

Guide to the Cohen Family Collection

Special Collections/Local History
Bangor Public Library
Bangor, Maine

Summary Information:

Collection Title: Cohen Family Collection
Date of Collection:
Box Numbers:

Administration Information:

Provenance:
Processor: Elizabeth A. Stevens
Access Restrictions:
Preferred Citation: Cohen Family Collection, Special Collections, Bangor Public
Library, Bangor, Maine
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Bangor Public Library
145 Harlow Street
Bangor, Maine
(207) 947-8336, ext.103

Biographical Information:

The Cohen's of Bangor, Maine, are descended from Nathan Cohen (b. 1844), the eldest child of Reuben Alperowitz. He immigrated to this country from the Lithuanian province of the Polish Commonwealth, which had only recently become part of the tsarist Empire of Russia. He sought a better life for his wife Rosa (b. 1840), and their children.

Nathan's decision to choose a new surname upon his arrival, in this country, is not surprising. Given the circumstances that he left in Russia, he likely did not identify with the Alperowitz name that had been imposed upon his family by that government. Moreover, it was common practice for immigrants to offer their tribal names to officials who asked for their name. Nathan had been descended from the kohen, traditionally the high priests of Israel who were entitled to certain religious privileges.

Nathan was the first member of his family to arrive in this country. He petitioned for naturalization on January 25, 1889 in the Penobscot County Superior Court in Bangor, and declared his oath to become a citizen of the United States of America on April 23, 1891.

Nathan's granddaughter, Pauline Cohen, established this collection with photographs, and other materials, bequeathed to the Bangor Public Library after her death on January 15, 2006.

Pauline Cohen was born on November 2, 1910, the second child of Jacob and Alice Cohen of 50 East Summer Street in Bangor, Maine. Ever the outstanding scholar, Pauline continued her studies with a post-secondary education at the University of Maine, and Harvard University. This brilliant woman was elected into both the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Beta Kappa.

Pauline dedicated her life to the field of education, and much of her time and energy to her students in Bangor, Maine. With the creation of this Cohen Family Collection, she shares her family's legacy of community commitment, and love of country with those who live in Bangor today.

Eunice (Cohen) Morris, sister to Pauline, has generously offered to identify many of the individuals in Pauline's photographs. She has also given additional materials for the Cohen Family Collection from her personal documents. These materials further indicate the level of involvement of the Cohen family within the communities wherever they reside.

Eunice was born on March 21, 1921, the youngest child of Jacob and Alice Cohen. Like her older siblings before her, Eunice attended the University of Maine, graduating with the class of 1943.

Eunice married Jerome Morris. Together they raised their three children in Grand Concord, New York. Eunice later moved to the state of Rhode Island where she spent almost twenty years volunteering in the service of senior citizens. She has traveled extensively as a Women's Initiative Spokesperson for the AARP.

Eunice (Cohen) Morris, and her children, perpetuate the Cohen legacy through their participation in, and service to, the communities in which they live. The Bangor Public Library thanks Ms. Morris for providing us with these photographs, and documents that comprise her contribution toward the Cohen Family Collection.

Contents:

This collection consists of materials gathered by Pauline Cohen, and Eunice (Cohen) Morris. It includes photographs, and letters, relating to the Cohen Family of Bangor, Maine. It also includes photographs, newspaper clippings, letters and ephemera relating to the family of Eunice (Cohen) Morris, and her career as a volunteer in the American Association of Retired Persons. It also includes photographs, newspaper clippings, and ephemera relating to Saul Shocket, and his Saul's Elite Training System (S.E.T.S.) business.

Arrangement:

This collection is organized along genealogical lines following the line of descent from Nathan Cohen, the first Alperowitz family member to immigrate to the United States. It continues to unfold with a specific focus upon the family of his son, Jacob Cohen. Because this particular branch of the family has provided the bulk of photographs and documents that comprise this collection, primacy must be given to this particular nuclear family to properly facilitate understanding of these materials. Items that depict or refer to Nathan's other children, and his siblings and their descendants, assume a more peripheral arrangement in accordance with their subject's relationship to the central couple Jacob and Alice Cohen.

