. 663, A.F. & A.M., Heroine Daylight Masonic Lodge #104, Ararat Temple, Mo-Kan Jewish War Veterans Post and Auxiliary #605, Eagle Scout and member of Tribe of Mic-O-Say, was a Sergeant in the Jackson county Sheriff’s Mounted Posse, Electrical Worker’s Local #53, and I.B.E.W. Kraft was an Army Veteran of the Korean Conflict, serving three years in Germany and was a volunteer for the Israeli Army in 1987.
Note: Biographical and family history information written by Jacqueline H. Kraft, March 18, 2012; Obituary, Kansas City Star, January 23, 2004

PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from Jacqueline H. Kraft as accession KA2039 on April 18, 2012.

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PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; Jacob P. Kraft (1929-2004) Family Papers (K1040); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

The collection includes family papers, Jewish publications, Yarmulkes, and a cookbook.

Note: Items relating to the Journeymen Tailors’ Union Local No. 64 have been moved to a separate collection: Journeymen Tailors’ Union of America Local No. 64, Kansas City Records (K1276).

INVENTORY:

BOX 001

FAMILY PAPERS, JEWISH PUBLICATIONS, YARMULKES

Folder 1. Handwritten family history by Jacqueline Kraft, March 18, 2012
Kass, by her husband, children, and grandchildren, 2000; *Burst Forth in Song—a basic selection of Hebrew and Yiddish folk songs*, 1964; Kehilath Israel Synagogue, directory and calendar, 2009-2010; assorted cards and invitations 1994-1996