This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

Introduction
Approximately 1.25 cu. ft.

Max Bernstein was born September 23, 1886 in Romania, the son of Moses Bernstein. He came to Kansas City, Missouri in 1902, became a citizen in 1914 and served in World War I. He owned Max Bernstein and Son Novelty Company. He married Libbie Cecil Rothenberg in 1932, and they had a son, Marshall. Bernstein died in a car accident July 13, 1964 in Kansas City and is buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Libbie Rothenberg Bernstein was born October 5, 1898 in Poland, the daughter of Simon Eli Rothenberg, a furniture dealer, and Esther Gibian(ski). She settled in Kansas City, Missouri in 1905 and was affiliated with the Congregation B’Nai Jehudah. She died on October 15, 1966 and is buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Family identified in photographs include brother, Moe, (wife Ruth Weil and son Donald) who was the owner of Jay’s of Westwood Jewelers.

Their papers include photographs of Bernsteins and Rothenbergs, their certificate of marriage, his naturalization certificate and induction to the Scottish Rite, as well as various religious publications. In addition, two news articles are included involving a jewel thief, Fred F. Falkman, who conned Libbie into an engagement in order to steal from a local jeweler, Max Daniels, and $75 from her sister, Annie. In 1925, he was apprehended in Dallas, Texas for defrauding jewelers.

Box List

Box 1
Legal documents
  - Marriage certificate, 1932
  - Power of attorney to transfer stock, 1954
  - Superior Ice and Coal Company shareholder notice, 1962
  - Identification cards for Max Bernstein, 1917-1918
Around the Year in Rhymes for the Jewish Child, 1941
Fraternities at Missouri: a guide to rush week, 1954
Wedding memory book
4 Passover service books
Velvet embroidered Passover pouch
Newspaper and magazine clippings, n.d., 1925
5 mini photo albums
Photographs, identified (1 folder)
Photographs, not identified (7 folders)
Negatives (1 folder)
Box 2
Naturalization certificate for Max Bernstein, 1914
Memorial death document for Simon Rothenberg, 1933
32 Degree Scottish Rite certificate for Max Bernstein, 1918