A Finding Aid to the
Malcolm H. Stern Papers

Manuscript Collection No. 626
Collection Summary

Title
Malcolm H. Stern Papers

Dates
1882-1994

Collection Number
MS-626

Repository
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

Creator
Stern, Malcolm H.

Extent
15 linear feet (35 Hollinger boxes, 1 oversize box)

Abstract
The Malcolm H. Stern Papers describe the life of Malcolm H. Stern as genealogist, historian, teacher and rabbi. The collection includes writings, correspondence, genealogical research, publications, audiorecordings, microfilms, memorials and tributes.

Language of the Material
English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch
Malcolm Henry Stern was born on January 29, 1915, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Stern was the son of Arthur Kaufman and Henrietta Berkowitz Stern and had one brother, Edward. After growing up on a seven-acre farm in Fox Chase, Pennsylvania, Stern earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1935. In 1941 Stern was ordained at Hebrew Union College (HUC) in Cincinnati, becoming the fifth member of his family to enter the rabbinate. At HUC, Stern also earned the Bachelor of Hebrew Letters degree in 1937, the Masters of Hebrew Letters degree in 1941, and the Doctor of Hebrew Letters degree in 1957. In 1966, Stern received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the same school.

In 1941, Stern became assistant rabbi at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Philadelphia. He ministered to the congregation until 1943 when he took a sabbatical to serve as a chaplain in the Army Air Corps. During World War II he survived a plane crash in Casablanca in which thirteen persons were killed. Stern returned to Keneseth Israel in 1946, but departed again in 1947 when he was elected rabbi of Congregation Ohef Sholom in Norfolk, Virginia, where he served for 17 years. While in Norfolk, Stern spoke out strongly against segregation. In 1964 Stern moved to New York City to become the first Director of Rabbinic Placement for the Central Conference of American Rabbis, holding this position until his retirement in 1980. In 1981 Stern joined the faculty of the New York campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He served as a counselor for student field work and was an adjunct professor of Jewish history.

Genealogy was Stern's great interest in life. His love for genealogy started in grade school when he traced the descendants of Charlemagne for an assignment. From 1949 until 1994 he served as the genealogist for the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati. His work contributed to making the American Jewish Archives an internationally recognized institution. In 1960 he published Americans of Jewish Descent in which he traced members of Jewish immigrant families that arrived in the United States before 1840. Two more editions of the book would follow in 1978 and 1991 as First American Jewish Families: 600 Genealogies, 1654-1977 and First American Jewish Families: 600 Genealogies, 1654-1988. This work was the basis for much of Stephen Birmingham's best-selling work, The Grandees.

Stern served the world of genealogy and American Jewish history in many ways. Nearly every Jewish genealogical society in the United States was established with his help. He was known as the dean of American Jewish genealogy. Stern served as secretary of the American Society of Genealogists from 1968-1973, as vice president from 1973-1976 and as president from 1976-1979. Stern was the founder of the Jewish Historical Society of New York. He was also a trustee of the American Jewish Historical Society. In 1989 Stern testified before Congress, arguing that the position of Archivist of the United States should be awarded to a scholar and not an administrator. In 1990 he served on a special commission of the National Archives and Records Administration to prepare four American genealogists for a mission to Russia designed to educate Russian archivists. Stern was also the vice president of the Gomez Foundation for Mill House in Newburgh, New York, which is the oldest surviving Jewish residence in North America, built by Louis Moses Gomez in 1716. Stern participated in numerous Jewish and non-Jewish genealogical organizations, including: the National Genealogical Society, the Jewish Genealogical Society (president emeritus), the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Jewish Historical Society of England and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society.

Stern had a deep love for music. In 1960, he edited the Union Songster for Reform Judaism. He co-edited songs and hymns for Gates of Prayer and chaired the committee that created Shaarei Shira/Gates of Song.


Scope and Content
Collection includes writings, correspondence, papers pertaining to Stern's genealogical research and writing, information on rabbinical associations and activities, and memorials and tributes to Stern. The genealogy series includes the results of research on various families as well as Stern's extensive research on the Jewish communities of Curacao, Richmond and Norfolk, Virginia, Savannah, Georgia, Charleston, South Carolina, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, New York City, Kingston, Jamaica, and Canada. The research dates to the 17th century.

**Arrangement**
Organized into six (6) series: A. Writings; B. Correspondence; C. Genealogy; D. Rabbinical Associations; E. Personal; F. Non-Print Materials.

