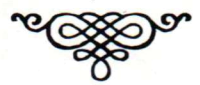




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Volume 2 Number 1

STRAUS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

February 1994

Family News

Pamela Haber is now painting at least four days a week from models and just adoring it. "It is such a "high" to be doing what you most enjoy!" Her husband Bob "continues writing and studying music and he too is going full blast and loving it." She and Bob had dinner with Penelope More at her lovely home in Mill Valley. They were joined by Sara, Marcus, Mischa and Chloe Byruck. Pam's son Courtney was also present. "It was a very enjoyable and relaxed get-together."

Barnard Straus Jr has made a career change. Beginning with the January 1994 semester he's teaching two classes, freshman writing and public speaking, at Sierra Nevada College, a four year liberal arts college located in Incline Village Nevada. Barney says this is a pristine and gorgeous area near Tahoe. "I hope some family members will make it out here to ski a few runs with me. My phone number is (702) 831-3838.

Oscar S. Straus II is the President of Temple Emmanuel. He is pleased to be carrying on a long family history with the temple.

Paul A. Kurzman published his fifth book in June entitled, Work and Well-Being (NASW Press, 408 pp.). and became Vice-President of the faculty at Hunter College (CUNY).

Phyllis Gladstone is retiring from sales and, after a lifetime residence in New York, plans to move to Florida where she will live near her daughter Nina Burstein. Nina's first child is expected in July.

Peter H. Kurzman's business activity has centered on the personal investment field (self-employed) in recent years. He is now semi-retired. Antiques are an active sideline. For the past seven years he and his wife Nancy have split their time between their New York apartment and their house in Bucks County PA. Peter and Nancy celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in September. They have no children but they do have 20 nieces and nephews.

Gerald Dun Levy has been President of the Education Group of the National Executive Service Corps (NESC) since 1982. This organization directs programs in the greater New York area using retired senior executives to provide management consulting assistance to public and private educational institutions. Gerry is also the Chairman of the Board of World Education, on the Board and Executive Committee of the Fund for Peace, on the Board of American Memorial Hospital and the Advisory Committee of the Center for Clinical Nutrition, St Luke's Hospital, American Heart Association, Visiting Nurse Service of New York and Interracial Council for Business Opportunity.

Marion (Penny) Levy is on the board of Directors of Planned Parenthood of New York where she is Chair of the Board and a member of the Executive Committee. She is Vice Chair of New York ChoicePac, on the National Advisory Board of Interaction, and on the Board of Directors of Women's Campaign Fund. Penny has published "Bringing Women Into the Community Development Process" published by Save the Children Fed., Occasional Paper, 1980 and "Each in Her Own Way: Five Women Leaders of the Developing World", Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder and London, 1988.

Gerry and Penny Levy have been married since 1924. They are the parents of Alison Ryan, Elizabeth Ward and Robert Levy.

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Kitty Cote wrote that her daughter Katie Fariss Fraser Cote, "while driving through the South this summer, took a detour from her planned route to go through Talbotton. Upon arriving in town she went to the jail to ask directions to the Straus whatever it was (she really didn't know what was there - a house, a statue, a store). She was directed to a plaque which she photographed." It reads:

Here stood the small frame house in which Lazarus Straus and his family lived when they came to Talbotton in 1854. Seeking a new home in America after leaving Bavaria, Straus visited Talbotton during "court week" and decided to make his home among its hospitable people. His family, the only Jewish one in town, became identified with the progress of the community. The sons, Isidor, Nathan and Oscar studied at nearby Collinsworth Institute. Nathan and Oscar attended the Baptist Sunday School.

*LAZARUS STRAUS founded a mercantile business in Talbotton and later one in Columbus. After the War Between the States, he established a crockery and glassware business in New York, a forerunner of Macy's which became, under the leadership of ISIDOR STRAUS, one of the world's leading department stores. OSCAR STRAUS, among the earliest career diplomats, served as minister, ambassador and cabinet member under Presidents Cleveland, McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft. Author of several books, he wrote the widely read *Under Four Administrations*. NATHAN STRAUS, leader in the fight for pasteurization of milk and a pioneer in other health reforms, was known throughout his life as a great philanthropist.*

The Straus family is honored, not for its wealth, but for its outstanding contribution to the American way of life.

GEORGIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION



A Note From Joan

On August 28th our house was struck by lightning and burned. Since that time my family and I have been living in a rented house and trying diligently to reconstruct our lives. Our computers were soaked by the fire department's efforts to put out the fire and consumed by the smoke and soot generated by the fire itself. Our business papers were not burned although every page had to be dried, sorted and reproduced. All our files required reconstruction. The information on our computers has been copied onto a new system.

