

Provenance

Files received by the Champaign County Historical Archives from Stanford H. Sholem in 2009. Stanford "Tank" Sholem was instrumental in processing the present collection by contributing valuable information about the family and assisting with the creation of the Sholem genealogical tree.

Physical Description

9 boxes, plus 6 oversized bound items (5.5 linear feet)

Access

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Special Access Restrictions:

In Box 5 there is a sealed file of correspondence between Jerome J. Sholem and Myron J. Sholem, 1969. These are sealed from all except descendants of Jerome J. Sholem for 25 years, until 12/31/2034.

Biographical Note

The Sholem family has been an important part of the Edgar and Champaign County communities since the mid-nineteenth century, when the Sholem brothers emigrated from Germany and settled in Paris, Illinois. Jacob Sholem (1816-1907) opened his first shop in 1856 in Paris, IL. The family business was then continued by his nephew, William Sholem (1852-1933). In 1880, William Sholem married Flora Grabenheimer, the daughter of a successful merchant, Meyer Grabenheimer, from Marshall, IL. Their son, Jerome J. Sholem (1895-1975), eventually inherited the family business and continued to expand it into the 20th Century. By the mid-20th century, the Sholem business was concentrated mainly in the Urbana-Champaign area. The Sholem family was also a major participant in community social and political activities. Jerome J. Sholem was one of the most prominent businessmen and policy makers in Champaign County and was a member of the Champaign Park District Board.

Scope and Content

The Sholem Family Papers contain a wide variety of materials related to the Sholem family line, primarily between 1930 and 1980. This collection includes correspondence, business documents, family history, and clippings relating to various members of the Sholem family. There is a particularly heavy concentration of materials on Jerome J. Sholem and contains thorough documentation of his business and civic activities in the Champaign-Urbana area. It also contains many clippings and manuscripts of his writing activities for both the press and his own personal projects.

In addition to Sholem family line, the collection also contains materials relating to the Grabenheimer family and their history, particularly of Flora Grabenheimer, who married into the Sholem family, as well as her father Meyer Grabenheimer.

Originally included an Eastman Kodak No. 2A Brownie Camera, Model B, which has been removed and accessioned separately, as 2013-008.

Arrangement

Subgroup 1 - Genealogical and Family files

This subgroup contains materials relating to the Sholem and Grabenheimer families. It contains correspondence and personal papers of several family members as well as news clippings about family members and genealogy research conducted by the family.

Series 1 - Genealogy and Family Information (Sholem family): Contains copies of documents, correspondence and clippings regarding family ancestry and general family history.

Series 2 - Business and Financial files (Sholem family): Contains documents relating to the Sholem family businesses and other financial projects.

Series 3 - Subject files (Sholem family): Files about specific family members; contains correspondence and personal papers.

Series 4 - Photographs (Sholem family): Contains portraits of family members and photos of family stores and other property.

Series 5 - Genealogy and Family Information (Grabenheimer family): Contains copies of documents, correspondence and clippings regarding family ancestry and general family history.

Series 6 - Business and Financial files (Grabenheimer family): Contains documents relating to the Sholem family business and other financials projects.

Series 7 - Subject files (Grabenheimer family): Files about specific family members; contains correspondence and personal papers.

Series 8 - Photographs (Grabenheimer family): Contains family portraits and photos of family stores, farms, and other property.

Subgroup 2 – Jerome J. Sholem papers

This subgroup contains information on Jerome J. Sholem and outlines his prominent business and civic activities in the Champaign county area as well manuscripts and clippings of his various writing projects.

Series 1 - Professional files: Documents, correspondence, and news-clippings relating to Jerome's business, Sholem Shoes and his work on various civic projects, most notably development in the business district and parks.

Series 2 - Personal files: Papers outlining Jerome Sholem's life. Contains correspondence to/from Jerome Sholem and various ephemera/memorabilia. Also contains writing samples he sent in to both the C-U Courier and News Gazette.

