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CHARLESTON

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**Inventory of the Solomon Breibart  
Professional Papers, circa 1965-2008**

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Charleston, SC 29424 USA  
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## Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary.....	3
Biographical Note.....	3
Collection Overview.....	4
Restrictions.....	4
Search Terms.....	4
Related Material.....	4
Administrative Information.....	5
Detailed Description of the Collection.....	6
Publications.....	6
Research Files.....	7
Correspondence.....	10
Organizations and Activities.....	10

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Solomon Breibart professional papers
<b>Date(s)</b>	circa 1965-2008
<b>Creator:</b>	Breibart, Solomon
<b>Abstract:</b>	Research files, publications, correspondence, and other professional papers of Solomon Breibart, teacher and historian. Materials relate to Breibart's research and publications on the history of Charleston's Jewish population, in particular, the history of the city's oldest Jewish congregation, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim.
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8.5 linear feet (12 document boxes, 8 index card boxes)
<b>Repository:</b>	Jewish Heritage Collection, Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries 66 George Street Charleston, SC 29424 Phone: (843) 953-8016 Fax: (843) 953-6319 URL: <a href="http://archives.library.cofc.edu">http://archives.library.cofc.edu</a>
<b>Call Number:</b>	Mss 1084
<b>Language of Material:</b>	Materials in English and Hebrew

## Biographical Note

Solomon ("Sol" or "Solly") Breibart (1914-2009), teacher and historian, was born in Charleston, South Carolina, to Sam and Ida Breibart. Sol Breibart attended the College of Charleston and earned his MA and teaching certificate from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1938. During this period, he became an active member of Aleph Zadik Aleph, a Jewish youth organization affiliated with B'nai Brith. After graduation, Breibart worked at the High School of Charleston as a social studies teacher and guidance counselor. In 1957, he began teaching at Rivers High School, where he became assistant principal.

After retiring from teaching in 1976, Breibart began researching the poet and hymnalist Penina Moïse and other topics relating to Charleston's Jewish history, particularly Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (KKBE). Breibart gave talks and lectures on his findings and published numerous articles in KKBE's bulletin, the Charleston Jewish Journal, and the newsletters of the Southern Jewish Historical Society (SJHS) and the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina (JHSSC). Breibart was an active member of SJHS, served on the board of directors, and held terms as president and editor of the SJHS newsletter. His tenure on the JHSSC board lasted from the Society's inception in 1994 until his death in 2009.

For a more detailed biography, see "In Distinguished Company: A Profile of Solomon Breibart, Teacher and Historian" by Harlan Greene and Dale Rosengarten, published first in *Southern Jewish History* (2004) and then as the introduction to *Explorations in Charleston's Jewish History*, a 2005 compilation of Breibart's essays.

## Collection Overview

Research files, articles, notes, correspondence, and other professional papers of Solomon Breibart, teacher and historian. Materials relate to Breibart's research and publications on the history of Jews in Charleston, South Carolina, particularly the history of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (KKBE). The collection also includes materials regarding Breibart's presentations, KKBE committee work, and involvement in the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. Topics include KKBE, Jewish cemeteries, 1886 earthquake, Charleston Jewish Community Center, Brith Sholom Beth Israel, Jewish servicemen, B'nai Brith, Penina Moïse, Gustavus Poznanski, David Levy, and Jacob S. Raisin.

## Collection Arrangement

1. Publications
2. Research Files
3. Correspondence
4. Organizations and Activities

## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

### Copyright Notice

The nature of the College of Charleston's archival holdings means that copyright or other information about restrictions may be difficult or even impossible to determine despite reasonable efforts. Special Collections claims only physical ownership of most archival materials.

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## Related Material

Related collections at the College of Charleston Special Collections include the Solomon and Sara Breibart papers (Mss 1085) and 2 oral history interviews of Solomon Breibart (1995, 2004).

## Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person, family, or organization, by topical subject, by place, and by types of material.

### Names

Breibart, Solomon  
Moïse, Penina  
Posnanski, Gustavus  
Raisin, Jacob S. (Jacob Salmon), 1878-1946  
Levy, David (1854-1931)  
Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (Charleston, S.C.)  
Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina  
Aleph Zadik Aleph

### **Subjects**

Jews--South Carolina--Charleston--History  
Jews--Southern States--History  
Jewish cemeteries--South Carolina--Charleston

### **Types of Material**

Research notes  
Articles  
Clippings (information artifacts)  
Correspondence

## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Solomon Breibart professional papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

### **Acquisitions Information**

Materials were donated by Solomon and Sara Breibart in 2009. Additional material was given in 2010.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Sarah M. Dorpinghaus, October 2010.

Encoded by Martha McTear, October 2010.

Funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources supported the processing of this collection and encoding of the finding aid.