The material sent to me by Straus family members has been in a personal storage facility and was not affected by the fire. Although we lost almost all our furniture and much of our house we were lucky that no one was hurt.

I had hoped to be back in full swing by now; writing as usual. Unfortunately that has not been possible. I've done the best I can. If there are errors or omissions in the address book update, I apologize. Please let me know and I will publish them in the summer issue of the newsletter and in the next update. We expect to be back in our house by then and hope to be working to full capacity. I had planned to write more about Nathan, Oscar and Hermine in this issue of the newsletter and to use more photographs. Unfortunately it became necessary to place most of my files in storage. The house we have rented, although comfortable and close to our own house, is too small to accommodate much more than our family and a few necessities. Hopefully, by the summer issue we will be back home, settled and working up to speed.

We have been overwhelmed by the task of putting our lives in order. In the course of conducting business many of you have become aware of our problems. Thank you to those of you who have written or called and expressed your concern and compassion. It is wonderful to know that my work has been so well received and that you are so supportive.

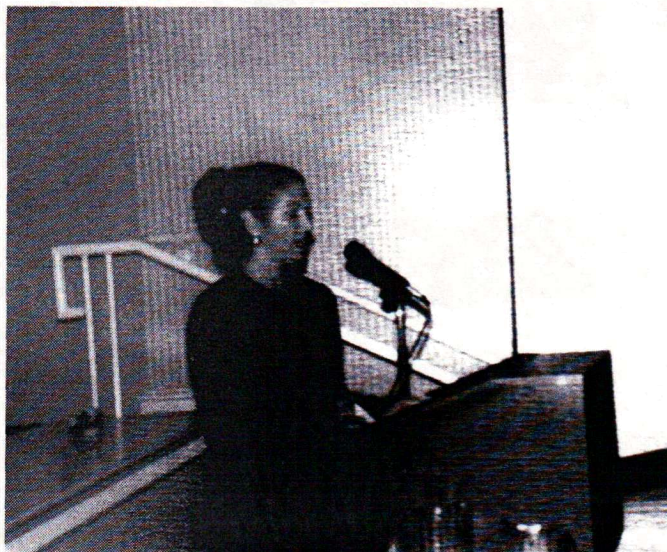
Southern Jewish Historical Society November 4th, 5th, 6th 1993 in Atlanta

I was asked by Saul Weiner Past President, and Beryl Wiener Esq President-Elect, of the Southern Jewish Historical Society to give a presentation at their annual conference in Atlanta. The Mercantile Families of the South was the subject of this session. There were three presentations. My talk, "The Georgia Roots of the Lazarus Straus Family", was based on my article, "The Origins of the Family", in the July issue of the newsletter. I prepared slides for illustration. There were about 100 people at this session which generated quite a lot of interest. Many people approached me after the session to ask specific questions about the family. As a result of my involvement with the Southern Jewish Historical Society The Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond VA and the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in Jackson MS have each expressed interest in information about the Straus family.

I concluded my presentation with an anecdote Bob Straus was kind enough to share.

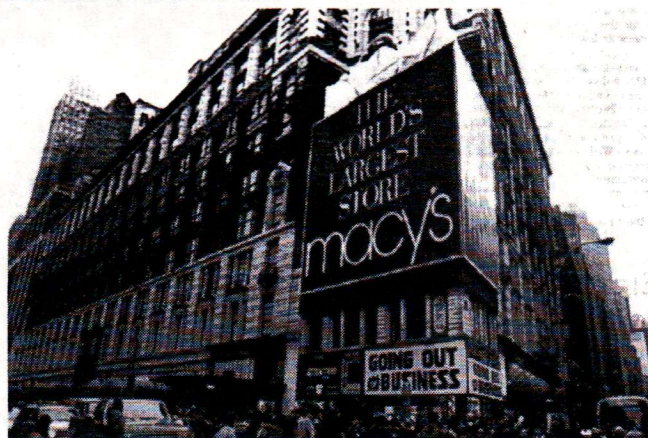
In the late 1920's Isidor's grandson Jack and his wife Peg were in Atlanta on the occasion of the Strauses purchase of Davison's department store. At a dinner party given to welcome the Strauses back to Georgia, Peg was seated next to a U. S. Senator. During a lull in the conversation the senator asked if she had any kinfolk in Georgia. After a moment's thought she replied, "Why yes, my uncle was General Sherman."

This was the perfect ending to my talk and received quite a laugh. Thanks Bob.



News from New Zealand

Saul Viener sent me a news photo from Wellington New Zealand, The Evening Post. The text announces the part ownership of K H Macy and Co by "The Federal Department Stores Co." Saul explained in his letter that "it was quite a surprise to find this item in the newspaper because almost all the USA news is either abbreviated or tabloid-type items. If it happens to be a "regular" news item it is often distorted."



