

**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.

**COPYRIGHT:** The Arizona Historical Foundation owns the copyright to this collection.

**RESTRICTIONS:** This collection is unrestricted.

**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-Variou s 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    |
|            |               | "From Charcoal To Banking: The I. E. Solomons of Arizona" Tucson, Westernlore Press. Autographed copy by Elizabeth Ramenofsky  | 1984         |