**Terms of Access**
The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

**Preferred Citation**
Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Malcolm H. Stern Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Malcolm H. Stern Papers, MS-626, Box [#], Folder [#]. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Provenance**
Received from Louise Stern, New York, N.Y., 1996.

**Processing Information**
Processed by Joseph Greer, June 1998.

**Index Terms**

**Subjects**

**Personal Names**
Stern, Malcolm H.

**Corporate Names**
Central Conference of American Rabbis / Jewish Historical Society of New York / National Association of Retired Reform Rabbis / Ohef Sholom Temple (Norfolk, Va.) / Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel (Elkins Park, Pa.)

**Media**
Genealogies / Sermons

**Series A. Writings, 1941-1993**

**Extent**
1.7 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes, 0.5 oversize box)

**Scope and Content Note**
Consists of articles written by Stern relating to his interests as rabbi and genealogist. Many of these articles have been published in books and newspapers.

**Arrangement**
Alphabetical by title or subject.

**Box and Folder Listing**


Box 1. Folder 1. Creations, undated
Box 1. Folder 2. Creations, undated
Box 1. Folder 3. My Creed, undated
Box 1. Folder 4. Du Pont's Jewish Ancestor, undated
Box 1. Folder 5. Have you a Jewish Ancestor, undated
Box 1. Folder 6. Hebrew Union College and Reform Judaism, 1983
Box 1. Folder 7. How and Why Jews Survive, undated
Box 1. Folder 8. Inaugural farewell, 1941-1947
Box 1. Folder 9. Jeremiah's Letter and Ezekiel's Babylonian Ministry, undated
Series B. Correspondence, 1950-1993

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of general correspondence, including updates from other researchers on their genealogical inquiries. Additional correspondence pertaining to genealogical requests can be found in Series C.

Arrangement Alphabetical by correspondent or topic.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 4. Folder 1. Ackerman, Paula, 1950-1951
Box 4. Folder 2. Ashton, Dianne, 1992
Box 4. Folder 4. Brilling, Bernhard, 1974
Box 4. Folder 5. Camp, Anthony, 1982
Box 4. Folder 6. Cardoza, Anne, undated
Box 4. Folder 16. Ellis Island Commission, 1993
Box 4. Folder 20. Franklin, Karen, undated
Box 4. Folder 23. Langsfeld, Martha, 1971
Box 4. Folder 24. Liberal Day School (West Hempstead, N.Y.), 1988
Box 4. Folder 25. Miller, Richard, 1993
Box 4. Folder 27. Museum of the City of New York, 1992
Box 4. Folder 30. Ornish, Natalie, 1989
Box 5. Folder 1. Rosenstein, Neil, 1965
Box 5. Folder 3. Sartorius, Joel, 1985
Box 5. Folder 4. Sniffin, Art, 1987
Box 5. Folder 5. Swierenga, Robert, 1991
Box 5. Folder 7. Tucker, Charles, 1987
Box 5. Folder 8. Turitz, Leo, 1987-1988
Box 5. Folder 9. Warburg, Felix, 1992
Box 5. Folder 10. Zola, Gary, 1982

Series C. Genealogy, 1882-1993

Extent 10.5 linear feet (25 Hollinger boxes, 0.5 oversize box)

Arrangement

Subseries 1. Requests, 1950-1993

Extent 2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence between Stern and persons requesting genealogical information. Included are Stern’s responses and the research he conducted to answer the requests.

Arrangement Arranged alphabetically. Folders are titled by either the name of the person making the request or by the surname researched.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 6. Folder 1. Abrahams family, 1979
Box 6. Folder 4. Barkai, Arye, undated
Box 6. Folder 8. Blumenthal, Mike, 1976
Box 6. Folder 17. Cohen, Nassy, 1984
Box 6. Folder 24. Cox, Janice, 1983
Box 6. Folder 25. Cromelien, David, 1979
Box 6. Folder 27. Dallett, Jim, 1972-1983
Box 6. Folder 30. De Sola Henriques family, 1984
Box 6. Folder 32. DeSouza, Steven, 1990
Box 6. Folder 33. Dinel, Jerry, 1980
Box 7. Folder 1. Evans, Eli, 1982-1988
Box 7. Folder 2. Fechheimer, Richard, 1977
Box 7. Folder 3. Feldman, Sandra, 1992
Box 7. Folder 4. Fern, Judy, 1993
Box 7. Folder 5. Fleischman, Bernard, 1990
Box 7. Folder 6. Floersheim Family, 1986
Box 7. Folder 7. Frank family, 1985
Box 7. Folder 9. Frazer, John, 1992
Box 7. Folder 15. Graupe, Gerhard, 1988
Box 7. Folder 18. Haas family, 1988
Box 7. Folder 19. Hanaw, Margaret, 1982
Box 7. Folder 20. Hartogenesis family, 1981
Box 7. Folder 21. Herman, Louis, 1979
Box 7. Folder 23. Iseman, Joseph, 1984
Box 7. Folder 25. Johnson, Maria, 1987
Box 7. Folder 27. Kaufman, Muriel, undated
Box 7. Folder 29. Kokernoot family, 1989
Box 7. Folder 32. Korbin, Nancy, 1993
Box 7. Folder 33. Korn family, 1982
Box 7. Folder 34. Korn, Bertram, 1973
Box 7. Folder 35. Kramer, Fran, 1990
Subseries 2. Historical and Genealogical Associations, 1900-1993