The Data Superhighway

A growing number of Straus family members have been keeping in touch via the "data superhighway." Using electronic mail they have been conducting conversations and keeping each other informed about their daily life.

Stephen Day Straus has volunteered to assist in compiling an electronic address book. Let him know you have access to an electronic mail account by sending him a note at sstraus@aol.com. If you send a note to Joan Adler via snail mail your email address will be published in the Straus Family Address Book and the next newsletter.

The Straus family members known to have electronic mail and their addresses:

Tom and Carol Straus: tomstraus@aol.com
Jim and Lisa Straus: straus@aol.com
Phebe Straus Brecher and James Brecher:
pbandjb@aol.com
Stephen Day Straus: sstraus@aol.com
Douglas Straus: dougstraus@aol.com
Donald and Beth Straus: straus@tmn.com
Liza Loop: loopcntr@rahul.net

Stephen suggests that the family come up with a name for the Straus family network. Ideas anyone?

Mini Bio and Memory Scraps

Donald Blun Straus

I am Donald B. Straus, son of Percy, one of the oldest surviving members of our clan. To be more specific, I will be 78 next June. Assuming that some of you, my kin, who don't know me but are as curious about me as I am of you, I am going to ramble on about the highlights of my life as I recall them, and intersperse them with some random memories that pop into my head as I go along.

To start with the present. I am now retired and live most of my time in Somesville, ME. Somesville is a small village on the Island of Mt Desert. Beth (my wife - about whom a lot more later on) and I first came here some 25 years ago as summer residents. This spot appealed to us because of its natural beauty, its combination of wonderful hiking in Acadia National Park, and especially its location in the middle of some of the best sailing/cruising water of the world.

I said "I" instead of "we", spend most of my time in Somesville. That is because Beth, the San Francisco lady I married almost 54 years ago, is emphatically not retired and is fully engaged in a most distinguished career in the non-profit art and botanical world of New York. Beth is vice-chairman (she prefers this to chairwoman or chairperson) of the NY Botanical Gardens and is an honorary but still very active Trustee of the Museum of Modern Art. We maintain a smallish apartment in NYC and shuttle back and forth between Somesville and NYC, with me spending more time in Maine and Beth slightly more in NY.

Before retirement I was president of the American Arbitration Association. The AAA is also a non-profit corporation which administers all kinds of dispute settlement programs both in the US and abroad. I spent almost 15 years in that job, all of them pleasant and exciting. It is perhaps worth noting that my interest in dispute settlement and decision making is shared by Robert K. Straus (Bobby), the founder and inspiration of the Straus Family Project and one of the founders of the General Semantics Society; my son David, who is the founder

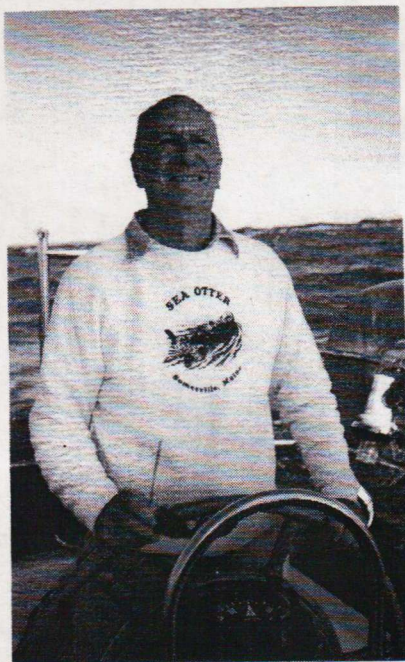
and CEO of a very successful consulting firm, Interaction Associates; and another son Robert B. (Rob) who is both a lawyer and psychologist. As far as I know, we all three acquired this interest independently. I don't recall talking with either of my sons much about this topic when they were young, nor do they; nor did Bobby Straus and I talk about it until we became aware of our mutual interests. Something genetic?

What keeps me in Maine, aside from my love of this place both for its sailing in the summer, hiking at almost all seasons, and cross-country skiing in the winter when (as is true this year) the snow conditions are good, are my activities at the College of the Atlantic. COA is a small (230 students) college, founded 25 years ago, to give a degree in human ecology. I serve on its board and

also teach a class during the winter term. This year my course is called Democracy and Economics in the 21st Century. I am co-teaching with Leonard Silk (retired economic columnist of the New York Times) who is also a trustee of COA. With 10 very bright and exciting students, we are in effect trying to ask whether democracy and capitalism can survive in their present form, and if not, what changes might be considered to help ensure their survival. While we planned this course before hearing about VP Gore's program for "reinventing government", it has taken on a more timely excitement than we anticipated.

