

**TITLE:** Elizabeth Ramenofsky Collection (1908-1996)

**DATE RANGE:** 1865-1992

**CALL NUMBER:** FM MSS #117

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

**PROVENANCE:** These materials were created by Elizabeth Ramenofsky and donated to the Arizona Historical Foundation from 1994-1996.

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**CREDIT LINE:** Elizabeth Ramenofsky Collection, MSS #117, Arizona Historical Foundation

**PROCESSED BY:** Elizabeth Scott, March 2006

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:** Elizabeth Ramenofsky was born in Globe, AZ in 1908. Her father, Max Lantin, was a merchant who came west from New Haven, CT, went to Jerome, AZ and then finally settled in Globe, AZ. He married Lillie Solomon and had two children, Elizabeth and Philip. Her father moved the family from Globe, AZ to Los Angeles, CA in 1921 when he opened an import store called the Lantin Importing Co. In 1925, she graduated from high school and entered the University of California, Berkeley. She graduated with a bachelor of arts with a major in economics from the University of Illinois. In 1936, she married Dr. Abraham I. Ramenofsky, returned to Arizona and raised four children. Later, she developed an interest for writing and research, and began investigating the history of the Solomon family. She died in 1996.

Elizabeth's grandfather, I.E. (Isadore Elkan) Solomon settled the town of Solomonville, AZ. The town's name was later changed to Solomon. I.E. and his wife Anna were both Jewish immigrants from the Province of Posen in Eastern Germany. He settled first in Towanda, PA and then later headed in 1876 to the Gila River area in the Arizona Territory. There he established farms, irrigation canals, a mercantile company and later the Gila Valley Bank which later became Valley National Bank.

**SOURCES:** Elizabeth Ramenofsky Interview, Shema Arizona: Arizona Jewish Historical Society Oral History Project, March 7, 1990.  
<http://www.asu.edu/lib/archives/shema/>

Ramenofsky, Elizabeth. *From Charcoal to Banking: The I.E. Solomons of Arizona*. Tucson, AZ: Westernlore Press, 1984.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** The collection contains research notes and photographs on the Arizona pioneer families of Solomon, Lantin, Lesinsky, and Freudenthal. This collection also has materials about the town of Solomonville, AZ, Gila Valley Bank, a forerunner to Valley National Bank, and other topics on Arizona and southwestern history. These files were most likely used for Ramenofsky's book entitled *From Charcoal to Banking: The I.E. Solomons of Arizona*. Of interest in this collection is the Jewish migration experience to Arizona and the Southwest and the founding of Solomonville, AZ. Photographs in Series II date back to the late 1880's. There are photographs of Globe, AZ, various buildings in Solomonville, AZ and images of family members. Overall, these photographs are a wonderful documentation of early life in Arizona.

The collection is arranged into two series; **Series I: Research Files; Series II: Photographs**. Files are arranged alphabetically within each series.

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1	1	Research Files-Arizona Jewish Historical Society	1981-1983
1	2	Research Files-Arizona Territory	N.D.
1	3	Research Files-Banks-Gila Valley Bank/Valley National Bank	1899-1992
1	4	Research Files-Business Directories	1881-1953
1	5	Research Files-Canals-Montezuma	N.D.
1	6	Research Files-Cattle/Sheep Industry	1898-1952
1	7	Research Files-Clifton Morenci Mining District	1979-1984
1	8	Research Files-Cornwall, England	N.D.
1	9	Research Files-Coronado Expedition	N.D.
1	10	Research Files-Farming-Gila Valley	N.D.
1	11	Research Files-Feather, Adelai	1975
1	12	Research Files-Fireman, Bert	1951-1980
1	13	Research Files-Floods	N.D.
1	14	Research Files-Flour Mills	N.D.
1	15	Research Files-Forts-Army	N.D.
1	16	Research Files-Forts-Bowie	N.D.
1	17	Research Files-Freighting	N.D.
1	18	Research Files-Freudenthal, Carmen	1928-1976
1	19	Research Files-Freudenthal Family	1915
1	20	Research Files-Freudenthal, Julius	1882-1976
1	21	Research Files-Freudenthal, Louis	1966-1971
1	22	Research Files-Freudenthal, Samuel	N.D.
1	23	Research Files-Freudenthal, Wolff	N.D.
1	24	Research Files-Gila Valley Research	1893-1906
1	25	Research Files-Goldwater, Barry	1993
1	26	Research Files-Graham County-Canals	1983
1	27	Research Files-Graham County-Government	1896-1972
1	28	Research Files-Graham County History	1879-1987