# Detailed Description of the Collection

## 1. Publications

Consists of Breibart's articles, pamphlets, and other publications as well as related research files and drafts. Research files include handwritten notes, publications, photographs, and photocopies of primary sources such as newspapers, ledgers, correspondence, and diaries. Also present is correspondence between Breibart and other researchers.

### Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (KKBE)

Box 1	Folder 1	"The Annals of KKBE," 1997-1999
Box 1	Folder 2	"Archives Acquisitions," 1986
Box 1	Folder 3	"Beth Elohim and the Earthquake," 1986
Box 1	Folder 4	"Beth Elohim's Second Organ," 1986
Box 1	Folder 5	"Correcting the Chronology of the Presidents of K.K. Beth Elohim," 1984
Box 1	Folder 6	"David Lopez, Builder," 1991
Box 1	Folder 7-8	"Early Scrapbooks and Journals of Jacob S. Raisin," 2005
Box 1	Folder 9	<i>Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim Synagogue, 250th Anniversary: 1749-1999</i> , 1999
Box 1	Folder 10	"KKBE: The Transition from Orthodox to Reform," 1999
Box 1	Folder 11	"Rabbi Jacob S. Raisin and Zionism in Charleston, 1915-1945," 2008
Box 1	Folder 12	<i>The Rev. Mr. Gustavus Poznanski: First American Jewish Reform Minister</i> , 1979
Box 2	Folder 1-2	<i>The Rev. Mr. Gustavus Poznanski: First American Jewish Reform Minister</i> , 1979
Box 2	Folder 3	"The Status of Women in KKBE to 1920," 1984
Box 2	Folder 4-5	"This Synagogue Is Our Temple," 1980
Box 2	Folder 6-7	"The Synagogues of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim, Charleston," 1979

### Charleston and Miscellaneous

Box 2	Folder 8	<i>Articles on the Southern Jewish Experience in the Journals of the American Jewish Historical Society and American Jewish Archives</i> , 1986
Box 2	Folder 9	"BSBI Celebrates 140th Anniversary," 1995
Box 2	Folder 10	"Charleston Jewish Service Men in World War II," 1995
Box 3	Folder 1	"Charleston Jews and the Earthquake of 1886," 1994
Box 3	Folder 2	"Chronology of the Jewish Congregations of Charleston, SC," 1993
Box 3	Folder 3	"Dan Lodge #593," 1994
Box 3	Folder 4	"Early Jews of Augusta, GA," 1983

Box 3 Folder 5	"The Evolution of Government in Charleston County, 1949-1984," [UNC MA thesis]
Box 3 Folder 6	<i>Explorations in Charleston's Jewish History</i> , 2005
Box 3 Folder 7	"Forerunners of the Charleston Jewish Community Center," 1980
Box 3 Folder 8	"Francis Salvador, Revolutionary War Martyr," 1996
Box 3 Folder 9	"The Jewish Cemeteries of Charleston," 1994
Box 3 Folder 10	"Joseph Fromberg: A Courageous Stand," 1994
Box 3 Folder 11	"Louis M. Shimel, First Jewish Community Center President," 1995
Box 3 Folder 12	"A New Era (1957-2003)," [regarding the Hebrew Orphan Society- unpublished]
Box 3 Folder 13	"An Overview- The First Fifty Years," 1995
Box 4 Folder 1	<i>Some Places in Charleston, S.C., of Jewish Interest</i> , 1995
Box 4 Folder 2	"A Timeline of Charleston's Jewish History," 2004
Box 4 Folder 3	"Two Jewish Congregations in Charleston, S.C., Before 1791: A New Conclusion," 1980
Box 4 Folder 4	"Women Who Made a Difference," 1994
Box 4 Folder 5	Miscellaneous publications, 1980-1996 and undated
	"Penina Moïse, Southern Jewish Poetess", 1984
Box 4 Folder 6	Abraham Moïse (father)
Box 4 Folder 7	<i>Fancy's Sketch Book</i> photocopies
Box 4 Folder 8	Moïse family wills and property transfers
Box 4 Folder 9	Penina Moïse correspondence
Box 4 Folder 10	Portrait
Box 4 Folder 11	Post mortem items
Box 4 Folder 12	Publications
Box 4 Folder 13	Research correspondence
Box 4 Folder 14	Miscellaneous research files

## 2. Research Files

Included are newspaper clippings, publications, handwritten notes, brochures, inventories, indexes, photographs, and correspondence. Materials are a combination of original documents, photocopies, and photostats.