Series 3 - Photographs: Contains portraits of Jerome Sholem and photos of his rental property and civic projects.

Series 4 - Research files and Writing projects: Contains documents, manuscripts, and correspondence relating to research projects, including local history, the history of the Jewish community in Illinois, and the history of the Sinai Temple in Champaign. Also contains manuscripts of specific speeches and writing projects.

Subgroup 3 – Sholem Family Papers Accruals

This subgroup contains accrued materials added to the collection from the Sholem donor files. It includes material related to the Sholem, Siegal, and Grabenheimer families. Photos from this accrual have been added to the Sholem photo folders.

Series 1 – Businesses, Properties, and Community Involvement: Documents, newspaper articles, and correspondence related to the Sholem Shoe Store, Sholem Aquatic Center, and Sinai Temple fire.

Series 2 – Genealogy and Family Information: Genealogical material and correspondence related to the Sholem, Siegal, and Grabenheimer families.

Container List

Box 1

Subgroup 1 - Genealogical and Family files

Series 1 – Genealogy and Family Information (Sholem family)

Folder 1 – General Family Information File #1, 1870 - 2006

Folder 2 – General Family Information File #2, 1870 - 2006

Folder 3 – Sholem Family Genealogy and History File #1, 1891 – 2004, 2017

Folder 4 – Sholem Family Genealogy and History File #2, 1891 – 2004, 2017

Folder 5 – Sholem Family Genealogy and History File #3, 1891 – 2004, 2017

Folder 6 – Miscellaneous Sholem Family Items, c. 1973

Series 2 – Business and Financial files (Sholem family)

Folder 7 – Sholem Family Finance and Business Records File #1, 1889 - 1968

Folder 8 – Sholem Family Finance and Business Records File #2, 1878 – 1945

Folder 9 – Sholem Family Finance and Business Records File #3, 1941-1967

Box 2

Series 3 – Subject files (Sholem family)

Folder 1 – William Sholem Biographical Materials and Correspondence, 1888 - 1933

Folder 2 – William Sholem Finance and Legal Records, 1892 - 1937

Series 5 - Genealogy and Family Information (Grabenheimer family)

Folder 3 – Grabenheimer Family History, 1887 – 2007

Series 6 – Business and Financial files (Grabenheimer family)

Folder 4 - Grabenheimer Family Business, Finance, and Legal Records, 1889 – 1970

Folder 5 – Grabenheimer Store 90th Anniversary, 1904 – 1954

Series 7 – Subject files (Grabenheimer family)

Folder 6 – Meyer Grabenheimer, 1886 – 1914

Folder 7 – Jacob Grabenheimer, 1903 – 1979

Folder 8 – Amelia Grabenheimer, 1954

(see also: Box 8, Folder 1)

Folder 9 – Ben Grabenheimer, 1953 - 1965

Box 3

Folder 1 – Seigal Family Information, 1932 - 2006

Folder 2 – Faye (Sholem) Siegal Records, 1975 - 1985

Subgroup 2 – Jerome J. Sholem papers

Series 1 – Professional files

Folder 3 – Financial and Legal Records, 1928 - 1976

Folder 4 – Correspondence, 1965 - 1985

Folder 5 – Sholem Stores promotional materials, 1941 – 1973

Folder 6 – Champaign Park District Board, 1969 – 1974

Folder 7 – Champaign Exchange Club, 1973 (*contains cassette tape)

Folder 8 – Little League, 1974

Folder 9 – Construction of the Centennial Pool, 1958 – 1976

Folder 10 – Construction of Fountain and Mirror Pool Downtown Champaign, 1972 – 1973

Folder 11 – Civic Activities in the Press (collection of newspaper articles about Jerome J. Sholem 1951 – 1979)

Folder 12 – Civic Activities in the Press (City Revitalization Campaign 1959), 1959 – 2010

Folder 13 – Civic Activities in the Press (Downtown Traffic and Parking), 1959 – 1968

