

MOYSE-GOTTLIEB-SOMMER FAMILY PAPERS

(Mss. 4671)

Inventory

Compiled by

Chris Brown

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections

Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library

Louisiana State University Libraries

Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2009

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SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Size | 3 linear feet, 2 volumes |
| Geographic Locations | Louisiana, Arkansas, France |
| Inclusive Dates | 1886-1986 |
| Bulk Dates | 1910-1960 |
| Languages | English, French |
| Summary | Correspondence, financial documents, photographs, printed items, scrapbooks, and writings reflect the personal and professional lives of a Jewish family in Louisiana, primarily Baton Rouge, from the 1880s to the 1980s. |
| Access Restrictions | Photographs on cloth may not be accessed. A facsimile is available in the Photograph Series. |
| Reproduction Note | May be reproduced. |
| Copyright | For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law. |
| Related Collections | Ray Sommer Collection, Mss. 2094; Ray Sommer Concert programs, Mss. 2600-73; Ray Sommer Papers, Mss. 4642; Ray Sommer Oral History Interview, Mss. 4700.0058; Shlenker-Hirsch-Moyse Family Papers, Mss. 4911 |
| Citation | Moyse-Gottlieb-Sommer Family Papers, Mss. 4671, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La. |
| Stack Location(s) | U:317, OS:M, M:19 |

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Simon Moyses (1855-1946) was born in Nancy, France. Upon immigrating to the United States in 1872, he became a merchant in Donaldsonville, La. From 1881 to 1916, he ran a general merchandise business in St. Gabriel, La. From 1916 until his retirement, he was one of the leading retailers in Baton Rouge and served as vice-president of the Sommers, Inc. In 1880, Moyses married Flora Joseph (1854-1932). Simon and Flora had six children: Henriette (also known as Harriet), Jeanne, Carrie, Isaac, Hermann, and Stella. The Moyses Family were members of Congregation B'nai Israel in Baton Rouge.

Henriette Moyses Sommer (1880-1973) was born in Donaldsonville and married Leopold Sommer (d. 1932) in 1902. Leopold served as president of the Baton Rouge store Sommers, Inc. Henriette and Leopold had two daughters, Lydie and Ray. The family were members of Congregation B'nai Israel, and Leopold served on its financial committee in 1920.

Lydie Sommer (1903-1981) graduated from Baton Rouge High School in 1920 and Louisiana State University's Teacher's College in 1924. She taught English and worked as the guidance counselor at Istrouma High School.

Ray Sommer (1906-1995) graduated from Baton Rouge High School in 1922. In 1926, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Louisiana State University. From 1926 to 1971, she worked as the assistant registrar at LSU. Sommer also served as the faculty advisor to LSU's Sigma Delta Tau, a Jewish women's fraternity.

Hermann Moyses Sr. (1891-1985), a son of Simon Moyses, was a prominent attorney, president of the East Baton Rouge Bar Association, and vice president of the Louisiana State Bar Association. He attended Louisiana State University and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1910 and a Bachelor of Law degree in 1912. As an undergraduate, Moyses belonged to the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity and served as editor-in-chief of the student newspaper, *The Reveille*. After being admitted to the bar in 1912, he worked for the law firm of Cross and Moyses. From 1921 to 1924, Moyses represented East Baton Rouge Parish in the state legislature. He worked as an attorney for the City National Bank in Baton Rouge since its inception in 1933 and became its vice-president and trust officer in 1946. He also served in various capacities with the Chamber of Commerce, the Red Cross, and other civic groups. Moyses participated in the First and the Second World Wars, served as state commander of the Louisiana Department of the American Legion, and received numerous military awards, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Purple Heart, and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm. In 1920, Moyses married Rosalie Gottlieb of Baton Rouge; their children include Hermann Jr. and Betty.

