



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
**AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES**

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**A Finding Aid to the  
Kooperman and Kooperman Records on the  
Jewish Agricultural Society, Inc. Loans**

**Manuscript Collection No. 758**

## Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Kooperman and Kooperman Records on the Jewish Agricultural Society, Inc. Loans
<b>Dates</b>	1921-1963
<b>Collection Number</b>	MS-758
<b>Repository</b>	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Kooperman and Kooperman Jewish Agricultural Society
<b>Extent</b>	2.4 linear feet (6 Hollinger boxes)
<b>Language of the Material</b>	English

## Administrative Information

### Biographical Sketch

The law firm of Kooperman and Kooperman consisted of a husband-and-wife legal team, Joseph and Ethel Kooperman, who were primarily real estate attorneys. Joseph Kooperman was a transplant from New York City. He was admitted to the bar in 1917, and had been recruited to Woodridge, New York by the fire insurance co-op in the early 1920s, after his work with the Brooklyn tenants' movement. As attorneys in Woodridge and then Ellenville, New York, the Koopermans helped farmers obtain mortgages throughout the difficult times of the 1930s and after.

Joseph Kooperman was a charter member of the board of directors of the Inter-County Farmers' Cooperative Association, Inc. (Inter-County), which was formed by the Jewish Agricultural Society and individual farmers in order to meet the farmers' needs during the Great Depression. This group, started in the mid-1930s, bought and milled feed cooperatively. Kooperman handled legalities for Inter-County and obtained its state charter. Inter-County was very successful and pulled Jewish farmers in the Catskills through the worst of the Depression.

Kooperman was also a successful fundraiser for the United Jewish Appeal. He was labeled a communist in the 1930s, and was endorsed for State Senator by the American Labor Party in July 1946. In May 1947, Joseph Kooperman was elected president of the Ellenville Bar Association. Later in life, Kooperman established a scholarship fund for high school graduates who had low grades but were willing to try to make a fresh start in college; it was known as the Joe Kooperman Educational Fund, and was financed by donations from local business and fundraisers.

In their work with the Jewish Agricultural Society, Inc., the Koopermans performed loan closings, property searches, continuation searches and abstracts, took depositions, wrote reports and affidavits of title, drew real estate mortgages, and performed other necessary functions. The Jewish Agricultural Society, Inc., was very involved in the region that the Koopermans served, as the Catskills ended up having the largest population of Jewish farmers in the United States in the early twentieth century. This was an unplanned settlement, unlike the colonies in New Jersey.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Sullivan and Ulster Counties in New York began to see an increase in farm settlements and summer resort trade. This was probably due to the proximity of the lower Catskills to New York City, where cold milk could easily be shipped. Early Jewish farmers in the area were Eastern European immigrants, who came to the United States, settled in New York City, and then moved out to farm. In the Ellenville area the soil and weather conditions were not totally favorable for farming, but the region was a favorite spot for Jews seeking to begin farming because of its proximity to New York City and its large Jewish population (which led to a better social and religious life).

The Jewish Agricultural Society (JAS) was established in 1900 as the Jewish Agricultural and Industrial Aid Society (the name was changed in 1922). The JAS was originally financed by grants from the Baron de Hirsch Fund and the Jewish Colonization Association. In 1914, the Fund became its sole supporter. The JAS made loans to farmers and provided agricultural instruction through an extension service, using agents to teach farming skills. The JAS also did industrial aid work through the mass relocation of immigrants from east coast cities to smaller towns across the country; the Industrial Removal Organization took over these duties in 1901.

The JAS opened a regional office in Ellenville in 1919 (the office closed in 1945). The JAS ran into difficulty during the depression, as those already farming needed the Society's assistance, as did those unemployed in the city who were looking to begin farming. Furthermore, loan funds were low because repayment of debt was low. Often, the JAS could not provide much actual financial help; it was able to make a difference through education, community service, and small second mortgages. In 1972 the JAS was disbanded and its surviving projects were once again incorporated into the larger mission of the Baron de Hirsch Fund.)

Much of the information in the institutional sketch came from Jewish farmers of the Catskills : a Century of Survival by Abraham D. Lavender and Clarence B. Steinberg (University Press of Florida,

1995).

<b>Scope and Content</b>	The collection consists mostly of records documenting the law firm's correspondence with the Jewish Agricultural Society, individuals receiving loans, and other stakeholders such as banks and insurance companies. The files also contain records of mortgages and property insurance, as well as continuation searches, abstracts and reports of title, and affidavits of title. This collection reveals the inner workings of how The Jewish Agricultural Society, Inc., made loans to Jewish farmers in the early and mid twentieth century. It documents specific individuals who were assisted in the Catskills region of New York State, and how those individuals used the money loaned. The records document what steps were taken to secure the loans and to close the loans. Although the collection covers only a small geographic area, it is representative of the broader work that the JAS was conducting.
<b>Arrangement</b>	The collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.
<b>Terms of Access</b>	The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Kooperman and Kooperman Records on the Jewish Agricultural Society, Inc. Loans and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:  [Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-758. Kooperman and Kooperman Records on the Jewish Agricultural Society, Inc. Loans. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.
<b>Provenance</b>	Received from Lewis Gilnert, Hannover, N.H., 2009.
<b>Processing Information</b>	Processed by Jennifer Cole, May 2010.