I told you this would be a rambling essay, so I think I will stop my own bio now and turn to a more important part of my life - my family. By and large, we Strauses of both sexes, have been outstanding in our selection of spouses. Many of you know Beth, and would agree that at least in my case, I am not boasting but telling it like it is!

Beth, as I said before, was brought up in Belvedere, across the Golden Gate Bridge (which was built while she was a girl) from San Francisco. Beth went to Stanford where she was a Jr. PHI BETA KAPPA. We met in Honolulu while we were both in college, and got married in 1940 after I graduated from Harvard Business School. We have three children, David, Robert (named for Robert K. Straus) and Sara Byrck. David has one daughter and a step daughter, Rob has a daughter and a son, and Sara has a son and a daughter and lives in Berkeley where some of you met her when she co-hosted a west coast family gathering. Her husband Marcus, is chairman and



moving spirit of the Sierra School and Sara is, when not being a traditional housewife, a lactation expert.

Our nuclear family is 14 in all, and life for the grandparents is at a high when we can arrange the calendars and logistics to be all together - which we do manage about once a year. A banner time was our 50th anniversary celebration when we transferred our group - mostly sailors at heart - to a ranch for a glorious week of playing cowpersons.

This is already getting too long for the newsletter, so I will stop now and continue later if this is the kind of material that is of interest. But before closing, I do want to mention one event which is much in the minds of the Isidor (Macy) Strauses - the current decline of Macy, the business upon which most of our family notoriety was based.

My earliest recollections are full of Macy memories; my walk down Park Avenue from 78th Street to 62nd Street with my father on the way to school and his continuing all the way to 34th Street; the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade where I sat in the VIP stands and watched the gigantic balloons being released and rising up to the spire of the Empire State Building and off with the winds for hundreds of miles before losing their helium and being retrieved for a reward; the red and black Macy delivery trucks with the large red star that ante-dated United Parcel; awesome visits to the thirteenth floor of the store where my father and his two brothers occupied what were then one of the most imposing executive suites in the city; my father on the cover of Time Magazine on the common room table as I came down to breakfast at Milton Academy and feeling more ashamed and self-conscious for having such a famous father rather than feeling proud - and oh, so many other memories!

My father and his brothers were proud of their accomplishments, and were genuine merchants who truly believed that they were providing an important service to the community. It would never have occurred to them to "leverage" their holdings with marginal borrowings, as the current owners have done. In fact, one of the Macy mottoes of that time was (and I paraphrase from memory) "no one owes anything to Macy's, and Macy's owes nothing to anyone". Macy never sold on credit. Instead, their customers deposited money into a Deposit Account (DA)

and could buy without cash only when that had a favorable balance. Good ethics, perhaps - and certainly good business! If there were any bonded indebtedness for new construction, it was very small compared to the equity.

I believe that my father's pride in his career was in the building of a successful organization much more than whatever fortune he accumulated. I often heard him remark that his preferred career would have been that of a Harvard professor. When he really got expansive, he would say that the best job in the world was that of President of Harvard!

Contrast that attitude with the current leadership of Macy's, now in bankruptcy. A typical leveraged buy-out group, with equity a tiny percentage of indebtedness and with money making the goal, not good merchandising. (I recognize that the above sentiments are written without personal knowledge of the current management, and is based on the sentimental recollections of my youth. But the present image of Macy's is hardly one that matches those that I recall from the 1930's. It makes me sad, and not a little angry, to see such a magnificent American institution, like so many others today, reduced to shoddiness by greed.)

A final recollection that for me is more pleasant. When Beth and I were engaged, my family thought that I was marrying a pleasant middle class lady from a far-off land (although while I was away in the Navy, my father did see a lot of Beth and recognized her extraordinary qualities. In many ways she became the daughter he never had and always wanted, with interests matching his in art and horticulture.) But this recollection really pertains to Harry Allen, Beth's father. As a real estate entrepreneur, he developed Belvedere and chose to split from the traditions of his profession by doing it without borrowings. In his way, he was as successful, if not as notorious, as were the Macy Strauses. And he could well have adopted the early Macy motto: "Harry Allen owes no one".

Don Straus



Isidor's Letters - The Civil War

Isidor left home, Columbus Georgia, on June 16, 1863. He departed from Charleston harbor aboard the steamer Alice the evening of June 18th arriving in Nassau June 22, 1863. The voyage took 60 hours. The steamer ran past 17 iron clads and monitors "without even being discovered much less fired upon." From this letter to the last he writes about business opportunities and how best to make money. "I met here with Mr Friedenbergh, formerly of Columbus (GA) who having ascertained that a Son of L. Straus had arrived made away immediately to find him, & I can assure you that he has shown me all possible favor, in procuring for me board & lodging in a nice house & every thing to make me feel as comfortable as could be expected, he has made a great great deal of money here, faster that it have been made in Dixie & of course in Gold. ..." "There is a Jew here who made at least 1/2 million in 15 months, being a poor man at the time of his arrival. If the people abroad would know how things have been going on the whole of Nassau would have been overstocked with New Yorkers. I have made up my mind that if things dont work to my notions in Liverpool that I will buy pocket knives with all my money & make this my place of business... were it not that I felt myself under obligation to Mr Bowers I would not go to Liverpool, but would stay right here & make as much money as the law allows any man."