The Pauline Cohen Series, contained in Box Eighteen, is divided into two distinct sections. The first section begins with a photograph, and biography, of Pauline Cohen. After this initial introduction to the Cohen Family Collection's original founder, the arrangement continues according to the line of descent from her grandfather, Nathan Cohen, the first family member to immigrate to Bangor, Maine, and in turn, her parents Jacob and Alice Cohen, and their children. Each sibling of Pauline's nuclear family, is introduced according to their family birth order, with group photographs following. Excerpts from Jordan S. Alpert's book, *The Alperowitzs and Cohens of Bangor, Maine*, provide important background information, and informative ancestral charts that properly orientate the researcher along these genealogical lines.

The second portion of the Pauline Cohen Series, also found in Box Eighteen, contains extended family members' photographs that have also been provided from the estate of Pauline Cohen. These photographs are subdivided into two distinct genealogical clusters. The first group of photographs represents Reuben Alperowitz's eldest child, Nathan, and family members from his line of descent. It includes Jacob Cohen's immediate family members. The second group of photographs represents Reuben Alperowitz's third child, Yankev Alperowitz, and family members from his line of descent. It includes Alice (Alperowitz) Cohen's immediate family members.

The Eunice Morris Series is housed in Box Nineteen. This series is comprised of three distinct segments. The first portion contains the photographs and ephemera donated by Eunice (Cohen) Morris pertaining to her family, the second portion contains materials pertaining to her career at the ARP, and the third portion contains photographs and materials pertaining to her nephews Saul Shocket, the son of her sister Sylvia (Cohen) Shocket, and Harold Silverman, the son of her sister Ada (Cohen) Silverman.

Finding Aid:

Box 18 Pauline Cohen Series

Nuclear Family

Box 18 fl Pauline Cohen's biography and photograph

- Box 18 f2 Excerpts, and genealogy charts, from The Alperets and Cohen's of Bangor, Maine by Jordan S. Alpert
- Box 18 f3 Nathan Cohen's naturalization certificate
- Box 18 f4 Nathan and Rosa Cohen's biography and photograph
- Box 18 f5 Jacob and Alice Cohen's biography and family photograph
- Box 18 f6 Jacob ("Jake") Cohen, and Samuel N. Cohen photograph, with Jake "in front of pants table"
- Box 18 f7 Jacob ("Jake") Cohen photograph, "fitting a customer"
- Box 18 f8 Jacob ("Jake") Cohen photograph, "working in his shoe store"
- Box 18 f9 Jacob Cohen snapshot taken in his later years, with negatives
- Box 18 f10 Ada Cohen's biography and photograph
- Box 18 f11 Ada Cohen sitting on hydrant in front of the family home, other photographs are likely taken of Ada
- Box 18 f12 Young Pauline Cohen is the likely subject of this photograph
- Box 18 f13 Pauline Cohen photograph taken in the fifth grade
- Box 18 f14 Pauline Cohen as a young woman in two photographs
- Box 18 f15 Nathan Cohen biography and photograph
- Box 18 f16 Miriam (Berman) Cohen, Nate's wife "Mim"
- Box 18 f17 Nathan ("Nate") Cohen as a toddler
- Box 18 f18 Nathan ("Nate") Cohen with classmates
- Box 18 f19 Nathan ("Nate") Cohen in the Debate Club
- Box 18 f20 Nathan ("Nate") Cohen graduation photographs, two poses
- Box 18 f21 Letter sent to army private Nathan Cohen from Louis Cohen
- Box 18 f22 Mae Cohen biography and photograph

- Box 18 f23 Mae and Pauline photograph with pony
- Box 18 f24 Pauline and Mae Cohen in photograph with friends at Old Orchard Beach, and Friends of Cohen girls visiting from Boston
- Box 18 f25 Mae Cohen with company, and Mae Cohen with a friend in photographs
- Box 18 f26 Sylvia Cohen biography and photograph
- Box 18 f27 Pauline, Nate, Mae and Sylvia Cohen in photograph, includes identification on a scrap paper piece likely written in Pauline Cohen's hand
- Box 18 f28 Eunice Cohen biography and photograph
- Box 18 f29 Sylvia and Eunice Cohen photograph with pony
- Box 18 f30 High school days with Eunice Cohen, with additional period photographs
- Box 18 f31 James ("Jimmy") Morris, son of Eunice ("Cohen") Morris in four different photographs, two baby pictures, and two childhood poses
- Box 18 f32 Postcards sent to Pauline Cohen, and unidentified gift enclosure
- Box 18 f33 Various newspaper clippings, including family members' obituaries
- Box 18 f34 1893 Voter registration card of Nathan Cohen

