

**MAX AND SALA WEBB PAPERS, 1945-1961, UNDATED
2019.537.1**

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

Title: Max and Sala Webb papers

Dates: 1945-1961, undated

Accession number: 2019.537.1

Creator: Webb, Max.

Additional creator: Webb, Sala.

Extent: 6 folders, 3 oversize folders

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

Abstract: The collection primarily documents the post-war experiences of Max Webb (born Menashe Weisbrot), a survivor of Auschwitz II-Birkenau and other camps, and his wife Sala Webb (born Sala Schapelski), in Münchberg, Germany prior to their immigration to the United States in 1951.

Languages: German, English

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use.

Physical access note: Negatives in this collection are not accessible at this time

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), Max and Sala Webb papers (2019.537.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Rose Webb Roven in 2019.

Related archival materials: Oral history interview with Max Webb, RG-50.084.0019, USHMM

Max Webb photograph collection, 2018.638.1, USHMM

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, November 2021; updated by Adam Fielding, September 2022

Biographical note

Max Webb (1917-2018) was born Menashe Weisbrot on 2 March 1917 in Szydłowiec, Poland to Abraham and Sheva (née Blumenfeld) Weisbrot. He had six siblings: his twin sister Lola, Preva, Faiga, Sima, Toba, and Isaac. Max grew up in Łódź where his father owned a grocery store. The family was Conservative and spoke Yiddish and Polish at home.

After the German invasion of Poland in September 1939, Max was sent to several forced-labor camps including Inowrocław (Hohensalza). In July 1943 he was deported to Auschwitz II-Birkenau. While a prisoner in Auschwitz, Max met Nathan Schapelski (later Nathan Shapell), who would become a lifelong friend and business partner. They were transferred to the Günthergrube sub-camp in March 1944. In January the Red Army approached Auschwitz and Max and Nathan were sent on a death march to Waldenburg, a sub-camp of Gross-Rosen. They were liberated 8 May 1945. Max learned that of his immediate family, only Lola and Isaac survived the Holocaust.

Max and Nathan fled the Soviet Occupation Zone for the American Zone. They went to the displaced persons camp in Münchberg, Germany. Max's surviving siblings and their spouses joined him there, as well as Nathan's brother David and sister Sala. Max and Sala (1920-1990) married in January 1946, and lived in Münchberg for seven years. Max and David formed the firm David Schapelski & Max Weisbrott, Textilgrosshandlung. Max and Sala had two daughters: Charla (later Charla Schreyer, b. 1947) and Rose (later Rose Webb Roven, b. 1952). The family immigrated to the United States in June 1951, and by 1952 they had settled in Los Angeles, California. Max and his brothers-in-law formed a real estate development firm, Shapell Industries, that built thousands of houses in California. Max and his family changed their surname to Webb in 1957. Sala died in 1990 and in 1993 Max married Anna Hitter. Max was an active philanthropist, and was a founding donor for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Selma Sala Shapell (1920-1990) was born Sala Schapelski on 31 October 1920 in Wolbrom, Poland to Benjamin Schapelski (d. 1942) and Hasa (Hela) Gelbert (d. 1943). She had two sisters, Yadja and Rochelle (d. 1943), and two brothers, David and Nathan. Her father was a farmer and the family grew up poor.

In May 1942 Sala was deported from the Sosnowiec ghetto to the Gross-Rosen subcamps of Faulbrück, Reichenbach, and Langenbielau. She was liberated from Langenbielau on 8 May 1945. Sala was reunited with her brothers David and Nathan at the Münchberg displaced persons camp. The rest of her family perished during the Holocaust.

Scope and content of collection

The collection primarily documents the post-war experiences of Max Webb (born Menashe Weisbrot), a survivor of Auschwitz II-Birkenau and other camps, and his wife Sala Webb (born Sala Schapelski), in Münchberg, Germany prior to their immigration to the United States in 1951. Biographical material includes copies of marriage certificates, a statement regarding the dates of the camps where Max was imprisoned during the Holocaust, affidavits regarding name changes, paper copies of photographs likely taken in Münchberg and an engagement announcement card. Identification papers include a card listing Max as a former prisoner at Auschwitz II-Birkenau, a drivers' license, a merchant card for Max issued in Münchberg (Legitimationskarte), and travel documents issued to Max and Sala in lieu of passports. Correspondence is a mixture of personal and business letters. Business records include reports for the firm David Schapelski & Max Weisbrott, Textilgrosshandlung, along with business cards and stationery. Immigration papers include vaccination cards, affidavits, luggage inventory, and a declaration of intention form. Also included is a clipping and a small amount of restitution paperwork. The negative is an image depicting three small children.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as a single series.

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Webb, Max.

Webb, Sala.

Shapell, David.

Shapell, Nathan.

Topical Subject:

Jews--Poland--Łódź.

Displaced persons.

Jewish businesspeople--Germany.

Holocaust survivors.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Reparations.

Geography:
Münchberg (Germany).
United States--Emigration and immigration.
Wolbrom (Poland)

Genre/Form:
Letters.
Identification cards.
Business cards.
Affidavits.
Negatives.

CONTAINER LIST

Folder	Title
1 of 6	Biographical material, 1946-1957, undated
2 of 6	Business records, 1949-1951
OS 3	Clipping, undated
3 of 6	Correspondence, 1951-1961
4 of 6	Identification papers, 1945-1953
5 of 6	Immigration to United States, 1949-1957
OS 1	Immigration to United States, 1949-1957
6 of 6	Restitution claims, 1949-1960
OS 2	Negative