

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Donor Snapshot: Samuel M. Melton

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 Sam Melton



Samuel Mendel Melton z'l

Endowments last forever. The memory of their donors also endures.

Sam Melton was one of the Foundation's original founders and its Chairman from 1963 to 1973. He established the Sam Melton Founders Fund in the 1960's to assure that the Columbus Jewish Foundation's operations and community grants program would always receive his financial support during his life and beyond. Melton also made provisions in his estate plan for the Foundation to manage the Sam Melton Foundation after his death. Among the organizations that still receive annual support from the Sam Melton Foundation are his beloved synagogue, Congregation Tifereth Israel, the Columbus Jewish Federation, and the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School program. In 1964 Sam Melton provided the following biography for the Columbus Jewish Foundation archives:

I was born in Austria-Hungary March 21, 1900. My parents, Emil and Sarah Mendlowitz, immigrated to Toledo, Ohio, USA in the early part of 1904. My parents moved during the summer of 1919 to Columbus, Ohio where my father established a grocery store. This gave me an opportunity to attend Ohio State University, and I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1923.

In 1924 I established the Capitol Manufacturing Company with money borrowed from my father and used a garage for the entire period of 1924. In 1925 I build my first factory at 550 Wager Street, Columbus, Ohio and was able to establish a manufacturing operation which kept on growing at a rapid pace. In 1929 I established the Capitol Pipe and Nipple Manufacturing Company at Detroit, Michigan. I operated as an individual until 1933 when I incorporated.

During the period of World War II my plants in both Columbus and Detroit were involved in producing material for the war effort. It was during this period that I developed special equipment for the manufacture and production of bomb components. I was responsible for redesigning blue prints covering special adapters which converted shells left from World War I to bombs for World War II. Through a special process that I introduced in the manufacture of these adapters, a great deal of scarce steel was made available for other critical war requirements. Capitol Manufacturing Company received the Army and Navy "E" Award in the year 1945 for excellence in production for the war effort. Many other items of essential and critical nature were furnished.

During the years of 1946 and 1947 the plight of concentration camp survivors came to my attention, and many of us tried to help relieve their situation with regard to immigration, particularly to Palestine, which was then under the mandate of England. One of my plans was to open a plant in the mandated area. This was just prior to when the State of Israel was formed in 1948. My plans were realized in March 1949 when I shipped machinery, building, diesel and electric power equipment, and all incidental items necessary for erection and equipping a factory to make pipe fittings. This plant started operations as Capitol Manufacturing Company of Israel in the summer of 1949. It operated under my guidance through 1955, at which time the plant was gifted to various organizations, such as Hebrew University, Hillel Foundation and individuals in Israel. This plant is presently producing under Israeli guidance.