"We have to be cautious concerning what we write, for if the contents of the letter dont Suit with the authorities at Charleston they will refrain from forwarding it." Although Isidor's letters contain much about business he explained that even if his letters don't get through he felt he would have done his duty by writing them. He asked his father to study the stock and bond market well and to send him money with which to trade.

Isidor left Nassau for Liverpool by way of New York where he visited with Nathan Blun. He arrived in Liverpool July 29th. Immediately after arriving, news of the fall of Vicksburg reached them. The plan was to use the cotton as side security to purchase vessels for the shipment of merchandise to the South. With the fall of Vicksburg conditions were not advantageous for trade and so Mr Bowers advised Isidor to visit his family in Otterberg until their trade position became more favorable. Isidor left immediately and remained in Otterberg three months. He wrote telling his family how warmly he was treated and relayed greetings to members of other families in the area including the Kaufman family. "I have

received only 2 letters from you, the last one ... together with 10.50 in gold from Brother Nathan for which I return him my sincerest thanks only regretting that he has deprived himself of his well & hard earned money." (In 1863 Nathan was 15 years old.) Lazarus has advised Isidor that if they do not have success negotiating for the purchase of the ships he should go to California where his Uncles Emanuel and Moritz have been successful in business. Isidor has been instructed not to return to the South until peace had been restored.

Dear Father You well know how acceptable a word of advice has always been from you, do afford me the pleasure to hear from you often and more explicitly; you have always found a way to solve every mystery and use your energies and advise me what to do & I will gladly follow your precepts.

October 15 - In this letter Isidor mentions the recent engagement of Hermine to Lazarus Kohns. On July 22 Isidor wrote from Nassau, "I ask it particularly for it to be layed before Mr Kohns because I know him to be the very man for this occasion, perservering & energetic."

October 15 - "You write me Such Short letters & nothing concerning bussiness, which leaves me entirely in the dark & is a preventative to me from making any transactions."

Oct 28 - Uncle Jacob in London wrote that Isidor had grown at least 3" since his arrival from the new world and .. "he would wait for a few months for the way of the world." Isidor wrote, "Something I must do or the impatience will eat me up." He remained in Otterberg and London for some instructions from his family. He wanted to trade in bonds and currency but was unsure how to proceed without instructions from home. "Just saw a party from CA who knows Uncle Emanuel well and states that he is a very rich man..."

Nov 6 - Mr Bowers returned to the states and Isidor could wait no longer to begin trading. He wrote to his family that he had entered into a business arrangement with Mr Ashbridge, formerly of New Orleans, a broker in Confederate Bonds at a salary of 15 pounds per month, a very good salary for England. He will need almost the whole of it to live on. He reassured his family that this was a good arrangement and that the dealer was someone who could be trusted and who Bowers knew well. He asked Lazarus to send him 8% Bonds with a Confederate seal or stamp impressed on them which could bring 24 to 30 cents. He was concerned that in a short time the mar-

ket would be overstocked. He wrote that this was the eighth letter he had written asking for 8% Bonds without a response. "The more I think of home the worse I feel. London & its beauties have no interest to me, when I think of that Sweet place home. Only write me that I shall return & I will not delay a moment." He wrote to Hermine asking when her wedding would take place and to wish her pleasure, comfort and happiness. He requested that she write every week since she had very little to do and she could set an example for the others to write.

Nov 14 - "Buy real estate, land houses and lots. Don't buy Shwarze (blacks). .. Tobacco is not a good investment. .. If Napoleon Succeeds in calling a congress of all European Sovereigns, in which no doubt he will, he will perhaps do Something for Dixie, as he seems to call the congress to Settle all issues now disturbing the country, which might otherwise produce war in Europe. ... Still living in the hopes of hearing from you, your Son, (although hopes are nearly blasted through continual disappointments). .. Bonds have declined a little, on the account of the apprehended advance of Meade. Should Lee repulse or beat him, which I pray he will, then they will no doubt resume their former value, until the market becomes more plentifully Supplied."