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	29	Research Files-Graham County-Jail	N.D.
1	30	Research Files-Homestead Acts	N.D.
1	31	Research Files-Homestead Grants	1878-1903
2	1	Research Files-Indian Attacks	1956-1985
2	2	Research Files-Indian Reservations	N.D.
2	3	Research Files-Interviews	1980
2	4	Research Files-Immigration	1977-1985
2	5	Research Files-Irrigation	1980
2	6	Research Files-Jewish Pioneers	1976-1990
2	7	Research Files-Jewish Publications	1981-1984
2	8	Research Files-Jews in Arizona	1954-1980
2	9	Research Files-Lacy, John H.	N.D.
2	10	Research Files-Legal Documents (Deeds & Govt. contracts to army forts)	1878-1924
2	11	Research Files-Lesinsky Family	1957-1977
2	12	Research Files-Maps	1983
2	13	Research Files-Medicine on the Frontier	N.D.
2	14	Research Files-Michelina, Jennifer	1981-1983
2	15	Research Files-Mining Camps	N.D.
2	16	Research Files-Miscellaneous	1985-1988
2	17	Research Files-Mormon Settlements	1921-1987
2	18	Research Files-Newspapers/Periodicals in Arizona	1859-1911
2	19	Research Files-Notes on Solomonville (Copies of original letters from William Brooks to Alice Brooks)	1903-1905
2	20	Research Files-Phoenix News Items	1906
2	21	Research Files-Population	N.D.
2	22	Research Files-Railroads	1974-1982
2	23	Research Files-Ridgway, Ryder	1974-1985
2	24	Research Files-Safford, AZ	1974
2	25	Research Files-Solomon Commercial Company	1889-1972
2	26	Research Files-Solomon Family History	1898-1989
2	27	Research Files-Solomon Land Holdings	N.D.
2	28	Research Files-Solomon-Wickersham Company	1895-1951
2	29	Research Files-Solomon, Adolph	1905
2	30	Research Files-Solomon, Hattie	N.D.
3	1	Research Files-Solomon, I.E. (Isadore Elkan)	1865-1982
3	2	Research Files-Solomon, Lillie	1904
3	3	Research Files-Solomonville History	1892-1989
3	4	Research Files-Stagecoaches	1928-1986
3	5	Research Files-Statehood	1983

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>
3	6	Research Files-Tombstone	1890
3	7	Research Files-Towanda, PA	1958-1968
3	8	Research Files-Weinberger, Jacob	1907-1978
3	9	Research Files-Wetzler, Charlie	1944
3	10	Photographs-Lantin Family	1904-1957
3	11	Photographs-Miscellaneous	1895-1905
3	12	Photographs-Negatives of Solomon Family	N.D.
3	13	Photographs-Ramenofsky Family	1893-1985
3	14	Photographs-Solomon Family	1918
3	15	Photographs-Town of Solomonville	1880-1980
3	16	Photographs-Various Individuals and Groups	1895-1916
4 OV		Freudenthal/Lesinsky/Solomon genealogy chart	1960
		Solomon Freudenthal contracts to supply army forts	N.D.
		Photographs: Max Lantin's store in Globe, AZ; Longfellow Incline, 1902; Solomonville Office/Valley National Bank, 1980	1902-1980
		Newspapers: Highlights of the Past: A Century Conquered, A Challenge Ahead, Safford, AZ, 1874- 1974; Solomonville Special, 1981	1974-1981