## Index Terms

<b>Subjects</b>	Agriculture / Catskill Mountains (N.Y.) / Farm mortgages / Jews -- New York (State) -- Ellenville / Loan servicing / Real estate lawyers
<b>Personal Names</b>	Kooperman, Ethel / Kooperman, Joseph
<b>Corporate Names</b>	Jewish Agricultural Society / Kooperman and Kooperman

## Series A. General, 1921-1963

<b>Arrangement</b>	The collection has been arranged alphabetically by the last name of the individual receiving or closing a loan.
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## Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. Bakal, Aaron and Lena, 1951-1952
- Box 1. Folder 2. Baliba, Bessie (Esther) and Louis and Asna Gorstein, 1937-1938
- Box 1. Folder 3. Barnabell, Abraham, Max Lerner, and Dora Singer, 1955
- Box 1. Folder 4. Berkey, Ralph and Sadie, 1950-1955
- Box 1. Folder 5. Cohen, Joseph, 1939
- Box 1. Folder 6. Curran, Elizabeth M., 1938-1939
- Box 1. Folder 7. Deutsch, Joseph, Samuel and Sarah, 1941-1946
- Box 1. Folder 8. Dryer, Benjamin, 1941-1947
- Box 1. Folder 9. Dwash, Mordko and Lena, 1953-1955
- Box 1. Folder 10. Eis, Isaac and Rebecca, 1949-1950
- Box 1. Folder 11. Epstein, Elias and Jennie, 1942

Box 1. Folder 12. Esther Brook Dairy Farm, 1934

Box 1. Folder 13. Freidman, Irwin and Anna, 1954

Box 1. Folder 14. Frydman, Henry, 1953

Box 1. Folder 15. Gainen, Nathan A. and Belle, 1945

Box 1. Folder 16. Gibber, Louis, 1943

Box 1. Folder 17. Ginsberg, Charles, 1934

Box 2. Folder 1. Ginsburg, Jacob and Esther, 1950

Box 2. Folder 2. Glasser, Isidore, 1941

Box 2. Folder 3. Goldfarb, Ralph and Goldie, 1952

Box 2. Folder 4. Goldfarb, Ralph and Goldie, 1951-1953

Box 2. Folder 5. Goldin, Sam and Rose, 1940-1952

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Box 2. Folder 7. Golub (Gollub), Fay, 1941-1942

Box 2. Folder 8. Gonick, Samuel and Rebecca, 1948-1949

Box 2. Folder 9. Goodman, Anna, 1938-1945

Box 2. Folder 10. Gross, Paul and Helen, 1953

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Box 2. Folder 12. Jacobwitz (Jakubowicz), Solomon and Frieda and Bendet Perle, 1951-1957

Box 2. Folder 13. Jaffe, Elias and Fannie, 1939, 1956

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Box 3. Folder 1. Kovinsky, Rose, 1941-1942

Box 3. Folder 2. Krassoff, Max and Dora, 1952

Box 3. Folder 3. Krevat, Morris and Anna and Goldie Krevat, 1938-1941

Box 3. Folder 4. Kross, Julius, 1938

Box 3. Folder 5. Kurlander, Abraham and Anna, 1944-1945

Box 3. Folder 6. Lipsky, Irving and Edith, 1952-1955

Box 3. Folder 7. Litwak, Jack, and Litwak, Kitty, 1942-1952

Box 3. Folder 8. Miller, Bessie, 1937-1944

Box 3. Folder 9. Mulqueen, John F. and Jane T., 1921-1934

Box 3. Folder 10. Noonan, Martin A, 1953

Box 3. Folder 11. Osborne, Alexander, Ethel, Zachary, 1933-1934

Box 3. Folder 12. Pacht, Louis and Mary, 1943

Box 4. Folder 1. Piccoult, Jack, 1934-1939

Box 4. Folder 2. Pollack, Ben, 1934-1943

Box 4. Folder 3. Pudzinski, Israel and Chaim Met, 1949-1950

Box 4. Folder 4. Rabinowitz, Boris and Beatrice, and Jankiel Topczyk, 1952-1958

Box 4. Folder 5. Resnick, Samuel and Fannie Blum, 1946

Box 4. Folder 6. Rosen, Julius, 1942-1948

Box 4. Folder 7. Rosenthal, Harold, 1962

Box 4. Folder 8. Roth, Meyer and Morris and Bertha Roth, 1955-1963

Box 4. Folder 9. Sarsky, Anne and Morris Sraibman, 1939

Box 4. Folder 10. Schordine, Frank and Adele and Rennie Le Boeuf, 1958-1962

Box 5. Folder 1. Seifer, Pearl, and Tuttle, Arthur and Dorothy, 1946-1952

Box 5. Folder 2. Shapiro, Sam, 1939-1940

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Box 5. Folder 5. Shor (Shore), William and Sadie, 1938-1939

Box 5. Folder 6. Shostack, Dora, 1942-1943

Box 5. Folder 7. Silk, Frank and Sylvia, 1951-1955

Box 5. Folder 8. Tennenbaum, Samuel, 1935-1949

Box 5. Folder 9. Thatcher, Lewis M. and Virginia, 1929-1934

Box 5. Folder 10. Tinkelman, Harry, 1932

Box 5. Folder 11. Van Gelden, Max, 1939-1940

Box 6. Folder 1. Wagner, Sam and Harry, 1939

Box 6. Folder 2. Wein, Harry (Jerry), 1937

Box 6. Folder 3. Weinbaum, Charles, 1939-1944

Box 6. Folder 4. Winegar (Vinegar), Sarah, and Morris and Sadie Winegar, 1943

Box 6. Folder 5. Worth, Kenneth and Rosalind, 1952-1955

Box 6. Folder 6. Zafir, Arthur and Anna, 1952-1955

Box 6. Folder 7. Zaltzman, Gerszon and Dwoyra, 1955-1956

Box 6. Folder 8. Zucker, Celia, 1934

Box 6. Folder 9. Miscellaneous mortgages, correspondence, and notes, 1924-1951, undated