Hermann Moyses Jr. (1921-2007) earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Louisiana State University in 1942. After having participated in the Second World War, he began working at City National Bank in Baton Rouge, where he served as assistant vice president, chairman and CEO. Moyses also served as chairman of the First Commerce

Corporation, director of the Bank of Zachary, and director of Pan American Life Insurance Company. Moyse married Marie L. "Rocky" Levy Moyse and belonged to Congregation B'nai Israel, where he served as president.

Betty Moyse earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Louisiana State University in 1946. As an undergraduate, she worked as editor-in-chief of the university's yearbook, *Gumbo*. In 1947, she married Joseph Simmons.

Lewis Gottlieb (1894-1975) is the brother of Rosalie Gottlieb, who married Hermann Moyse Sr. He served as chairman of the board at City National Bank in Baton Rouge and as vice chairman of building committee for Temple B'nai Israel. Gottlieb also served on the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors. He was also involved with local organizations such as Community Chest, United Givers Fund, and the Council for Christians and Jews.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Moyse-Gottlieb-Sommer family papers are comprised of correspondence, financial documents, photographs, printed items, scrapbooks, and writings related to the personal and professional lives of a Jewish family in Louisiana, primarily Baton Rouge. Many of the central topics within the papers are found throughout multiple series. Early correspondence and financial documents concern Simon Moyse's general merchandise business in St. Gabriel and Baton Rouge, La. Correspondence and printed items relate to Hermann Moyse Sr.'s education at Louisiana State University, involvement in the First World War, and professional activities as a lawyer and vice president of City National Bank in Baton Rouge, La. Correspondence, scrapbooks, and writings involve Lydie and Ray Sommer's personal and educational activities. Family members' involvement with Temple B'nai Israel in Baton Rouge appears in correspondence, financial documents, printed items, and scrapbooks. Photographs in various formats primarily depict family members.

LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

Series I. Correspondence, 1886-1969, undated

Series II. Financial Documents, 1886-1946

Series III. Photographs, circa 1900-1979, undated

Series IV. Printed Items, 1897-1986, undated

Series V. Scrapbooks, 1910-1922

Series VI. Writings, 1925-1927, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Correspondence, 1886-1969, undated (0.25 linear feet)

Earliest correspondence relates to Simon Moyse. A letter in French from Reverend J. M. Laval mentions his time serving at a church in St. Gabriel then transferring to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in New Orleans (March 3, 1898). One letter from Thomas D. Boyd, President of Louisiana State University, compliments the progress of Simon's son, Hermann, who attended the school as an undergraduate and law student (June 19, 1912). Correspondence from A. Feibelman of Camden, Arkansas, concerns the acquisition of oil, gas, and mineral rights on land in Ouachita County, Arkansas (February 6 and May 16, 1920; February 12, 1922).

Much of the twentieth century correspondence pertains to Herman Moyse, Sr. Letters to his family during World War I describe his experiences training in Arkansas (June 9, 1917) and being wounded in France (August 18, 1918). Telegrams from family and friends congratulate him and his wife, Rosalie Gottlieb, on their marriage (September 30, 1920). Letters from the French Consul at New Orleans relate to Moyse's position as state commander of the Louisiana Department of the American Legion (September – October 1923). Acquaintances describe their experiences in World War II (June 12 and October 21, 1943; November 17, 1944); other letters refer to Robert P. Breazeale being taken as a prisoner of war in Germany (November 6 and December 30, 1944; January 1945). One letter from Charles Vernon Porter, Jr., a president of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and one of the co-founders of the law firm Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips, discusses family news (June 24, 1945). Much of the correspondence from February to September 1960 relates to the 50th reunion of Louisiana State University's graduating class of 1910, an event coordinated by Moyse. Letters discuss planning the event and also include personal and family news written by classmates.

A group of letters from the 1920s, addressed to Ray Sommer, relates to family news from her cousin, Jake (1922-1925); Ray's student life at Louisiana State University (1922-1925), the death of her aunt, Caroline (August – September 1925); and her relationship with Francis Levy of New Orleans (March – July 1929).