Nov. 16 - "Steamers have been continually running the blockade, parties continually coming out & most every one has been receiving letters, but why I have not been greeted by the Same pleasure, which only costs a few sheets of paper & a little time which would have been otherwise unprofitably occupied. I can only attribute to no fault other than to your negligence of writing. "The two letters which I have received contained nothing concerning bussiness. for that reason I have shipped you no goods. I am entirely left in the dark not knowing what is desirable & you know well that my funds are too short to engage in blind speculation." Can't you throw Some bussiness in my hand. What shall I do. go to Uncle Mortiz & Emanuel, remain here? I will await your advice on my future course. I dont like to be acting as clerk, although I have an excellent situation. Prefer doing Something on my own. ..."

Nov 27 - Isidor finally received money and bonds from home for exchange. He wrote to his father instructing him to go over all the cotton they intend to sell since much arrives in England that is rotten. There has been a gradual change in tone in Isidor's letters home. He has begun to give his father advice. After many months on his own Isidor seems to be more

confident. He had become a man.

Dec 12 - "Yours through flag of truce has reached me, being the first letter I have received. ... I have written you about 50 letters & am Surprised that none have reached you. .. It is impossible for me to follow fathers advice of going to School as I prefer to continue in be bussiness life." Isidor offered his congratulations upon the change in his family. (Note: I believe this to mean the marriage of Hermine to Lazarus Kohns.)

Dec 19 - "Whenever you See me refer to something in my letters, carry it out & dont wait for me to impress it by repetition. ... I fear the ship is lost & I hope that you have provided. ... It may still be afloat but it will sink. .. Dont keep on hand much white goods. If you have any Tobacco I should advise you to sell & invest in other articles. Buy RR. stocks, good land, old State bonds & Georgia sixes & North Carolina sixes."

Dec 26 - "I was never as healthy in my life, looking as robust as a rail splitter & having stretched myself to the height of 6 feet. My impression is that you dont even dream of sending me any funds, nor of advising me as regards to any bussiness. Do you expect me to lay idle in Otterberg or to go to some school. If so, you are badly mistaken as I am determined to remain in the bussiness world even if I work for nothing. You dont seem to try to make use of the excellent opportunity you have of communication with this country & try to make it available in bussiness point of view. ... You seem to look on my position as one of utter helplessness to bussiness."

Jan 16, 1864 - "I am sure that there is not a single home in the whole Confederacy which has an agent in this country; that receives letters oftener than you, & the very few which I received leads me to believe that you are unaware of the importance of this interview. ... If you could purchase some Beaver skins, it would pay very well to forward them, as they take up so little room that any steamer will carry them for you. They will bring from 75 cts to a Doll (dollars) a piece. Should you buy any dont let any one know your object, as few have thought of this advice."

Feb 20 - "I was very much delighted with your letter Since it contained the Signature of every member of the family excepting Mr Kaufmans. .. The lines of you my dear Mother completely ecstasied me since afforded me so much pleasure to know that you are contented with my absence knowing it is for my best but it is my daily prayer that the time may finally come when I can again be permitted to enjoy the greatest of blessings, home sweet home. ... Your few lines my dear sister were short but

sweet & hope you will spare me a few more moments, if it is not depriving you too much of your time Since of late only one half of yourself belongs to yourself, & you are not fully accustomed to inconvenience proportionally." (An interesting way to refer to Hermine's marriage to Lazarus Kohns.)

Feb 29 - Isidor finally received 23,000 bonds from Lazarus and 20,000 from Frank Rothschild. Although the bond market is not as good as it had been Isidor expressed confidence that he would be able to dispose of them advantageously. "There is no difficulty for you to forward me letters Since there are so many acquaintances in Nassau and Bermuda whom I know personally & will forward all my letters with pleasure. ... Your letter my dear Mother & sister afforded me boundless pleasure & I feel under many obligations to you for Same. My dear brother Nathan & Oscar's letters also gratified me exceedingly."

April 2 - "To prove to you that I can sell them (bonds) was well as anybody else, I can inform you that I have sold two hundred thousand for other parites. Accidentally, through the kindness and diligence of Uncle Jacob I found out the market for them & hope to make in fact already have made considerable profit on account of it. Few people know the market and I charge a commission for selling same which parties have been very willing to pay since I always obtain the top of the market. All other bonds except the plain 8% ones are unsalable. It is impossible to dispose of the 15 million loan and of the cotton loan."

Uncle Emanuel has entered into a wholesale business in San Francisco. There are three partners, Uncle Emanuel being one of them. ...If you can buy some shares in Bower's company, so as the profit will be about 200 per share of 100 Bales. ...The general impression here is that after the war only 1/3 of all the cotton in the confederacy will be merchandable. ...My dear Brother's lines also affordit me much pleasure and am glad to see that Nathan has again reassumed the litterary in place of the financial persuit."

