

## **DAVIDOVIC AND GOTTESMAN FAMILIES PAPERS, 1922-1948**

### **2016.347.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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#### **Descriptive summary**

Title: Davidovic and Gottesman families papers

Dates: 1922-1948

Accession number: 2016.347.1

Creator: Gottesman family.

Extent: 4 folders

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

Abstract: Photographs and documents related to the family of David and Esther Davidovic, the donor's maternal grandparents, of Dorobratovo, Czechoslovakia (present-day Ukraine), including material related to the visit of their daughter (the donor's aunt), Florence Davidovic, who had immigrated to the United States, and returned to visit her family in Dorobratovo in 1939. Documents include a family photograph taken during the 1939 visit, other pre-war family photographs, Florence Davidovic's U.S. naturalization certificate, her travel documents, and a subsequent letter from the U.S. Department of State in regard to her efforts to obtain a visa for her brother, Miklos. Also includes documents and photographs of the donor's aunt, Lenka Goldsteinova, who died in Czechoslovakia after the war, and documents related to the donor's father, Leib Bernat Gottesman, including a certificate showing he had been a forced laborer and a prisoner at Mauthausen, as well as post-war documentation of his business as a kosher butcher in Usti nad Labem, Czechoslovakia.

Languages: Hungarian, Czech, English.

#### **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), Davidovic and Gottesman families papers (2016.347.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Gift of Lois Gottesman, 2016.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at [collections.ushmm.org](http://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

Processing history: Processed by Brad Bauer, May 2016.

### **Biographical note**

Leib Bernat (Bernard) Gottesman was born in Dombostelek, Hungary (present-day Ploske, Ukraine) in 1908. During the inter-war years, he had served in the Czechoslovak army, being stationed in Brno. Following his service, established a butcher shop in Munkacs (present-day Mukacheve, Ukraine), and was married with two daughters, Eva and Magda. During the German occupation of this region during the war, Leib's wife and daughters were deported to Auschwitz, where they were murdered. Leib was imprisoned in a succession of concentration camps before being liberated at Mauthausen in 1945. He returned to Munkacs after the war, but since the area was now in a Soviet-occupied zone that was eventually annexed by the Soviet Union, he began to seek ways to escape and head to the West.

Berta (née Davidovic) Gottesman was born on 20 October, 1917, in Dorobratovo, Hungary (later Czechoslovakia, and present-day Ukraine), the daughter of David and Esther (née Ickovic) Davidovic. David Davidovic had served in the Austro-Hungarian army during World War I. Berta was one of ten children, three of whom managed to immigrate to the United States in the decades prior to World War II (Sylvia in 1920, Florence in 1921, and Zena in 1938), and four of whom, along with their parents, perished during the Holocaust. The remaining three children—Berta, Lea, and Bernard—survived the war. Berta was deported to Auschwitz in 1944, and after liberation in 1945 and spending time in a couple of displaced persons camps, she moved to Munkacs, where she met Leib Gottesman on a blind date in October 1945.

Leib and Berta were married a few weeks after they met, in November 1945. They both helped others escape across the border into Czechoslovakia in the fall of 1945, and managed to do so themselves, bringing with them Berta's sister, Lea Goldstein, whose husband and son were still missing, and who she later learned had been killed as partisans during the war. Leib, Berta, and Lea settled in Ustí nad Labem, while applying for and waiting to receive United States visas, hoping to immigrate to the country where several of Berta's siblings had already settled. Leib established a kosher butcher shop in Ustí during this period, and the Gottesmans' had their first daughter, Alice, there in 1946. Lea died in Ustí in 1947, and the Gottesmans managed to leave Czechoslovakia in 1948, and Berta gave birth to a second daughter, Helene, in 1949. When the family arrived in New York, the aid agency HIAS helped them settle in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn.

### **Scope and content of collection**

Photographs and documents related to the family of David and Esther Davidovic, the donor's maternal grandparents, of Dorobratovo, Czechoslovakia (present-day Ukraine), including material related to the

visit of their daughter (the donor's aunt), Florence Davidovic, who had immigrated to the United States, and returned to visit her family in Dorobratovo in 1939. Documents include a family photograph taken during the 1939 visit, other pre-war family photographs, Florence Davidovic's U.S. naturalization certificate, her travel documents, and a subsequent letter from the U.S. Department of State in regard to her efforts to obtain a visa for her brother, Miklos.

Also includes documents and photographs of the donor's aunt, Lenka Goldsteinova, who died in Czechoslovakia after the war, and documents related to the donor's father, Leib Bernat Gottesman, including a certificate showing he had been a forced laborer and a prisoner at Mauthausen, as well as post-war documentation of his business as a kosher butcher in Ustí nad Labem, Czechoslovakia.

### **System of arrangement**

The Davidovic and Gottesman families papers is divided into four folders, according to family member, and then divided into subfolders within each, with the contents group by document type (photographs, certificates, travel documents, etc.).

### **Indexing terms**

Kosher food.

Jews--Ukraine--Mukacheve.

Jewish refugees--Czech Republic.

Jews--Ukraine--Zakarpatska oblast.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

Folder	Subfolder	Folder title
1		Davidovič, David: Identification document, Czechoslovakia, 1922 Goldstein, Lea (Lenka) Davidovič
2	1	Death certificate, Usti nad Labem, Czechoslovakia, 1947
2	2	Photographs, undated. Include engagement photograph of Lea and Isaac Goldstein, passport photo of Lea Goldstein, pre-war photo of Isaac Goldstein, and photograph of gravestone of Lea Goldstein Gottesmann, Leib Bernat (Bernard)
3	1	Certificate, attesting to Gottesman's internment as a forced laborer and liberation at Mauthausen, 1945
3	2	Kosher butcher shop: documents, related to the licensing of the shop, Usti nad Labem, 1946-1948
3	3	Photographs, of Gottesman with his unit in the Czechoslovak Army, circa 1920s, and photograph, from bicycle license, Hungary, undated. Isaacs, Florence Davidovič
4	1	Birth certificate, Hungarian, issued 1939
4	2	Naturalization certificate, United States, 1931
4	3	Passenger list, <i>R.M.S. Aquitania</i> , 1939, August
4	4	Photograph, of Davidovič family, Dorobratovo, taken during Isaacs' trip, 1939
4	5	State Department (U.S.), correspondence: one "laissez-passer" letter signed by Secretary of State Hull, and a letter in response to a visa request for the brother of Florence Isaacs, Miklos Davidovič, 1939-1941

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