Extended Family

- Box 18 f35 Genealogy charts of Reuben Alperowitz, and his son, Nathan Cohen
- Box 18 f36 Max Cohen photograph
- Box 18 f37 Simon Cohen photograph
- Box 18 f38 Annie (Cohen) Anderson photograph
- Box 18 f39 Annie (Cohen) Anderson photograph
- Box 18 f40 Annie (Cohen) Anderson photograph
- Box 18 f41 Annie (Cohen) Anderson cradling Natalie, in her arms
This photograph was taken on Jan. 6, 1914 when her daughter was six months old.

- Box 18 f42 Natalie Arline Anderson at two years old, 1915
- Box 18 f43 Samuel N. Cohen
- Box 18 f44 Samuel and Louis Cohen
- Box 18 f45 Myer Epstein
- Box 18 f46 Genealogy charts of Reuben Alperowitz, and his son, Yankev Alperowitz
- Box 18 f47 Yankev Alperowitz photograph
- Box 18 f48 Annie (Cohen) Costrell with husband, Solomon Costrell
- Box 18 f49 Solomon and Annie (Cohen) Costrell with children, Edwin (at five years), Louis (at three years), and Rosie (at one year). Taken in Detroit, Michigan in April 1919
- Box 18 f50 Edwin S. Costrell, born September 30, 1913
- Box 18 f51 Edwin (at three years), and Louis Costrell (at fifteen months)
- Box 18 f52 Edwin Costrell (at five and one-half years), and Louis Costrell (at three years, nine months)
- Box 18 f53 Rose Costrell as young woman
- Box 18 f54 Julia Cohen
- Box 18 f55 William Saltzman
- Box 18 f56 Julia (Cohen) Saltzman and Louis Saltzman with their children, Ada and Bill
- Box 18 f57 Julia (Cohen) Saltzman and Louis Saltzman with their children, Bill, Bobbie and Ada
- Box 18 f58 Robert Cohen
- Box 18 f59 Eddie Cohen
- Box 18 f60 Unidentified photographs
- Box 19 Eunice (Cohen) Morris Series**

Family photographs and ephemera

- Box 19 f1 Alice Cohen photograph, and biography
- Box 19 f2 Group photograph of Robert Cohen, Alice Cohen, Sam Cohen, and Julia (Cohen) Saltzman
- Box 19 f3 Wedding photograph of James Morris, and Diane Kaufman
- Box 19 f4 Kevin Morris photograph
- Box 19 f5 Cohen/Morris family photographs
- Box 19 f6 Robin Morris and Shayna Kulik in photograph
- Box 19 f7 Robin B. Morris article, and ephemera
- Box 19 f8 More Cohen descendent photographs
- Box 19 f9 Sylvia (Cohen) Shocket family photographs
- Box 19 f10 Suanne Shocket
- Box 19 f11 Robin Lee Shocket
- Box 19 f12 Ada (Cohen) Silverman with son Harold in photograph
- Box 19 f13 Nathan Cohen newspaper article, obituary and ephemera
- Box 19 f14 Mae (Cohen) Karas eulogy

Eunice (Cohen) Morris AARP Volunteering Career

- Box 19 f15 AARP spokesperson certificate of merit award ceremony photograph, article, and letter from Virginia Voltz of AARP-WISP
- Box 19 f16 Cranston Herald article dated March 24, 1988 and entitled, "New Yorker finds pace by volunteering her time"
- Box 19 f17 Cranston Herald editorial written by Eunice Morris, dated January 19, 1989 entitled, "Catastrophic bill is outrageous," and Warwick Beacon editorial written by Eunice Morris, dated January 19, 1989 and entitled, "Taking away from 'middle class' elderly"
- Box 19 f18 Cranston Herald article dated January 19, 1989 entitled, "Medicare premium concerns elderly, prompts bill"