April 10 - "Elias (Haiman) and myself have obligated ourselves mutually to act together in all matters. This we do not intend for temporarily but for a perminency." Elias Haiman and Isidor traveled to England together and have formed a deep friendship and business relationship. They have shared quarters and have formed a copartnership with which they intend to do business. Isidor has written to Lazarus in many of his letters that Lazarus should form a copartnership with Louis Haiman, the brother of Elias, in Georgia for the same purpose. Their proposal is to ship merchandise through Nassau or Bermuda to Elias

who would then ship it to the Confederate states where Louis or Lazarus would sell it. In return Louis or Lazarus would ship bonds or goods to Elias in Nassau or Bermuda for sale in England.

July 2 - "...whoever leaves the Confederacy during the war can surely never return when peace is restored. The general belief here is that the best business in the whole world will be in the South immediately after the war; & hence my object in So expressing my views -, for we must make use of the times & establish a regular business between here & there. So Soon as you have any prospect for peace rent a house in Wilmington or some other Sea port, for every spot will be occupied. Should Grant be defeated thoroughly, then a prospects for peace will be good, but this may only Spark of hope. A resolution for the recognition of the Confederacy was to have been offered in Parliament on the 12th of June, but the day for discussing same was postponed for a later day & the general belief here is that their object in postponing was to hear something more definite in regards to this pending campaign.

In your letters you reproach me most awfully & blame me with actions that I have never previously heard of, much less committed. You say that I am carried away by the busy world around me & acting careless & unpremeditatedly. You charge me with wild Speculation & feel uneasy about your money in my hands. You say that I will loose all my & your money through heedless enterprises ... and many other charges you heep upon me in relentless manner without even a certainty of their truths.But most of all you charge me with having transgressed your instructions & advice when in fact I have never received a word. To all these charges I have Simply to say, that were they true I would not feel or care about your reproaches, for I dont believe that any one who would be fool enough to commit all these charges had Sufficient Sense of honor or conscience to feel at all; but as they are. thank God, not true, as I am not So desparate & heedless to have lost all Senses, as I am not so far carried away by the busy buss & fuss around me as you imagine - as all these matters are not as you imagine - I can assure you that I dont pass over them as easy ~~as you wrote them~~, but that they sting me, sting me like a yellow jacket, very like a snake; that my reputation or that the confidence you formerly ... in me has dwindled to Such a Stage, that even you have felt uneasy about the funds in my hands. Your money has been laying at interest since the day of my arrival & not one farthing has been touched. So Soon as I received the proceeds for the bonds I placed them on deposit also & there they have been lying & there they will lye until you order them otherwise."

Editor's Note: To his dying day Isidor maintained a small bank account in the Bank of England. After his death his heirs unsuccessfully attempted to withdraw these funds and close the account. It is my understanding that the account still exists although, by now, it must surely be considered inactive.

"The other day I received a letter from Frank R. (Rothschild) and from David Kohns both complaining over the heavy expenses I charged in the sale of their bonds. I charged them just what I paid & did not make a farthing myself. ..Rothschild wrote me that he hoped I would be more reasonable in my charges next time, that he was assisting my father in getting out bonds & would not think of charging a commission. Is this not outrageous? Attending to this business without a penny of profit & receiving Such letters as received. Had it not been for the high esteem I have for Simon R I would have written Frank to go to h..l with his bonds & Send them to whom he pleases."

Oct 20 - Isidor received 60 million in bonds from Lazarus. Ten million were lost on the Tristham Shanty when it sank. "I purchased some time ago 600 doz Coat's thread No 10 to 60 but I was unable to forward them on account of yellow fever in Bermuda. ..As for buying more goods to ship you, it is not at all advisable - at present on account of the expected attack on Wilmington which renders blockade running more dangerous than ever. ..I hope you will not think hard of me my dear father for not acting according to your instruction, in this regard, but circumstances here so altered from the time that your letter was written until it reached me that I feel confident that(you would) endorse my step. ..Since your letter Atlanta and Mobile have fallen."

Oct 22 - " It affords me more than pleasure to congratulate you upon the ascendancy to the title of Grandparents and pray that Kind Heaven may yet permit you to See great-grandchildren. How do you my dear mother feel in the shoes of a grandmother, perhaps as awkward as I in those of uncle. ..Often when I am a little dreamy headed I see before me a vision of my dear Sister and her son fighting as to who is to have the largest part of a piece of candy, which unfortunately, the good grandmother broke into unequal parts. My love to brother Nathan and to uncle Oscar (no more baby to an uncle)."