Folder 14 – Civic Activities in Press (Opening of JC Penney), 1960

Box 4

Folder 1 – Civic Activities/ Recognition, 1959 - 1977

Folder 2 - Real Estate Projects in the Press, 1948 – 1952

Series 2 – Personal files

Folder 3 – Biographical Materials File #1, 1918 - 1975

Folder 4 – Biographical Materials File #2, 1975

Folder 5 – Correspondence, 1922 – 1975

Folder 6 - Writing for the C-U Courier, 1959 – 1974

Folder 7 – Writing for the News-Gazette, 1956 – 1971

Folder 8 – Newspaper Ads (House for Sale), undated

Folder 9 – Ephemera/Memorabilia, 1912 – 1974

(see also: Box 8, Folder 2)

Series 4 – Research files and Writing projects

Folder 10 – Manuscripts/Speeches (In Alphabetical Order by Title), ca. 1971 – 1973

Folder 11 – Paul Prehn Project, 1972 – 1973

Folder 12 – Manuscript "The Peddlers" about Sholem History, undated

Folder 13 – Fred Hessel Research Materials, 1925 – 1976

Folder 14 – "Memoirs" Manuscript by Nat H. Cohen, 1920

Folder 15 – "History of Champaign" manuscripts and typescripts, undated

Box 5

Subgroup 2 – Jerome J. Sholem papers

Series 2 – Personal files

Folder 1 – **Sealed File:** Jerome J. Sholem, Myron J. Sholem - Correspondence 1969

Description: Sealed from all except descendents of Jerome J. Sholem for 25 years, until 12/31/2034

Box 6

Series 4 – Research files and Writing projects

Folder 1 – Central Illinois history files, 1952 - 2009

Folder 2 – Jewish History, including the history of the Sinai Temple in Urbana – Champaign, 1931 - 1977

Folder 3 – History of the Sinai Temple research materials and correspondence, 1979 - 1982

Folder 4 – Asa Rubenstein’s “History of the Sinai Temple” drafts, undated

Folder 5 – Rubenstein’s “History of the Sinai Temple,” undated

Subgroup 1 – Genealogy and Family files

Series 4 – Photographs (Sholem family)

Folder 6 – Sholem family portraits, ca. 1892 - 1971

Folder 7 – Sholem family stores and buildings File #1, 1872 – ca. 1960

Folder 8 – Sholem family stores and buildings File #2, 1915 – 1974

(See also: Box 8, Folder 3)

Series 8 – Photographs (Grabenheimer family)

Folder 9 – Grabenheimer family portraits File #1, ca. 1890 – 1910

Folder 10 – Grabenheimer family portraits File #2, ca. 1890 – 1910

(See also: Box 8, Folder 4)

Box 7

Folder 1 – Grabenheimer family stores and buildings, c. 1880 – 1960

Folder 2 – Grabenheimer farms (near Marshal, IL) File #1, 1954 – 1973

Folder 3 – Grabenheimer farms (near Marshal, IL) File #2, 1954 – 1973

Subgroup 2 – Jerome J. Sholem papers

Series 3 - Photographs

Folder 4 – Jerome J. Sholem photos, 1896 – 1974

Folder 5 – Jerome J. Sholem rental property and civic projects, ca. 1960 – 1970

Box 8 – Oversize materials

Subgroup 1 – Genealogy and Family files

Series 7 – Subject files (Grabenheimer family)

Folder 1 – Amelia Grabenheimer, 1954

Subgroup 2 – Jerome J. Sholem papers

Series 2 – Personal files

Folder 2 – Ephemera/Memorabilia, 1912-1974

Subgroup 1 – Genealogical and Family files

Series 4 – Photographs (Sholem family)

Folder 3 – Sholem family stores and buildings, ca. 1950

Series 8 – Photographs (Grabenheimer family)

Folder 4 – Grabenheimer family portraits (Ben Grabenheimer at his store), undated

Subgroup 1 – Genealogical and Family files

Series 1 – Genealogy and Family Information (Sholem family)