- Box 19 f19 The Providence Journal-Bulletin article dated February 7, 1989 entitled, "Some think it's catastrophic: premium and surtax for broader health coverage provokes the elderly"
- Box 19 f20 The Evening Bulletin article dated March 23, 1989 entitled, "Elderly get help with taxing problems"
- Box 19 f21 The Providence Journal article dated August 24, 1989 entitled, "Single elderly women need initiative," and Warwick Beacon article dated November 29, 1990 entitled, "Morris speaks to women's concerns"
- Box 19 f22 Bangor Daily News article dated August 29, 1989 entitled, "BHS class of 1939 holds 50th anniversary reunion, " and Various 1989 new clips, including, Cranston Mirror article dated August 10, 1999 entitled, "Morris as spokesperson for Women's Initiative Program"
- Box 19 f23 Warwick Beacon article dated March 14, 1991 entitled, "Volunteers assist seniors with taxes"
- Box 19 f24 AARP certificate of gratitude award presented to Eunice Morris for dedicated service from 1988-1990 , and AARP Senior Spirit April 1991 article entitled, "Help in understanding medical coverage is here!"
- Box 19 f25 Cranston Herald guest editorial photocopy written by Eunice Morris on the topic of "Growing Older," dated August 29, 1991
- Box 19 f26 Cranston Herald guest editorial written by Eunice Morris on the topic of "National Women's History Month," dated March 26, 1992, and Warwick Beacon article dated September 10, 1992 entitled, "AARP Warwick Chapter No. 2908 meetings"
- Box 19 f27 Warwick Beacon article dated March 5, 1992 entitled, "Governor visits elderly; leaves some of 'em laughing, others lamenting budget cuts, " and The Older Rhode Islander May 1992 article entitled, "Advisory committee sponsors forum on aging"
- Box 19 f28 Photograph of Rhode Island Governor, Bruce Sundlun, presenting Eunice Morris and Keith Neyhart a proclamation certificate dedicating AARP tax counseling for the elderly season, and photocopy of certificate presented
- Box 19 f29 Senior Times September 1992 editorial entitled, "Enter another healthcare reform proposal," and Cranston Herald article dated May 28, 1992 and entitled, "AARP proposes health-care reform"

- Box 19 f30 The Providence Journal-Bulletin's Good Life supplement article dated June 1993, and entitled, "SHIP counselors help save money, anxiety"
- Box 19 f31 Warwick Beacon undated article entitled, "Eunice Morris attends AARP meeting"
- Box 19 f32 Warwick Beacon article on Eunice Morris dated July 29, 1993, and Cranston Herald article dated July 29, 1993 both entitled, "AARP's Morris seeks better healthcare for aging women"
- Box 19 f33 Wethersfield Common Newsletter, Warwick RI, August 1994 edition, with "Resident spotlight on Eunice Morris," and RI Women's Initiative literature featuring Eunice Morris
- Box 19 f34 Rhode Island Senior Times November 1993 edition article entitled, "The RI Women's Initiative"
- Box 19 f35 The Senior Journal upcoming event schedule item, "'National Institute of Health/Women's Health Initiative' hosted by Eunice Morris"
- Box 19 f36 Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs news release photocopy dated May 23, 1994, entitled "Warwick volunteer to receive national award," and correspondence photocopy dated January 26, 1994, and signed by Women's Health Initiative Clinical Coordinator, Joyce L. McKenney
- Box 19 f37 Photograph of Bruce Vladeck, Administrator of U.S. Healthcare Financing Administration (HCFA), presenting 1994 Beneficiary Services certificate of merit to AARP Women's Initiative Spokesperson Eunice Morris of Warwick, Rhode Island, and AARP Highlights February 1995 edition article describing award ceremony event
- Box 19 f38 First Annual Beneficiary Services Awards Ceremony, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthcare Financing Administration award program dated May 26, 1994
- Box 19 f39 Warwick Beacon article dated May 26, 1994 entitled, "Morris receives merit award," Warwick Beacon article dated July 26, 1994 entitled, 'Morris in teleconference,' and Rhode Island Senior Times article photocopy
- Box 19 f40 Rhode Island Jewish Herald article dated July 21, 1994 entitled, "Eunice Morris: a life dedicated to helping others"

