

SYLVIA AND ABRAM KOLSKI PHOTOGRAPHS, approximately 1932-1970 1990.93.64

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Sylvia and Abram Kolski photographs

Dates: approximately 1932-1970

Accession number: 1990.93.64

Creator: Kolski, Sylvia, 1925-

Additional creator: Kolski, Abram, 1917-

Extent: 0.7 linear foot (7 folders)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: The Sylvia and Abram Kolski photographs document Sylvia and Abram Kolski and their families in Poland before and during the Holocaust and in France and the United States after World War II. Photographs depict Sylvia and Abram Kolski; Sylvia's parents, brothers, and cousins; her mother's brother Abram Borenstein, sister Laia Karpman, and their families; the individuals who hid with Sylvia and her father in a bunker in Krushev during the Holocaust; the Polish woman Bronislawa Witosinska who hid them; the Pogorzelski family who hid Abram Kolski following the Treblinka uprising; and two men who participated in the uprising with Abram. Additional photographs depict school children and Zionist youth in Tarczyn before the Holocaust and memorial erected after the Holocaust.

Languages: Polish

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Sylvia and Abram Kolski photographs (1990.93.64), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Sylvia and Abram Kolski donated the Sylvia and Abram Kolski photographs to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1990.

Related materials. Sylvia and Abram Kolski also donated a piece of Lodz ghetto scrip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (1990.93.63).

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed. See archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, October 2018

Biographical note

Sylvia Kolski was born Sylvia Kramarska in 1925 in Tarczyn, Poland, to Mendel and Frymet Kramarski. She had three brothers, Moshe, Abraham, and Fishel. When the war started in 1939, she and her family relocated to the Warsaw ghetto. She worked in a tailor shop called Tebins and hid money in her clothing to protect herself from deportation until her father arranged for her escape. She and her father hid in a bunker with several other people in the Polish countryside until liberation in January 1945. She returned to Tarczyn before relocating to Lodz, where she met and married Abram Kolski. The couple moved to Paris in 1947 and immigrated to the United States in 1954. All three of her brothers were killed at Treblinka.

Abram Kolski was born in 1917 in Izbica Lubelska, Poland, to Matys and Dorbys Kolski. He had two sisters and one brother. He relocated to the Czestochowa ghetto following the German invasion of Poland and performed forced labor at a metal factory. He was deported to Treblinka on October 2, 1942. At Treblinka he performed forced labor searching for valuables in the clothing of gas chamber victims. He participated in the Treblinka uprising on August 2, 1943, escaped the concentration camp during the uprising, and hid in a cellar of a home near Treblinka for the remainder of the war. Following liberation by the Russian Army, he met and married Sylvia Kramarska in Lodz. The couple moved to Paris in 1947 and immigrated to the United States in 1954. He testified about what he witnessed at Treblinka in the war crimes trials at Düsseldorf.

Scope and content of collection

The Sylvia and Abram Kolski photographs document Sylvia and Abram Kolski and their families in Poland before and during the Holocaust and in France and the United States after World War II. Photographs depict Sylvia and Abram Kolski; Sylvia's parents, brothers, and cousins; her mother's brother Abram Borenstein, sister Laia Karpman, and their families; the individuals who hid with Sylvia and her father in a bunker in Krushev during the Holocaust; the Polish woman Bronislawa Witosinska who hid them; the Pogorzelski family who hid Abram Kolski following the Treblinka uprising; and two men who participated in the uprising with Abram. Additional photographs depict school children and Zionist youth in Tarczyn before the Holocaust and memorial erected after the Holocaust.

System of arrangement

The Sylvia and Abram Kolski photographs are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Kolski, Sylvia, 1925-

Kolski, Abram, 1917-

Jews--Poland.

Jewish children in the Holocaust--Poland.

Hidden children (Holocaust)--Poland.

Jewish ghettos--Poland--Warsaw.

World War, 1939-1945--Jewish resistance--Poland.

Holocaust survivors--Poland.

Holocaust victims--Poland.

Tarczyn (Poland)

Warsaw (Poland)

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Sylvia and Abram Kolski photographs, approximately 1932-1970

Folder	
1 of 7	Borenstein and Karpman families, approximately 1932-1941
	(#1) Abram Borenstein, Sylvia Kolski's mother's brother, Poland, pre-war.
	(#39) Home of Abram Borenstein, Tarczyn, Poland, pre-war.
	(#42) Abram Borenstein, Poland, pre-war.
	(#2) Szaidl Borenstein, wife of Abram Borenstein, Tarczyn, Poland, 1932.
	(#8) Frymet Kramarska (Sylvia Kolski's mother) with her sister-in-law, Szaidl Borenstein, Tarczyn, Poland, 1932.
	(#9) Frymet Kramarska and Szaidl Borenstein, Tarczyn, Poland, 1932.
	(#6) Menachem Borenstein, son of Abram and Szaidl, Swidur, Poland, 1935.
	(#3) Raca Borenstein, daughter of Abram and Szaidl, Swidur (suburb of Warsaw), Poland, 1937
	(#4) Raca Borenstein, Swidur, 1938.
	(#7) Menachem Borenstein, Swidur, 1938.
	(#23) Laia Karpman (sister of Frymet Kramarska), Tarczyn, Poland, ca. 1938.
	(#24) Laia Karpman and her husband, Herschel, Tarczyn, Poland, 1938.
	(#5) Portrait of Abram Borenstein taken for an identification card, Warsaw Ghetto, ca. 1941
	(#10) Szaidl Borenstein, Warsaw Ghetto, 1941.
	(#57) Menachem Borenstein, Warsaw Ghetto.