Letters addressed to other family members are also present. Their subjects include: Leopold "Lep" Sommer serving on a financial committee for Congregation B'nai Israel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (March 11, 1920); Lewis Gottlieb receiving thanks from Troy H. Middleton for serving on Louisiana State University's Board of Supervisors (July 29, 1958).

Correspondence also appears in the Scrapbooks series.

Series II. Financial Documents, 1886-1946 (2 folders and 1 ledger book)

Early financial documents pertain to Simon Moyse. These include: a prenuptial agreement describing the property and rights of Moyse and his wife, Flora Joseph (January 13, 1880); a receipt for Moyse renting a store and home at Bayou Paul (April 1, 1883); a receipt for items purchased at his general merchandise store in St. Gabriel, Louisiana (1909); and documents related to his oil, gas, and mineral rights on land in Ouachita County, Arkansas (1921 -1930). Financial documents also include a Statement of Accounts on the rebuilding of Temple B’Nai Israel (March 31, 1916), a receipt for Lydie Sommer’s stock in City National Bank of Baton Rouge (July 8, 1933), and a ledger book detailing transactions with National Bank of Commerce and Riggs National Bank (1935-1938).

Series III. Photographs, circa 1900-1979, undated (14 folders)

Photographs depict members of the Moyse, Gottlieb, and Sommer families as well as their friends and acquaintances. Included are both portrait and candid images. Hermann Moyse, Sr., is shown in uniform during World War II (undated), at a mortgage burning (1951), at the 50th reunion of his Louisiana State University graduating class of 1910 (1960), and with his wife (undated). Photographs depict Hermann Moyse, Jr., as a baby (circa 1921) and as a child with his grandfather, Simon Moyse, (undated). Betty Moyse (Simmons) is shown in graduation regalia (1946) and with her mother and cousins at the Gottlieb’s house on Dreher Ave. in Baton Rouge. Photographs of Lydie Sommer include portraits as a child (undated), adult (undated) and faculty member at Istrouma High (1945-1946, 1956-1957). Ray Sommer’s photographs include her participating in Louisiana State University’s graduation ceremony while serving as registrar (undated) and with the LSU chapter of Sigma Delta Tau sorority as faculty advisor (mid 1940s to early 1950s) and other members at a conference in Quebec (undated). Betty Moyse is also pictured in one of the chapter photographs. Also included are candid photographs of Ray with her sister (1979), her mother (undated), and others (1979, undated).

This series also contains Baton Rouge school class photographs. These include Lewis Gottlieb’s Convention Street private school (circa 1900), Ike Gottlieb at Baton Rouge High School (1903), and Istrouma High School (1930).

For itemized list, see appendix.

Photographs also appear in the Scrapbooks series.

Series IV. Printed Items, 1897-1986, undated (13 folders)

Printed Items consist of clippings and general items.

Newspaper clippings primarily relate to Hermann Moyse, Sr. These document him retiring as editor of Louisiana State University's student newspaper, *The Reveille* (April 30, 1910), graduating from LSU (June 1910), fighting in World War I (January to October 1918; April 23, 1967; November 11, 1981), serving as the state commander of the Louisiana Department of the American Legion (August 18, 1923), and working as the vice president, trust officer, and member of board of directors at City National Bank in Baton Rouge (circa 1946). A group photo printed in a 1954 newspaper article depicts Moyse at the East Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse in 1922. Other clippings of note describe the wedding of Leopold Sommer and Henriette Moyse (July 6, 1902), Betty Moyse's activities and awards at LSU (October 9, 1945; April 30, 1946), and Lewis Gottlieb's Golden Deeds award from the *State-Times-Morning Advocate* (May 26, 1960).