Extent 1.6 linear feet (4 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence, meeting notices, publicity, and publications from historical and genealogical associations with which Stern was involved.

Arrangement
Box and Folder Listing

Box 11. Folder 2. American Jewish Historical Society. Cresson, Warder, 1900
Box 12. Folder 1. Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies summer seminars, 1984-1993
Box 12. Folder 2. Association of Professional Genealogists genealogy project, 1982
Box 12. Folder 8. Historical and genealogical societies list, 1983
Box 12. Folder 9. Israel [notes, publications and correspondence concerning Stern's trips to Israel], 1980-1985
Box 14. Folder 2. Speakers' vitas for genealogy seminars, undated
Subseries 3. Research, 1933-1993

Extent 6 linear feet (15 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of genealogical research on numerous families compiled by Stern throughout his lifetime and as preparation for his book, Americans of Jewish Descent and two later editions titled First American Jewish Families: 600 Genealogies, 1654-1988. Included are research on families, marriages, wills and cemeteries.

Arrangement Alphabetical by family name, geographical place names and occasional topical headings (such as slavery, passenger lists, etc.).

Box and Folder Listing

Box 15. Folder 1. Alexander, Rebecca (memoir), 1929
Box 15. Folder 2. Allen family, undated
Box 15. Folder 3. Ambach family, undated
Box 15. Folder 4. Bache, Jules (1921), undated
Box 15. Folder 6. Leo Baeck Institute (Jacob Jacobson Collection, 1888-1968), undated
Box 15. Folder 7. Barnet family, undated
Box 15. Folder 8. Belasco family, undated
Box 15. Folder 9. Bernheim family, undated
Box 15. Folder 10. Bernstein, Edgar, undated
Box 15. Folder 11. Binswagner family, undated
Box 15. Folder 12. Bloomingdale family, undated
Box 15. Folder 13. Bound-Brook-Houses (1893), New Jersey, undated
Box 15. Folder 14. Breidenbach family, undated
Box 15. Folder 15. Burgunder family, 1960
Box 15. Folder 16. Burgkundstadt families, undated
Box 15. Folder 17. Butzel, John L., undated
Box 15. Folder 18. Caribbean genealogies compiled by Stern, undated
Box 15. Folder 19. Caribbean research, undated
Box 16. Folder 1. Charlemagne-Descendants by Stern, 1933
Box 19. Folder 11. Henriques, Juliao, undated
Box 19. Folder 12. Henry, Carl, undated
Box 19. Folder 13. Hofheimer family, 1964
Box 19. Folder 14. Holocaust memorial at Customs House (New York, N.Y.), undated
Box 19. Folder 15. Hutzler family, undated
Box 19. Folder 17. Isaacs, Asher (1729), undated
Box 19. Folder 18. Isaacs family, undated
Box 20. Folder 1. Jewish families of Hesse and Galicia, undated
Box 20. Folder 2. Jews of Jamaica (1937-1972), undated
Box 20. Folder 3. Jews of Rouen-Golb, 1977
Box 20. Folder 4. Jewish Texans, 1974
Box 20. Folder 5. Joseph family of Cleveland, Ohio (1852), undated
Box 20. Folder 6. Kahn family, 1960
Box 20. Folder 8. Kingston, Jamaica- English and German Congregation- Births and Marriages (1788-1918), undated
Box 20. Folder 10. Kayton family, undated
Box 20. Folder 11. Kritzer-Lieberman family, undated
Box 20. Folder 13. Langsdorf family, undated
Box 20. Folder 14. Laurence family, 1992
Box 20. Folder 15. Lazarus, Emma, undated
Box 20. Folder 16. Lehman family, undated
Box 20. Folder 17. "Jews of Lithuania" by Shlomo Katzow, undated
Box 20. Folder 18. Loeb exhibit, undated
Box 21. Folder 1. Louisiana map, 1858
Box 21. Folder 2. Levy, Asser, 1974, undated
Box 21. Folder 3. Macon, Ga. - Beth Israel burials, undated
Box 21. Folder 4. Maduro family, undated