2 of 7	Kolski, Abram, approximately 1945-1966
	(#29) Abraham Kolski with Mr. Lachman and Mr. Brenner, Poland, immediately after liberation. All three men participated in the uprising at Treblinka.
	(#17) Abram Kolski, Poland, post-war.
	(#11) The Pogorzelski family, who hid Abram Kolski and others who escaped from Treblinka after the uprising, Poland, 1966.
3 of 7	Kolski, Sylvia, approximately 1941-1946
	(#15) Sylvia Kramarska (Kolski), Warsaw Ghetto, 1941.
	(#16) Sylvia Kramarska (Kolski), Warsaw Ghetto, 1941.
	(#19) Sylvia Kramarska (Kolski) on the Pavlach family farm where she was hidden, Krushev, Poland, 1945
	(#44) Sylvia Kramarska Kolski, Krushev, Poland, 1945. She is holding the dog which she says saved her life by barking to warn her of the approach of a Nazi vehicle.
	(#47) Sylvia Kramarska Kolski, Poland, 1945.
	(#48) Sylvia Kramarska Kolski, Poland, 1946.
	(#60) Sylvia Kramarska Kolski and her father, Mendel Kramarski, Kndowa, Poland, 1946.
	(#58) Sylvia Kramarska Kolski with her cousin Jochwet Kantorowicz (Wolfson). Tarczyn, Poland, postwar.
4 of 7	Kolski, Abram and Sylvia, approximately 1947-1965
	(#43) Sylvia and Abram Kolski, Paris, post-war.
	(#59) Sylvia and Abram Kolski, Paris, 1950.
	(#55) Abram and Sylvia Kolski with their daughters Frances and Linda, post-war.
	(#53) The Kolski family with Mendel Kramarski, New York, 1956.
	(#51) The Kolski family with Mendel Kramarski, Israel, 1962.
	(#52) The Kolski family, New York, 1965.
5 of 7	Kramarski family, approximately 1934-1963
	(#38) Frymet Kramarska with her four children, Abram, Fischel, Mojshe, and Sylvia, Tarczyn, Poland, 1934.
	(#40) Building in which the Kramarski's lived, Tarczyn, Poland, pre-war.
	(#41) Balcony of the Kramarski's home, Tarczyn, Poland, pre-war.
	(#31) Abram Kramarski, Tarczyn, Poland, pre-war.
	(#32) Fishel Kramarski, Tarczyn, Poland, pre-war.
	(#33) Mojshe Kramarski. Tarczyn, Poland, pre-war.
	(#35) Sylvia Kramarska Kolski's first cousins, Esther and Miriam Tarczyn, ca. 1938. Her brother Moshe is playing in the background.
	(#36) Sylvia Kramarska Kolski's first cousins, Esther and Miriam, Tarczyn, ca. 1938. Her brother Moshe is playing in the background.
	(#45) Mendel Kramarski's brother's children, Otwock, Poland, 1938.
	(#46) Mendel Kramarski's brother's children, Otwock, Poland, 1938.
	(#13) Sylvia Kramarska (Kolski) and her mother, Frymet Kramarska, Warsaw Ghetto, 1942.
	(#14) Sylvia Kramarska (Kolski) and her mother, Frymet Kramarska, Warsaw Ghetto, 1942.
	(#34) Frymet Kramarska, Warsaw Ghetto, 1942.

	(#30) Mendel Kramarski, Tel Aviv, 1963. Portrait taken after the death of his second wife.
6 of 7	Survivors who hid with Sylvia Kolski, approximately 1945-1970
	(#25) Abram Leszno, Henry Leszno's uncle, Poland, pre-war.
	(#18) Henry Leszno on the Pavlach family farm where he was hidden, Krushev, Poland, 1945. (Henry Leszno was the son of Sylvia Kramarska Kolski's father's business partner.)
	(#20) Sylvia Kramarska (Kolski) and Henry Leszno on the Pavlach family farm, Poland, 1945.
	(#21) Henry Leszno, Tarczyn, Poland, 1945.
	(#22) Krushev, Poland, 1945. Rachel Beserglik pictured on the farm where Sylvia Kramarska (Kolski) was hidden.
	(#49) A gathering of Holocaust survivors in their former home town, Tarczyn, Poland, 1945.
	(#12) A group of Jews who survived the Holocaust, Krushev, Poland, post-war. Sylvia Kramarska (Kolski) is second from left, first row. The group is looking at the bunker where Sylvia Kramarski (Kolski) hid with her father and others.
	(#50) A group of survivors gathering to view an underground bunker, Poland, post-war. The bunker was used as a hiding place during the Holocaust by Sylvia Kramarska (Kolski), her father, Jacob and Henry Leszno and Rachel Besserglik.
	(#54) Henry Leszno and Sylvia Kolski with the son of the Polish family with whom they hid during the Holocaust, post-war.
	(#56) Bronislawa Witosinska, the woman who hid Sylvia Kramarska Kolski, Mendel Kramarski, Henry Leszno and other Jews, post-war.
7 of 7	Miscellaneous, approximately 1940-1965
	(#27) Group photograph of a Zionist youth organization, Tarczyn, Poland, pre-war.
	(#28) School portrait, Tarczyn, 1940. Last school portrait taken of this class before all of the children were deported.
	(#26) Hania Zaile, a friend of the Kramarska's, Warsaw Ghetto, 1942.
	(#37) Nazis burning a Jew's facial hair, Warsaw Ghetto, 1942. Sylvia Kramarska (Kolski) obtained this photograph from a Jewish partisan after the war.
	(#61) Monument to the Jews who perished in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, Warsaw.
	(#62) Gravemarker, cemetery of Tarczyn. Indicates the hiding place of Sylvia Kolski's two cousins, Rachel Kantotowicz (Leszno) and Jochwet Kantorowicz (Lesczno).