Many of the earliest general printed items also relate to Hermann Moyse, Sr. These include his Louisiana State University commencement program (1910), LSU Bachelor of Arts diploma (1910), LSU Athletic Association membership card (1911-1912), LSU Bachelor of Laws diploma (1912), and an issue of Temple B'nai Israel's newsletter, *Our Community*, which mentions his experiences in World War I and includes a photo of him receiving decorations in France (June 1919). Also present are certificates naming him Baton Rouge Chapter Commander of the Military Order of World Wars (1956, 1986). Materials related to the 50th reunion of Moyse's 1910 graduating class at LSU include a list of classmates (February 1960) and an alumni day program (April 30, 1960).

Other general printed items relate to Ray Sommer. The May/June 1920 issue of *Our Community* contains a photograph of her confirmation class. A program for the confirmation is found in this series as well (May 23, 1920). Another program documents her Baton Rouge High School graduation (June 2, 1922).

General printed items also contain material regarding Lewis Gottlieb. An August 10, 1950 certificate recognizes his membership on the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors. A 1953 certificate identifies him as president of the United Givers Fund of Greater Baton Rouge. A program for the dedication ceremonies of Temple B'nai Israel on September 24, 1954, acknowledges his position on the building committee. *Lagniappe*, a City National Bank publication, recognizes Gottlieb receiving the Justice B. Brandeis Gold Medal (March 1960). Also included is a May 25, 1960, program for a banquet honoring him as the Outstanding Citizen of the Year, an award presented by the *State-Times-Morning Advocate*.

Other general printed items of note include an invitation for a grand ball held at Pike's Hall in Baton Rouge hosted by the Ladies Hebrew Association (October 15, 1879), commencement programs for Istrouma High School in Baton Rouge (June 2, 1927; May 31, 1928), a certificate recognizing Lydie Sommer as a observer of the Ground Observer Corps, Aircraft Warning Service, U.S. Army Air Forces (June 11, 1943), a sermon

delivered by Rabbi Walter G. Peiser at Temple B'nai Israel (March 23, 1945), and junior high certificates earned by Hermann Moyse, Jr. A Moyse family history written in 1980 provides genealogical information dating back to the 1820s. Items in this series also relate to LSU events: a commemorative service program honoring students who served in World War I (January 2, 1920) and an invitation to a Gamma Tau event (October 28, 1922).

Printed Items also appear in the Scrapbooks series.

Series V. Scrapbooks, 1910-1922 (0.33 linear feet)

Scrapbooks created by Lydie and Ray Sommer each document their senior year at Baton Rouge High School. Lydie's was created in 1920 and contains material from 1910 to 1920. Ray's was created in 1922 and contains material from 1914 to 1922. Each scrapbook includes photographs of classmates, teachers, and the school's campus. Also present are homework assignments, invitations, name cards, and report cards. Programs exist for such events as commencement ceremonies, plays, dances, and confirmations at Temple B'nai Israel. Clippings detail parties, dances, and school events. Also of note are items found in Lydie's scrapbook: photographs of her father's store and baseball team; a program for the inaugural ceremonies of Louisiana Governor John M. Parker, and correspondence from her uncle, Hermann Moyse, Sr., describing his World War I training camp in Arkansas (June 9, 1917).

Series VI. Writings, 1925-1927, undated (4 folders and 2 manuscript volumes)

Writings include many undated and unattributed poems, short stories, and speeches. Student papers by Ray and Lydie Sommer were written for classes at Louisiana State University. A manuscript volume and a notebook contain poetry excerpts collected by Lydie Sommer. One speech introduces LSU President, Troy H. Middleton, at the university's centennial celebration.

