

SEGEN FAMILY PAPERS, 1911-2003
2018.126.1

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

Title: Segen family papers

Dates: 1911-2003 (bulk 1948-1981)

Accession number: 2018.126.1

Creator: Segen (Family : Poland)

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Segen family papers consist of biographical materials, resettlement and immigration papers, restitution papers, correspondence, and photographs documenting the experiences of Berta and Moses Segen in the Borszczów and Radom, Poland ghettos; their time in resettlement camps in Germany; and their immigration to the United States in 1949. The papers include birth certificates, immigration applications, restitution testimonies, correspondence, and family photographs.

Languages: English, German, Polish, Hebrew

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), Segen family papers, 2018.126.1, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Estate of Leon Segen donated the Segen family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2015.

Related material: The following objects are also related to Leon Segen: child's wool pants (2018.126.10), child's short pants with suspenders (2018.126.11), baby sweater (2018.126.12), pair of children's shoes (2018.126.2a-b), pair of baby booties (2018.126.3a-b), pair of children's socks (2018.126.4a-b), pair of children's mittens (2018.126.5), baby bonnet (2018.126.6), baby sweater (2018.126.7), child's wool hat (2018.126.8), and child's wool pants (2018.126.9).

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

Processing history: Adam Fielding, August 2015

Biographical note / Administrative history

Berta Segen (1911-2004) was born in Borszczów, Poland (now Borshchiv, Ukraine) to Moses and Sabina Silberbusch. Her sister's written testimony and birth certificate indicate she was born in 1911, but several other documents place birth in 1920 or 1922. Berta often also went by the name Betka.

Moses Segen (1904-1996) was born Moszek Chaim Zegien in Radom, Poland to Lejba and Bina Zegien. His birth certificate indicates he was born in 1904, but his certificate of naturalization places his birth in 1914. His father worked as a merchant, and Moses worked as a shoemaker in Poland before the war.

Moses and Berta married on June 30, 1939 in Borszczów, Poland. After Poland was invaded in September 1939, Moses was separated from Berta. He was in the Radom ghetto from April 1941 to August 1942. From August 1942 to August 1943 he was in a forced labor camp in Radom. His relative, Jacob Krantz, was also in the Radom camps. There is little information on his years from August 1943 to summer 1945. His entire family in Radom was killed.

Berta and her mother were sent to the Borszczów ghetto in September, 1941. In the summer of 1943, Berta and her cousin Frieda Steiner escaped the camp. Berta hid on a farm in Turylcze, Poland until May, 1945. Moses and Berta were reunited in the displaced persons camp in Waldenburg, Germany in the summer of 1945. They remained in the camp until spring 1946 when they were relocated to the I.R.O. Resettlement Camp, Ludwigsburg, Germany near Stuttgart. Their son, Leon, was born in the camp in 1948. In 1949, with sponsorship from Moses's cousin Jacob Krantz, the Segens emigrated from Germany to the United States on the *SS General Taylor*. They settled in the Bronx, New York where Moses worked as a merchant and co-owned Senac Drygoods Store in the early 1950s.

Leon Segen (1948-2014) grew up in the Bronx, New York. He attended City College and then taught high school during the Vietnam War. He returned to school at New York University and State University of New York at Stony Brook, and graduated from Yeshiva University in 1980 with a law degree. He resided in Riverdale, New York and was involved in Second Generation Holocaust Survivor organizations as well as the legal profession.

Scope and content of collection

The Segen family papers consist of biographical materials, resettlement and immigration papers, restitution papers, correspondence, and photographs documenting the experiences of Berta and Moses Segen in the Borszczów and Radom, Poland ghettos; their time in resettlement camps in Germany; and their immigration to the United States in 1949. The papers include birth certificates, immigration applications, restitution testimonies, correspondence, and family photographs.