Box 19 f41 University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension letter of thanks photocopy dated June 21, 1994 signed by Cooperative Extension Educator, Patricia A. Millar

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Department of Health letter of thanks dated May 4, 1994 signed by Health Education Coordinator, Andrea Rudolph

AARP correspondence dated December 22, 1994 signed by AARP Highlights Managing Editor, Steve Mehlman

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Department of Elderly Affairs letter of thanks photocopy dated June 25, 2001 signed by Principle Information and Public Relations Specialist, Larry Grimaldi

Box 19 f42 RI Department of Elderly Affairs Senior Health Insurance Program correspondence photocopy signed from Coordinator, Haig Raky

Department of Health and Human Services Health Care Financing Administration correspondence photocopy dated April 28, 1994, and signed by Administrator, Bruce C. Vladeck

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations letter of congratulations photocopy dated May 27, 1994, and signed by Lieutenant Governor, Robert A. Weygand

City of Warwick Rhode Island letter of congratulations photocopy dated June 1, 1994, and signed by mayor, Lincoln D. Chafee

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Office of the Governor Beneficiary Services Certificate of Merit Award certificate dated March 21, 2003, and signed by governor, Donald L. Carcieri

Box 19 f43 AARP Highlights February 1995 edition feature on Eunice Morris, and 1994 Beneficiary Services Merit Award presentation program

Box 19 f44 Providence Journal "Rhode Island Briefs" feature photocopy dated December 21, 2001

Box 19 f45 Capital Region RSVP July 2003 edition, AARP Women's Initiative literature presenting Eunice Morris, and Eunice Morris' AARP business card

Box 19 f46 AARP Women's Initiative Brochure entitled, "Help women turn longer lives into better lives"

Career of nephew, Saul Shocket (son of Sylvia Cohen Shocket)

- Box 19 f47 Saul Shocket as a boy, photograph
- Box 19 f48 Saul Shocket displaying World Championship 1st Place award, photocopy of photograph
- Box 19 f49 Saul Shocket training Brazilian Olympic Figure Skating hopefuls, photocopy of photograph
- Box 19 f50 Saul Shocket's Elite Training System (S.E.T.S) mission statement photocopy
- Box 19 f51 Saul Shocket's promotional literature photocopy
Awards/Championships of Saul Shocket, 1967-1997
- Box 19 f52 Saul's Elite Training System promotional literature photocopy
Championships/World Records, 2001-2005
- Box 19 f53 Saul Shocket's promotional literature photocopy
Awards/Championships 2001-2003
- Box 19 f54 Saul Shocket and son, Ariel, in photograph
- Box 19 f55 "Tales from the Olympic village as told to Powerlifting USA by Saul Shocket," article
- Box 19 f56 Promotional article photocopy entitled, "Local athlete wins big in World Championships"
- Box 19 f57 Boston Globe People/South newspaper feature photocopy about Saul Shocket, dated March 13, 2003, by Paul Kandarian

Career of nephew, Harold Silverman (son of Ada Cohen Silverman)

- Box 19 f58 Various Bangor Daily News newspaper article photocopies, dating from April 2, 1970 to July 28, 2006

Folio Box 1: Oversized photographs and documents

- Folio Box 1 f1 Pauline Cohen as a child, likely subject of photograph
- Folio Box 1 f2 Pauline Cohen in classroom photograph, sitting in front row fourth child from left
- Folio Box 1 f3 Nate Cohen as a toddler in photograph

Folio Box 1 f4 Nate Cohen in classroom photograph, sitting in third row sixth child from the left

Folio Box 1 f5 Mae Cohen in classroom photograph, sitting in front row fourth child from the left

Folio Box 1 f6 F.E. Jones & Co., unidentified location and subjects in photograph

Folio Box 1 f7 Wedding certificate of Jacob and Alice Cohen