June 16 - " "Thank God" that after a period of four long Succession Years of bloodshed and civil strife, a bright star is once more Seen in the distance, making its way Slowly but surely through the thick mist of clouds which have enveloped the heavens; the tree of prosperity

and harmony, is once again Seen spreading farther the buds of peace, which through its fragrance and green foliage invites the exhausted to seek rest and shelter under its refreshing shades. To day two years past I first was doomed to venture upon the search of those fruits which that tree had failed to supply, at teh sacrifice of life's greatest charms - home sweet home. But it seems that after the costly nourishment of the blood of thousands of able hearts, was applied to its roots, it once again gave tokens of life, yet remaining in tis shattered frame, and from that moment began gradually to survive, so as to give good promise of an abundant harvest. ..without word from you all for nearly four months. ..Sad indeed was the news of the fights and hardships to which you my dearest ones were exposed in consequence of the armies and battles in your very midst. ..My Dear beloved Mother, two long and ever memorable years has this day closed upon my absence from home; many events have during that time transpired which were trying and eventful. To be for the first time deprived of home and even denied the privilege of communication with those near and dear who you left behind, is a double endurance which must soften the sternest heart. ..The idea of returning home with the responsibilities of an uncle on my shoulders is perfectly elating, and I put in my claim upon the little nephew through his reverent mama to have exclusive control over all leisure hours until further notice."

Columbus Geo Nov 24, 1865 - Isidor has written to his family who are in Philadelphia having taken their leave of the South after General Wilson burned Columbus. (Please see the July issue of the newsletter for description of the letters Lazarus wrote to his family in Otterberg informing them of his family's move to Philadelphia.) In this letter Isidor wrote about buying cotton, clearing up family debts, and dissolving the partnership between the Strauses and Julius Kaufman. "I wish dear father would arrange all matters in such a way that final & complete division can be effected & the firm of L. S. & Co at least for the present dissolved. ..the present state of affairs should be wound up so that each partner is the controller of his own share."

This is the last letter in this series. It brings the story full circle. The first letter was written from Talbotton before the Civil War, the bulk written during the war and the last written upon Isidor's return to the South. These letters were found in the archives of Macy's and were photocopied on premises. The originals have been donated to the New York Public Library where they are being inventoried. They will be available to the family as well as researchers and scholars in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Division.

Steamship St Louis

Sara Straus and her four children arrived in New York on the maiden voyage of the steamship St Louis September 13, 1854. This ship was built under the direct supervision of Captain William Skiddy as a replacement for the Franklin which was grounded on Long Island July 17, 1854. The St Louis was a new side wheel mail steamer. Beside her sister ship the Sonora, no other American ship of the 1850's was arranged with the boilers and a single stack located aft of the paddle wheel and engine. She was originally intended for tropical service but was modified to make her more suitable for the stormy Atlantic crossings. Her first westward voyage took 13 days 17 hours from Havre. She carried 162 passengers, Sara Straus and family among them, and 350 tons of German and French goods.

"Because she was intended for tropical operation, she had overhanging guards extending well beyond the wheels in the lengthwise direction, and a dining saloon on deck where the windows could be opened to keep it cool. Its interior paneling consisted of polished oak with white panels and gold decorations. The luxurious quarters for first-class passengers included a nursery to keep children out of the way. There was ample space for a baker, doctor, barber, children's attendant, and the others needed to keep 160 first-class passengers in the best of moods. Steerage quarters took care of 600 to 700 less fortunate travelers." Although steerage quarters were available for 600 to 700 'less fortunate' travelers, no mention is made of any steerage passengers on the maiden voyage. I don't know if they were not on board or not deemed worthy of mention.

Her two-masted topsail schooner rig had a small sail area and the stem curved slightly forward to support a short bowsprit. She had a Pirsson surface condenser for the port engine and an older style jet condenser for the starboard engine.

The St Louis made six transatlantic crossings. She was purchased by the U. S. Mail Steamship

Company for \$250,000 after her last transatlantic voyage December 6, 1855. Her next trip was a special troop transport to the Isthmus of Panama and then on a normal U. S. Mail sailing. She saw sporadic service until 1879 when she was docked in Panama Bay serving as a dormitory for the Pacific Mail's stevedores.

Steamship St Louis

Built by Jacob Westervelt & Company - July 1854

Chartered by Pacific Mail Steamship Company

Length	Beam	Depth		Built		Date
		Hold	Tons	At		
270'2"	35'-2"	25'-7"	1621	New York		July 1854

Engine built by Morgan Iron Works

Approx Type	Wheel Bore	Float Stroke	Steam Press.	Revs Per Min	HP
2 beam	50"	10'-0"	22psi	15	675

Dia	Width	Boilers
30'-0"	9'-0"	2 ret. flue

Information obtained from: American Steamships on the Atlantic by Cedric Ridgely-Nevitt. Published by University of Delaware Press, Newark, 1981.

While not identical to the St Louis, the Adriatic pictured here is similar in style.