Writings also appear in the Scrapbooks series.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

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| City National Bank (Baton Rouge, La.) | II, IV |
| Clippings (information artifacts) | IV, V |
| Congregation B'nai Israel (Baton Rouge, La.) | I, II, IV, V |
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CONTAINER LIST

Stack

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder(s)</u> | <u>Contents (with dates)</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Series I. Correspondence | | | |
| U:317 | 1 | 1-15 | Correspondence (1898-1969, undated) |
| Series II. Financial Documents | | | |
| | | 16-17 | Financial Documents (1886-1946) |
| M:19 | | n/a | Ledger Book (1935-1938), volume 1 |
| Series III. Photographs (for itemized list, see appendix) | | | |
| U:317 | 2 | 1-13 | Photographs (circa 1900-1979, undated) |
| OS: M | 5 | 1 | Photographs (undated) |
| OS:M | 6 | 1 | Photographs (undated) |
| Series IV. Printed Items | | | |
| U: 317 | 1 | 18-19 | Clippings (1902-1981, undated) |
| | | 20-26 | General (1897-1986, undated) |
| OS:M | 5 | 2 | General (1910-1912) |
| | | 3 | General (1923) |
| | | 4 | General (1938-1963) |
| | | 5 | General (undated) |
| Series V. Scrapbooks | | | |
| U:317 | 3 | n/a | Lydie Sommer (1910-1920) |
| | | n/a | Ray Sommer (1914-1922) |

Series VI. Writings

| | | | |
|-------|---|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| U:317 | 1 | 27-29 | Writings (1925-1927, undated) |
| | 4 | n/a | “Lydie Sommer” manuscript volume (undated), volume 2 |
| | 1 | 30 | Items removed from “Lydie Sommer” manuscript volume (undated) |
| OS:M | 5 | 6 | Items removed from “Lydie Sommer” manuscript volume (undated) |
| U:317 | 4 | n/a | Lydie Sommer Poetry (undated) |

APPENDIX

Descriptions of photographs provided by donor.

Box 2**Folder 1 (circa 1900-1903)**

- Private school photo, circa 1900: Ike Gottlieb; the Kauffmans were cousins of the Gottliebs
- Group photo, Baton Rouge High, 1903: 2nd row from back is Ike Gottlieb (brother of Mrs. Rosalie Gottlieb Moyse)

Folder 2 (1921-1942)

- Hermann Moyse Jr. baby, circa 1921
- 1927 Jules Moyse, great uncle of Betty Moyse (Simmons) and brother of Simon Moyse
- Group photos (2) of Istrouma High students, 9th and 11th grades, 1930
- Kahn trophy, 1942

Folder 3 (1944-1946)

- Charlene Boyce, née McNutt, a friend of Betty Moyse (Simmons), 1944 Fonville photo
- Betty Moyse (Simmons) graduate, 1946

Folder 4 (1945-circa 1950)

- Multiple portraits of Lydie Sommer from days at Istrouma High, 1945-1946
- Six group photos of Sigma Delta Tau sorority, mid 1940s-early 1950s. Betty Moyse (Simmons) is found seated on the arm of the sofa, 2nd row, 2nd from right; Ray Sommer is also found in several of these photos.

Folder 5 (1951-1960)

- Lewis Moyse and Hermann Moyse III, 1951 photo by Budd Anderson
- Mortgage Burning, 1951. Hermann Moyse, Sr. and microphone; probably Payne Brezeale far left; probably at Elks Club
- Fourmy family portrait by Fonville Winans, 1951: back row= Harold Barnes, James Fourmy, Mr. Fourmy (former LSU quarterback); front row= Myrtie Lou Fourmy Barnes, Susie Barnes (Graham), Myrtie Dameron Fourmy, Kate Barnes (Miller)
- Mimi Moyse Schlessinger, daughter of Hermann Moyse, Jr., Fonville photo, 1956
- Multiple portraits of Lydie Sommer from days at Istrouma High, 1956-1957

Folder 6 (1976-1979, undated)