The biographical material includes birth certificates, an extensive Silberbusch family tree in Hebrew, and business papers related to the dissolution of a business Moses co-owned. The resettlement and immigration papers include travel arrangements from the displaced person camp in Stuttgart to the United States, immigration applications, and naturalization certificates. The restitution papers include testimonies from Berta and Moses and bank statements. The correspondence includes letters to Berta from her sister Hela in Israel, a letter from Moses requesting a visitor's visa for Hela to visit the United States from Israel to be present for Leon's Bar Mitzvah, and copies of two emails exchanged between Leon and Hela's son Moshe about their parents' respective decisions to emigrate to the United States and Israel. The photographs primarily consist of baby and childhood photographs of Leon as well as photographs of Berta and Moses while in Stuttgart and their passport pictures. Also included are three photographs of Moses's family. One picture is likely of soldiers in uniform from circa 1916, and the two others are of his family in Radom, Poland, 1933. The printed material includes a German photograph book and Hebrew/English calendar and reference book.

System of arrangement

The Segen family papers are arranged as six series:

- Series 1: Biographical material, 1911-1999
- Series 2: Resettlement and immigration papers, 1949-1958
- Series 3: Restitution papers, 1950-1981
- Series 4: Correspondence, 1947-2003
- Series 5: Photographs, circa 1916-circa 1981
- Series 6: Printed material, circa 1930s-1950

All series are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Indexing terms

Jewish ghettos—Poland—Radom (Radom)
Displaced persons camps
United States—Emigration and immigration—History—20th century
Holocaust survivors—Poland
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Reparations.

Radom (Poland)
Borshchiv (Ternopil's'ka oblast', Ukraine)

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical material, 1911-1999

Folder	Title
	Segen, Berta:
1.1	Birth certificate, 1911
1.2	Silberbusch family tree, 1999
1.3	Trees for Israel "In memory of Moses and Sabina Silverbush" card, circa 1960s
	Segen, Leon:
1.4	Birth certificate, 1948-1958
1.5	Graduate School of the Arts and Sciences, New York University enrollment letter, 1971
1.6	Medical card, 1950
	Segen, Moses:
1.7	Bank book, receipts, and territory assignment contract, 1949-1956
1.8	Birth certificate, 1972
1.9	Identification cards, 1951
1.10	Medical cards, 1950-1952
1.11	Senac Drygoods Store partnership dissolution papers, 1951-1952

Series 2: Resettlement and immigration papers, 1949-1958

Folder	Title
1.12	Segen, Berta, 1950-1958
1.13	Segen, Leon, 1955
1.14	Segen, Moses, 1949-1955

Series 3: Restitution papers, 1950-1981

Folder	Title
1.15	Bank statements, 1950-1981
1.16	Segen, Berta, testimonies, 1950-1973
1.17	Segen, Moses, testimonies, 1950-1971

Series 4: Correspondence, 1947-2003

Folder	Title
1.18	Segen, Berta, 1948-1981
1.19	Segen, Leon, 1950-2003
1.20	Segen, Moses, 1947-circa 1960

Series 5: Photographs, circa 1916-circa 1981

Folder	Title
1.21	Diehl, Anneliese, Bad Wurzach, Germany, 1950
1.22	Holocaust monument in cemetery, Holon, Israel, circa 1981
1.23	Segen, Berta, circa 1960s
1.24	Segen, Berta and Moses; New Year's photograph cards, circa 1948-circa 1950
1.25	Segen, Berta and Moses passport photographs, Stuttgart, Germany, circa 1949

1.26	Segen family relatives, Radom, Poland, circa 1916; 1933
	Segen, Leon:
1.27	As a baby, Stuttgart, Germany, 1948-1949
1.28	As a child, New York, circa 1950s
1.29	Loose photograph album pages, 1948-circa 1950s
1.30- 1.31	Photograph album, baby pictures in Stuttgart, Germany, 1937-1949
1.32	Segen, Moses with unidentified men, circa 1948
1.33	Unidentified friends and relatives, circa 1930s-circa 1950s

Series 6: Printed material, circa 1930s-1950

Folder	Title
1.34	Commercial German city photograph album, circa 1930s
1.35	Hebrew and English calendar and reference book, 1950
1.36	Magazine clippings, circa 1930s
1.37	Sewing patterns, circa 1930s