5) Laminated sheet of *The Messenger*, Marshall, IL, with article on wedding on Flora Grabenheimer to William Sholem, 1888

Box 9

Subgroup 1 – Genealogical and Family files

Series 1 – Genealogy and Family Information (Sholem family)

- 1) Memory book for unidentified person with signed guest list, undated
- 2) “Last Days of Pompeii” by Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, Bart. The American News Company New York, 1834. With inscription by “Rosa Grabenheimer to Sholem [William]”.
- 3) Flora Sholem’s Prayer Book “Atonement Days” with notes about Flora’s children 1895
- 4) 65th Annual Department Convention of American Legion [of State Department], September 1-3, 1924, 1924. Commemorative Edition, 1983

Series 2 – Business and Financial files (Sholem family)

5) Book of Cash Sales. First business record by William Sholem, Paris, IL. P. 129 contains entry “Jerome [JJS] born” for September 20, 1895. 1888-1889

Series 5 – Genealogy and Family Information (Grabenheimer family)

- 6) Memory Book for Amelia Grabenheimer, undated
- 7) Union Prayer book for Jewish Worship, 1914, Copy 1 with markings about family members 1918
- 8) Union Prayer book for Jewish Worship, 1914, Copy 2 without markings

Series 6 – Business and Financial files (Grabenheimer family)

9) Ledger, Mortgage Loans. Inscription on cover explains that these are loans purchased by Grabenheimer from V.C. during 1913-1940 Cole as a form of investment.

10) Accounts receivable, Grabenheimer & Sons, day book, 1883-1893

11) "Shoe Book," 1945. M. Grabenheimer's Sons. Stamps given to shoe firms and shoes received from each

Subgroup 2 – Jerome J. Sholem papers

Series 1 – Professional files

12) The Champaign National Bank, account book for Sholem's Fashion Footwear, 1938-1940

13) University State Bank of Champaign, IL, account for Campus Boot Shop, 1930-1931

14) Busey State Bank Account book for Sholems in Champaign, 1944-1946

15) Busey First National Bank Account book for J. J. Sholem Stores Co., 1949-1950

16) "Firms and Individuals. Re: Labor," JJS personal source list of tradesmen. Includes business cards, undated

Series 2 – Personal files

17) Green leather album with golden trim and golden dragon on the cover, ca. 1967 - 1973

18) University of Notre Dame Yearbook, Class 1914 (Jerome Sholem), 1914

19) "Our Travel Memoirs" – Written by Jerome J. Sholem, 1976

Box 10

Subgroup 3 – Sholem Family Papers Accruals

Series 1 – Businesses, Properties, and Community Involvement

Folder 1 - Sholem Shoe Store, 1872, 1932 - 1974

Folder 2 - 1016 W. University Ave., 1938 - 1987

Folder 3 - Sinai Temple Fire, 1971

Folder 4 - Sholem Aquatic Center, 2011

Series 2 – Genealogy and Family Information

Folder 5 - David and Jacob Sholem, 1981, 2011

Folder 6 - William Sholem, 1888 - 2015

Folder 7 - Sholem and Siegal Family History and Genealogy, undated, 1904 - 1987

Folder 8 – Thanksgiving Photograph Details, 1958

Folder 9 - Grabenheimer Family, undated, 1896 - 2015

Folder 10 - J.J. and Faye Sholem, 1945 - 2015

Folder 11 - Myron J. Sholem, 1955

Oversize Bound Items

Subgroup 1 – Genealogical and Family files

Series 6 – Business and Financial files (Grabenheimer family)

1) Grabenheimer Ledger #1 1872 - 1875

2) Grabenheimer Ledger #2 1878 - 1883

3) Grabenheimer Ledger #3 1878 - 1888

4) Grabenheimer Ledger #4 1883 - 1893

5) Grabenheimer Ledger #5 1900-1904

Subgroup 2 – Jerome J. Sholem papers

Series 2 – Personal files

6) Camp Dix Times 1918