Box 21. Folder 5. Mailander family diary, undated
Box 21. Folder 8. Marriage records, undated
Box 21. Folder 9. Mendes family, undated
Box 21. Folder 10. Miscellaneous notes (includes Cincinnati, Louisiana, New York), 1827, undated
Box 21. Folder 11. Miscellaneous sources, notes from various communities, undated
Box 21. Folder 12. Miscellaneous sources, notes from various communities, undated
Box 21. Folder 13. Miscellaneous documents, undated
Box 22. Folder 1. Mobile, Ala. - births and marriages, 1860-1947
Box 22. Folder 2. Moses, R. J., undated
Box 22. Folder 3. Montefiore, Joshua, undated
Box 22. Folder 5. Myers, Mordecai, 1992
Box 22. Folder 6. Nassy, Cohen, undated
Box 22. Folder 7. Nevis (Caribbean community), 1957-1971
Box 22. Folder 8. New Jersey Jews (1655-1816), undated
Box 22. Folder 10. Newport, R.I. - colonial era, undated
Box 22. Folder 11. New York, N.Y. - History of East European Jews in New York City before 1881, undated
Box 22. Folder 12. New York, N.Y. - Early New York, undated
Box 22. Folder 14. New York, N.Y. - Shearith Israel escabot, undated
Box 22. Folder 15. Nones-Marks family, undated
Box 23. Folder 2. Norfolk, Va. - source notes, undated
Box 23. Folder 3. Passenger lists (1769-1772), 1769-1772
Box 23. Folder 4. Passenger lists, New York, 1839 July 12
Box 23. Folder 5. Pennsylvania, Applications to University of, 1887-1890
Box 23. Folder 7. Philadelphia, Pa., 1799-1834
Box 24. Folder 4. Phillipson family of St. Louis, Mo. (1807-1858), undated
Box 24. Folder 5. Pincus family of Prussia (1794 and undated), Descendants of, undated
Box 24. Folder 6. Piza family of St. Thomas (1657-1951), undated
Box 24. Folder 7. Portugal, Jews of, undated
Box 24. Folder 8. Posen naturalization (1870) and Marlene Silverman, undated
Box 25. Folder 1. Research notebooks, undated
Box 25. Folder 2. Richmond, Va. - Source notes, various families, undated
Box 25. Folder 3. Robles family, undated
Box 25. Folder 4. Rosenbaum family, undated
Box 25. Folder 5. Rothschilds family, undated
Box 25. Folder 6. Russian papers, consular records, undated
Box 25. Folder 7. Saint Louis, Mo. - Baer family, undated
Box 25. Folder 8. St. Thomas and Virgin Islands (1837-1973), undated
Box 25. Folder 9. Samuel and Yates families, undated
Box 25. Folder 10. Savannah, Ga. - cemeteries (1936-1979), undated
Box 25. Folder 11. Savannah, Ga. - Chapter 1, undated
Box 25. Folder 12. Savannah, Ga. - Chapter 2 (1778- undated), 1973
Box 26. Folder 1. Savannah, Ga. - Chapter 3 (1902 and undated), undated
Box 26. Folder 4. Savannah, Ga. photostats and photos (1755-1978), undated
Box 26. Folder 5. Savannah, Ga. - Sheftall family (1794-1984), undated
Box 26. Folder 6. Schapp genealogy, 1938
Box 26. Folder 7. Senior family, undated
Box 26. Folder 9. Simson family (early Jewish settlers in Yonkers, N.Y.), undated
Box 27. Folder 1. Slavery, 1992
Box 27. Folder 2. Snowdon's Jewish ancestry, undated
Box 27. Folder 3. Sonneborn-Lippel family, undated
Box 27. Folder 4. Stein family (1846-1910), undated
Box 27. Folder 5. Stix family (1750-1921), undated
Box 27. Folder 6. Schoenfeld family, undated
Box 27. Folder 7. Stammtafel Koppel (oder Thurnauer), 1883
Box 27. Folder 8. Straus family, undated
Box 27. Folder 9. Tombstones, How to read Hebrew, 1978
Box 27. Folder 10. Trinidad, Colo. - "The Jewish Brothers of Trinidad", 1979

Extent 0.9 linear feet (1 Hollinger box, 0.5 oversize box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of notes, documents and miscellaneous materials collected by Stern pertaining to his own family history. Also contains Stern family memorabilia.