- Istrouma class of 1936 40th reunion: (front row) Mrs. Wedge Keyes, Lydie Sommer, Janice Bankston, unknown, (back row) unknown, Aileen Brown, Fuzzy Brown (football coach and later principal of Istrouma), unknown. The names on the back don't refer to those pictured, according to donor. Perhaps they gave the photo, hence "compliments of."
- Ray Sommer and Lydie Sommer, 1979 blurry photo
- Ray Sommer and Lydie Sommer, undated
- Undated group photo of four people on couch, left to right: unknown, Ray Sommer, Harriette Moyse Sommer (their mother), and Lydie Sommer
- Hermann Moyse, Sr. and Rosalie Gottlieb Moyse with baby Prentis Mathis, undated
- Mr. and Mrs. Hermann Moyse, Sr. outdoors, undated

Folder 7 (undated)

- Hermann Moyse, Jr.
- Simon Moyse and Hermann Moyse, Jr.
- Colonel Prescott at commandant of cadets at LSU

Folder 8 (undated)

- Envelope "Miss L. Sommers": Lydie Sommer; maybe Baton Rouge Jr. High, located on Laurel St.
- Envelope "Miss Ray Sommers": LSU graduation when Ray Sommer was registrar. She is at the far right, assisting with handing out diplomas
- Bound photos: travel photos of Ray Sommer and friends, possibly with Sigma Delta Tau, a Jewish women's fraternity. She was the faculty advisor for the chapter at LSU

Folder 9 (undated)

- Multiple portraits of Lydie Sommer from days at Istrouma High
- Lewis Moyse, son of Hermann Moyse, Jr.
- Pool photo--unidentified
- 3 Moyse children, left to right: Buck, Mimi, and Lewis
- 2 women and a man: Lydie Sommer on left, other 2 are unidentified
- Ike Moyse, brother of Hermann Moyse, Sr.
- Leah Albert Sommer and sister
- Lydie Sommer with student Fuzzie Dyer (3 photos on strip)

Folder 10 (undated)

- 215 Milan St., New Orleans, La.--unknown house
- Two photos taken at Gottlieb House on Dreher Ave., Baton Rouge
 - Seated L-R: Betty Moyses (Simmons), Jane Long, Jane Levy Strauss, and Jill and Joan Long
 - Standing L-R: Jane Long, Joan Long, Jill Long, Rosalie Gottlieb Moyses, Betty Moyses (Simmons)
- Rosalie Gottlieb Moyses and Lewis Gottlieb, receiving award from United Way. According to the donor, the Gottliebs let United Way use the old family home, located at Convention and 7th Street, for their offices. The Post Office is now at that location.
- Hermann Moyses, Jr., WWII, probably in Czechoslovakia. He was with the army of occupation.
- Hermann Moyses, Jr. at Lookout Mountain Camp
Back row, L-R: Jace Barbari or Abe Michael, Harry Rabenhorst, Bill Lobdell
Middle, L-R: unknown, Tom Cross, Felix Jumonville
Front, L-R: Hermann Moyses, Jr., Jimmy Boyce, Clark Boyce, unknown
- Rosalie Gottlieb Moyses

Folder 11 (undated)

- Group photo possibly Istrouma High faculty; Lydie Sommer 2nd row, 2nd from right.
- Group photo; left to right: G.T. Owen, Hamilton Crawford (with box), Mrs. Joe Cohn, Lewis Gottlieb
- WWII City National Bank Honor Roll, including Hermann Moyses, Sr.
- Four photos related to a Sigma Delta Tau conference in Quebec. Includes Ray Sommer presenting cup and in group photo 2nd from left, back row (at party)
- Ray Sommer and mother Harriet Moyses Sommer

Folder 12 (undated) Facsimiles of photographs mounted on cloth

- Harriett Moyses Sommer
- Leopold "Lep" Sommer
- Lydie Sommer

Folder 13 (undated)

- Largest negative: Flora Moyses
- Unidentified negatives

Box 5

Folder 1 (undated)

- Ike Gottlieb
- Hermann Moyses, Sr. in World War II

Box 6

Folder 1 (undated) Photographs mounted on cloth

- Harriett Moyse Sommer
- Leopold "Lep" Sommer
- Lydie Sommer