Box 5 Folder 1	"An Architectural History of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim" by Gene Wadell
Box 5 Folder 2	Aleph Zadik Aleph

Box 5 Folder 3-4	Bibliographies and guides
Box 5 Folder 5	Burials at BSBI cemetery in Maryville, SC
Box 5 Folder 6	Carvalho, Solomon
Box 5 Folder 7	Charleston
Box 5 Folder 8	Charleston in Jewish periodicals, circa 1877-1897
Box 5 Folder 9	Charleston's Jewish journalists
Box 5 Folder 10	Charleston Jewish wills transcriptions
Box 6 Folder 1-2	Charleston's Jewish population
Box 6 Folder 3	<i>Center Talk</i> notes, 1945-1986
Box 6 Folder 4-6	Coming Street cemetery
Box 6 Folder 7	Deaths and graves
Box 6 Folder 8	De La Motta, Jacob
Box 7 Folder 1	DeCosta family
Box 7 Folder 2	Eckman, Julius
Box 7 Folder 3	Elzas, Barnett A.
Box 7 Folder 4	Georgetown, SC, Jews
Box 7 Folder 5	Individuals
Box 7 Folder 6	Israel, Morris and Elias, Rebecca descendants
Box 7 Folder 7	Jewish organizations taken from city directories, 1875-1924
Box 7 Folder 8	King Street merchants
Box 7 Folder 9	KKBE brochures, booklets, and pamphlets
Box 7 Folder 10	KKBE constitution and by-laws
Box 7 Folder 11-12	KKBE miscellaneous
Box 7 Folder 13	KKBE pew arrangement
Box 8 Folder 1	KKBE temple guide research
Box 8 Folder 2	KKBE Unveh Sholom location
Box 8 Folder 3	Lazarus, Abraham and Rosa Visanska
Box 8 Folder 4-5	Levy, David
Box 8 Folder 6	Marriages of Charleston Jews



- Box 8 Folder 7 Mayer, Maurice
- Box 8 Folder 8 Nathan, Moses Henry
- Box 8 Folder 9 Orangeburg, South Carolina
- Box 8 Folder 10 Purim celebrations in South Carolina
- Box 8 Folder 11 Reformed Society of Israelites
- Box 8 Folder 12 Shearith Israel of Charleston, 1840-1866
- Box 8 Folder 13 Southern Jews
- Box 9 Folder 1 Southern Jews
- Box 9 Folder 2 Synagogue photographs
- Box 9 Folder 3 Tobias, Thomas J. inventory
- Box 9 Folder 4 Wichmann, G. Theodore
- Box 9 Folder 5 Miscellaneous handwritten notes
- Box 9 Folder 6 Miscellaneous materials

**Index Cards**

Cards generally include birth and death dates, family members, address, occupation, congregation membership, and burial location.

- Box 10
  - 1860 census
  - BSBI Maryville
  - Civil War
  - Emanu-El
  - Jewish veterans of World War II, Charleston residents
  - Obituaries
  - Revolutionary War
  - World War I servicemen
  - World War II servicemen
  - Miscellaneous
- Box 11
  - Miscellaneous
- Cemetery Index Cards
  - Box 12 KKBE Coming Street cemetery, Charleston
  - Box 13 KKBE Huguenin Street cemetery, Charleston, A-M

- Box 14 KKBE Huguenin Street cemetery, Charleston, N-Z
- Box 15 Brith Sholom Magnolia and Beth Israel Magnolia cemeteries, Charleston
- Box 16 Brith Sholom Beth Israel cemetery, Maryville, Charleston
- Box 17 Emanu-El cemetery, Maryville, Charleston

### 3. Correspondence

Research inquiries, thank you letters, and correspondence with other historians and researchers from Breibart's tenure as KKBE historian.

- Box 18 Folder 1-7 1974-1992
- Box 19 Folder 1-5 1993-2008

### 4. Organizations and Activities

- Box 19 Folder 6 Curriculum vitas
- Box 19 Folder 7 AJA conference on preserving synagogue archives steering committee, 1998-1999  
Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, 1980-2008
- Box 20 Folder 1 Annual meetings and other events, 1994-2005
- Box 20 Folder 2 By-laws, 2000-2005
- Box 20 Folder 3 Cemetery Survey Project, circa 2004
- Box 20 Folder 4 Correspondence and memos, 1994-2006
- Box 20 Folder 5 Financial records, 1995-2007
- Box 20 Folder 6 Meeting minutes and agendas, 1993-2006 (scattered)
- Box 20 Folder 7 Newsletters, 1994-2005 (scattered)
- Box 20 Folder 8 Speakers Bureau, circa 2002-2003
- Box 20 Folder 9 Miscellaneous, 1980-2008
- Box 20 Folder 10 KKBE Yom Kippur Memorial Roll of Honor Committee, 1968-1999
- Box 20 Folder 11 KKBE interpretive exhibit, 2005
- Box 20 Folder 12 "A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life" exhibition, 1999-2003
- Box 20 Folder 13 Presentations, circa 1990-2000