



The Historical  
Society of  
Pennsylvania

Collection 3122

**Karavin family papers**

Creator: Karavin family

circa 1906-1992

1 box, 0.4 linear feet

**Contact:** The Historical Society of Pennsylvania  
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**Collection processed by:** Heather Willever-Farr

**Processing completed:** October 2009

**Restrictions:** None

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### **Abstract**

The Karavin family of Philadelphia has its roots in the Ukraine. Benjamin Karavin immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s, and settled in Philadelphia, working as an upholsterer. He married a women named “Fannie” and had children, one of whom was David Karavin (1894 – 1955). David worked as a “dress trimmer”; and, in 1917, he married Rebecca (“Beckie”) Latman or Lotman (1900 – 1992). The couple had two children, Bertha (b. 1919) and Samuel (1924 – 2008). Bertha graduated from Olney High School in 1935, and never married. Her brother Samuel graduated from Olney High School in 1942, and then enlisted as a private. He served as a radio operator during World War II and was injured and honorably discharged in July 1945. After the war, Samuel briefly worked in “men’s wear” and then enrolled in Temple University, graduating in 1949 with a bachelors of science. Later in life, Samuel became a member of the order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

The Karavin collection consists of marriage, immigration, and naturalization certificates of David and Rebecca Karavin; as well as various certificates and diplomas of Samuel and Bertha Karavin. The collection also contains David Karavin’s correspondence to family members, and Rebecca Karavin’s correspondence with HIAS and the Council Migration Service of Philadelphia (now the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Philadelphia). Several family photographs are also present in the collection, including photographs of David and Rebecca Karavin, Elka Latman Mazur, Isadore Latman, Minnie Latman, Charles Latman, and Harry Carp. The collection also contains a small number of Jewish religious publications and ephemera, as well as Samuel Karavin’s high school yearbook and other ephemera he collected pertaining to Philadelphia’s Olney High school. Documents pertaining to Samuel Karavin’s Bar Mitzvah and David Karavin’s funeral are also included. A few documents and publications within the collection are written in Russian, Yiddish, and Hebrew.

### **Restrictions**

The collection is open for research.

**Subject headings**

Karavin, David, 1890-1955  
Karavin family  
Karavin, Rebecca Latman, 1900-1992  
Latman family

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Philadelphia  
Olney High School (Philadelphia, Pa.)

**Acquisition information**

Gift of Samuel and Bertha Karavin, M95-30, M96-59, M96-64, 1995-030.

**Preferred citation**

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Karavin family papers (Collection 3122), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

## Box and folder listing

Folder title	Date	Extent	Box	Folder
Prayers of Israel Vol. II (in Hebrew and English)	1937	1 item	1	n/a
Rebecca Karavin, Funeral Book	1992	1 item	1	n/a
Samuel David Karavin, Temple University Diploma	1949	1 item	1	n/a
Olney High School Trojan Yearbook, Samuel Karavin	1942	1 item	1	n/a
David Karavin and Rebecca Latman, marriage certificates and licenses	1917	3 items	1	1
David Karavin, correspondence in Russian	circa 1927	3 items	1	2
David and Rebecca Karavin naturalization documents (1928 and 1941), David Karavin social security card (1936), and immigration notes about Rivke Laman (undated)	1928-1941, undated	5 items	1	3
David and Bertha Karavin, diplomas, certificates, and social security card	1931-1960	8 items	1	4
Samuel Karavin Bar Mitzvah statements (in English and Yiddish)	1937	2 items	1	5
Samuel Karavin, Olney High school ephemera	1942	3 items	1	6
David and Rebecca Karavin, "Grandchildren of Solomon Circle" membership certificate and David Karavin, Jahrzeit plaque	1942 and 1955	2 items	1	7
Publications and ephemera pertaining to the Jewish Jerusalem	circa 1950s	10 items	1	8
Rebecca Karavin, correspondence with HIAS and Council Migration Service of Philadelphia	1978	4 items	1	9
Photographs of Elka Lotman Mazur, Bertha Mazur, Bertha Mazur's cousin (Gertrude), and an unidentified friend	circa early 1900s	5 items	1	10
Photograph of David Karavin	undated	1 item	1	11
Engagement photograph of David Karavin and Rebecca Latman		1 item	1	12
Photographs of David Karavin, cousin Harry Capp, wife Rebecca Latman, Isadore Latman, Charles Latman, and Minnie Latman	1944 – circa 1959	6 items	1	13