Arrangement Alphabetical by family groups.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 30. Folder 1. Berkowitz, Grannie, 1956-1975
Box 30. Folder 2. Berkowitz, Harry, 1917-1987
Box 30. Folder 3. Berkowitz, Henry - "From the Diary of a Jewish Refugee", 1938
Box 30. Folder 5. Jaroslawski-Brunn family, undated
Box 30. Folder 8. Stern-Katzenberg family, 1957-1985
Box 30. Folder 10. Stern family memorabilia, 1882-1982
Box X-401. Jaroslawski, Descendants of Salomon (genealogy), undated

Series D. Rabbinical Associations, 1943-1992

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of correspondence, meeting notices, publicity and publications concerning Stern's affiliation with the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) and the National Association of Retired Rabbis. Included is material pertaining to the CCAR placement committee during Stern's service as committee head from 1964-1980
The subseries is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 31. Folder 8. Hebrew Union College fieldwork, 1980s

Series E. Personal, 1960-1994

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Consists of obituaries, memorials and tributes sent to Mrs. Stern after Malcolm Stern’s death. Included in Series E are memorabilia and awards won by Stern during his lifetime.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 32. Folder 1. Obituaries, 1994
Box 33. Folder 1. Memorials, 1994

Series F. Non-Print Materials, 1960-1993

Extent 0.8 linear feet (2 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement


Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Contains audiocassette recordings of Central Conference of American Rabbis events, genealogical information and high holiday services.
Box and Folder Listing

Box 34. Folder 1. CCAR retirement panel #1, undated
Box 34. Folder 2. CCAR retirement panel #2, undated
Box 34. Folder 3. CCAR spouse breakfast socio-drama, undated
Box 34. Folder 4. My creed, "Message of Israel", 1992
Box 34. Folder 5. Genealogy lecture at Hofstra University, 1992
Box 34. Folder 6. Coming out party for First American Jewish Families, 1978
Box 34. Folder 7. When You're in Love the Whole World is Jewish, undated
Box 34. Folder 9. Stryker-Rodda, Rubincam and Coddington, National Geographic Society, 1982
Box 34. Folder 10. Los Angeles Jewish Genealogical Society banquet, 1990
Box 34. Folder 11. My Autobiography (brief) taped by Florence Daniels, 1986
Box 34. Folder 12. Holyday services at New York Central Synagogue, 1983
Box 34. Folder 13. High Holyday sermons at New York Central Synagogue, 1988
Box 34. Folder 14. Louise Nausbaum's funeral, 1988
Box 34. Folder 15. Is that a Jewish Ancestor? Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) [Orlando, Fla.], 1986
Box 34. Folder 16. Alex and Alice Scheeline wedding music, undated
Box 34. Folder 17. Tracing Sephardic Roots, 1993
Box 34. Folder 18. The Ethics of Genealogy [FGS, Orlando, Fla.], 1986
Box 34. Folder 19. Using the LDS Library [FGS, Orlando, Fla.], 1986
Box 34. Folder 20. Commodore Grace Hopper [FGS, Kansas City], 1985
Box 34. Folder 21. What's Happening in Genealogy Today? [FGS, Buena Park, Calif.], 1982
Box 34. Folder 22. Ross Holland, Statue of Liberty Ellis Island [FGS, Orlando, Fla.], 1986
Box 34. Folder 23. Kol Nidre, undated
Box 34. Folder 24. Yom Kippur morning and afternoon, undated
Box 34. Folder 25. Yom Kippur Yizkor and Ne'ilah, undated


Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)
Scope and Content Note Contains recordings of Central Conference of American Rabbis services, holiday services and genealogical information.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 35. Folder 1. Unidentified worship service labeled "Stern's Tape", 1960 December
Box 35. Folder 2. Life Cycle of Man, CCAR service, 1972
Box 35. Folder 3. Life Cycle of Man, CCAR service, 1972

Extent 0.2 linear feet (0.5 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of two microfilms. The first is a copy of Stern's book, Americans of Jewish Descent (1960), annotated with revisions and corrections. The second is a genealogy of the families of Julius Oppenheimer and Jeanette Goldsmith of New York, New York, as well as Humphrey Davis and Beulah Woodworth of Hartford, Connecticut.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 35. Folder 9. Americans of Jewish Descent, with revisions and corrections, 1960